



**Canadian International
Development Agency**

**Agence canadienne de
développement international**

**INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING ON SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS
(SMC)**

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)
DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (DSD)**

OAS Headquarters – Salón Colón
17th Street & Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, USA

SUMMARY REPORT



December 2008

Overview:

Convened at the instigation of the OAS Department of Sustainable Development and chaired by the Department's Director Mr. Cletus I Springer, the inter-agency coordination meeting on the Sound Management of Chemicals in Latin American and the Caribbean (SMC-LAC) was held on Dec 3rd, 2008 at the OAS headquarters in DC with participation of the major International Governmental Organizations, including development agencies and financial institutions involved in the management of Chemicals in the hemisphere and globally. The meeting aimed at: (1) identifying the scope and nature of SAICM and SMC related activities being carried out by partner agencies; and (2) reaching consensus on the most appropriate role and level of involvement for the OAS, that are consistent with the organization's SMC related mandates and with the SAICM's goals and mechanisms.

Following informative presentations by representatives of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Resource Future Internationals (RFI) – on behalf of the OAS/DSD -, and subsequent discussions, the meeting agreed that OAS was uniquely positioned in the LAC region for :

- *Supporting the policy development and implementation mechanisms pertaining to SAICM, by virtue of its hemispheric reach; its well established mechanisms for policy dialogue among development partners at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, notably among, Governments, businesses and with civil society; and the integrated nature of its diverse operations which offer opportunities for functional linkages in SAICM-related areas, such as health, environment, risk management, and public security, all of which are acknowledged as necessary for achieving the regional coordination mechanisms needed for the effective implementation of SAICM;*
- *Promoting the integration and involvement of the private sector/chemical industry and civil societies in the SMC process through establishing agreed-upon cooperation mechanisms for addressing the life-cycle management of chemicals ;*
- *Assisting the countries in regional information gathering and sharing – as means of building effective technical and institutional capacity building and inter-country cooperation;*
- *Facilitating at the national level the elaboration of appropriate legislative framework necessary for supporting SMC's interventions, consistent with National Implementation Plans (NIPs); and*
- *Creating an enabling environment for dialogue amongst the relevant bilateral agencies engaged in SMC/SAICM related interventions.*

The participants acknowledged the timeliness of the meeting and encouraged the continuation of similar mechanisms for facilitating exchanges and coordination amongst the agencies involved in SMC at the regional level. The participants thanked the OAS for taking the initiative to convene the meeting and indicated the support of their respective agencies to the OAS in fulfilling its coordinating role in SAICM activities at the regional level.

The Chairman of the meeting expressed his deepest gratitude to the participants for their attendance and for their contribution to the meeting, and confirmed the OAS' desire to make the event an integral part of the inter-agency coordination mechanism for SMC in the Americas.

THE MEETING¹:

The meeting was conducted in an informal atmosphere and was characterized by candid discussions on the relevant issues.

The meeting commenced with welcome remarks by the Director of the OAS' Department of Sustainable development, Mr. Cletus I. Springer. This was followed by the presentation of an overview of the genesis and institutional rationale for convening the meeting, by the Executive Secretary for the Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), Ambassador Alfonso Quiñonez.

Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted without amendment. A copy of the agenda is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agency Presentations on Current and proposed Initiatives on SMC in the LAC Region

Representatives of UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank were invited to share their SAICM-related experiences within the LAC region, with a view to identifying the gaps to be addressed at the regional level. A presentation on the State of SMC / SAICM Implementation in the LAC region as reflected by the adequacy of the existing regional coordination mechanisms and the proposed process for the implementation of the RAP in the region also was made. Each presentation was followed by a discussion focusing on SMC LAC related issues identification and proposals for improvement.

Presentation by UNEP

UNEP's Director and regional representative for the Regional Office for North America (UNEP-RONA), Amy Fraenkel, provided a brief report on the status of implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Conventions that fall under UNEP's purview. Ms. Frankel also highlighted the main projects being undertaken by UNEP in different parts of the world, including work being done with mercury (Hg) and related chemicals, not being addressed under any POPs related treaties, and which require stand-alone interventions. A description of the SAICM goals and mechanisms and main components was also provided.

¹ Meeting Context/Background, Agenda, and list of participants can be found at : <http://int.usde.oas.org/SpecialMeetings/MeetingonSoundMChemicals.htm>

Two of the UNEP's six new emerging programs, namely, Hazardous Wastes and Sustainable Consumption and Production, which are directly related to the SAICM priorities, offer opportunities for cooperation between UNEP and other agencies.

In terms of implementation mechanisms for SAICM, the UNEP/UNDP partnership initiative – which aims at integrating SMC related concerns into national development planning as part of the overall goal of achieving poverty-reduction through reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - was presented as an example of the collaborative mechanism that will be initiated in the region in 2009. Funding for SAICM was also addressed: given the inadequacy of existing financial arrangements, such as the Quick Start Program (QSP) - funding for which now stands at US \$ 14 millions - interagency collaboration and cooperation is critical if SAICM's goals, particularly in developing countries, are to be achieved.

The following issues were raised in the discussions that followed Ms. Frankel's presentation:

- Continuing difficulties being experienced in developing and effectively implementing the National Implementation Plan (NIP) long after ratifications of the MEAs;
- The legislative framework for supporting SAICM-related MEAs implementation is lacking and affects the capacities of local officials to bring emerging issues to the table;
- Mainstreaming SAICM goals and mechanisms into countries' national planning and associated budgetary mechanism is necessary for making the process sustainable;
- Synergies between the SAICM goals and other programmes acknowledged as being of primary importance in the overall success of the SAICM mechanisms, such as Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in particular and, Sustainable Development in general;
- QSP Trust funds estimated at US \$ 14 millions is highly insufficient for addressing the scope of activities to be undertaken under SAICM – hence needs to be replenished within sustained funding mechanisms to be identified.
- Sustained multilateral funding mechanisms similar to those made available to the MEAs will have to be established for the SAICM programme if its goals are to be achieved.

Presentation by The World Bank (WB)²

The World Bank's Senior Operations Officer of the Sustainable Development Department – Middle East and North Africa Region – Steve Maber, shared with the meeting the bank's experiences in achieving regional cooperation and national support in implementing SAICM-related initiatives in North Africa, the Middle-East, Europe and Central Asia. These initiatives are aimed at addressing the human and environmental health risks associated with stockpiles of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which are presently estimated at over 50,000 Tones for the African Continent alone. This number is ever increasing as new POPs enter the environment on a regular basis, while the real quantity being presently stockpiled is not known. Through the ongoing African Stockpiles Programme, (AFS), implemented through a US\$50 Million GEF Grant, the problem is being addressed in over 6 North African Countries.

The AFS program was initiated to address the potential human and environmental health effects of unknown quantity of POPs believed to have been released in the environment as a result of flooding - following the devastation created by Hurricane Mitch in Honduras in 1998 – a reminder of the strong links between SMC and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) interventions.

The stockpiling of obsolete pesticides and Persistent Bio-accumulative and Toxic Substances in general (PBTs) results primarily from the lack of technical and institutional capacity in the countries to efficiently manage within their borders the introduction of those products. The major challenges of the programs include accurately assessing the amount of PTBs in the countries and providing training to local staffs for PBTs identification, safer repackaging, and proper remediation techniques. It was noted that status of contaminated sites is instrumental in Trade Cooperation as it makes available the safety information needed by trade partners for delivering importation permits, in cases where products are suspected to have been contaminated by POPs released into the environment following a disruptive event such as hurricane – a reminder of the strong links between SMC and International Trade Development and Stabilization.

² See Presentation at : <http://www.oas.org/dsd/SpecialMeetings/Documents/World%20Bank%20%20POPs%20-%20OAS.pdf>

Establishing the proper scale for remediation is also problematic due to common inaccuracies of the information available in countries' NIPs. Sites location and estimates of stockpiles are often inaccurate, making the determination of the scope and mechanisms for remediation difficult.

There are extensive challenges in effectively carrying out regional coordination in an SMC context, due to the multiplicity of players and partnership mechanisms, the diversity of the countries and issues involved, and the need for an entity whose goals and mechanism of functioning permits regular interaction among all the relevant players around the stated regional goals. This has been the case in Africa with The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which was instrumental in making the POPs' regional coordination programme possible. Therefore, such an approach might be necessary in the LAC region, if SMC interventions and SAICM implementation are to be effective in the Americas.

The following issues were raised in the discussions that followed Mr. Maber's presentation:

- National Implementation Plans (NIPs) contain numerous inaccuracies – hence need for ground proofing, particularly when related to the location of buried stockpiles ;
- The involvement of smaller/ local communities and non governmental organizations can contribute immensely in supporting ground proofing and improving the accuracy of information contained in NIPs;
- Regional Coordination is time consuming and not easily achievable even in the context of an institution like the World Bank (African Union case – NEPAD supra-regional mechanism for Chemicals Management);
- Inter-connection between SMC and Natural Disaster Risk Reduction – and by extension Climate Hazards Risk Reduction - needs to be established and planned for;
- The absence of proper coordination among international agencies in SAICM-related interventions is encouraging considerable duplication of effort and wastage of scarce resources, especially in the Caribbean Region;
- An integrated approach to the SMC is required that takes into account the full management life-cycle of chemicals in their interaction in the environment;
- Tackling the Life-cycle Management of PBTs conforming to the SAICM framework of actions- as opposed to focusing on POPs management e.g. - is crucial in identifying

emerging chemical management issues, thus enabling the design of sustainable solutions to address their adverse impacts.

Presentation by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)³

Alejandro Ramirez-Pabon, Programme Coordinator of the Energy and Environment Group, BDP at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), outlined to the meeting the fundamental structure of his organization, as it relates to SMC and the implementation of MEAs. With a total portfolio of over US\$700 Million, UNDP's work on Sound Management of Chemicals is being carried out through 3 specific thematic areas: POPs, International Water, and Small Grants Programme, and through interventions directly related to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol (Ozone Layer Depletion) and Stockholm (POPs) Conventions. In this context, various NIP Development and associated Institutional capacity building activities are being undertaken in the LAC region under the Stockholm convention framework, while interventions aimed at facilitating the phase-out of Ozone Depletion Substances (ODSs) - CFC, HCFC, e.g.- are being carried out through the mechanisms of Montreal Protocol.

UNDP's in country activities for the LAC region are geared toward: (1) fostering the mainstreaming of SMC and SAICM goals and mechanisms into Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) policies and plans, and (2) partnering with UNEP, within the UNEP-UNDP partnership initiative for integrating SMC into the national development planning process. Among the main activities being undertaken through the partnership, the identification of linkages between health and environment (HELI) as related to the SAICM mechanisms implementation was cited as being particularly relevant, because of the similarities with the OAS' Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas Forum (HEMA) – which prompted the Organization's hemispheric mandates on SMC.

³ See Presentation at : <http://www.oas.org/dsd/SpecialMeetings/Documents/PpOASquimicos.pdf>

The following issues were raised in the discussions that followed Mr. Ramirez-Pabon's presentation:

- Government Involvement in SAICM implementation and decision-making is lacking and complicates regional implementation. Mainstreaming the process through facilitating the integration of country senior officials is therefore critical;
- A regional coordination entity capable of facilitating and coordinating interactions between Trade laws and MEAs implementation goals and mechanisms such as the MERCOSUR and Montreal Protocol is necessary ;
- The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOCM) should be considered as a coordinating mechanism; however, it was observed that, given the tremendous difficulties being experienced in SAICM implementation in the LAC region, an effective regional coordination mechanisms need to be identified for this region;
- The private sector/ chemical industry should be involved in chemicals remediation process in particular and chemicals life-cycle management in general. However, a formula is required that takes into account private sector concerns while achieving the remediation/management goals;
- Local / small NGOs need to be integrated in NIP development and implementation, as they have greater local access for confirming information accuracy (e.g. site location), and monitoring progress;
- Duplication in bilateral agencies involvement in regional SMC intervention could be addressed through ongoing regional coordination and exchange mechanisms.

Presentation by the USEPA

At the invitation of the chairman, the representatives of the US-EPA shared with the meeting their vision for the Americas, which is fundamentally aimed at: (1) supporting the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation's (CEC) agenda on Chemicals management; (2) the CAFTA-DR Agreements; (3) establishing partnership for International Mercury (Hg) reduction; and (4) providing support to both regional and national policies pertaining to SMC interventions in the Americas.

Presentation by Resources Futures International (RFI)⁴

Using a problem identification and problem solving approach – as related to the issues facing the implementation of SAICM in LAC region since the Dubai declaration, the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) and related aspects of the Global Action Plan (GAP), Dr. Tomas Conway of Resource Futures International (RFI) outlined to the meeting the main roadblocks to SMC and SAICM implementation in the LAC region, while pointing out existing mechanisms that could be considered in addressing these shortcomings. After describing the main assumptions⁵ on which the proposed SAICM Regional Action Plan (RAP) is being developed, as well as the fundamental rationale for drafting it, Dr. Conway presented an overview of the two main components of the SAICM LAC RAP.

In the area of process and authority, Dr. Conway cited the absence of a formal secretariat structure to support the LAC Regional Coordination Committee for SAICM; the lack of a clear approach for knowing when consensus on the proposed RAP for SMC is reached; the absence of effective strategies for financial resources mobilization for effective and sustained implementation; and the lack of effective regional coordination and facilitation mechanisms, as providing sound justification for a regional coordination mechanism for supporting the SAICM implementation process in the region. In that regard, a set of questions on the state of the region in terms of SAICM implementation were put before the meeting, as a means of encouraging reflection:

- √ Does the RCC have the capability to guarantee access and endorsement of RAP by high level Authorities considering that an endorsement by SAICM Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) for LAC members is the beginning of the buy-in process instead of the end? Hence, what are the RCC capabilities for undertaking the secretariat and administrative tasks that such endorsement process require?

⁴ Find Presentation at : http://www.oas.org/dsd/SpecialMeetings/Documents/TConway_OASquimicos.pdf

⁵ “(1) Regional initiatives must be country driven to succeed; (2) They should be initiated at the highest political levels possible; (3) They will require ongoing administrative support with centralized facilitation to succeed. To this effect, an ongoing coordinator should be designated; (4) Domestic contacts that could contribute to a regional effort need to be identified. These should be at the level of senior permanent officials who are as independent of political changes as possible; and (5) A communication network should be established that would serve as a centralized location for ongoing contact, dialogue and exchanges of information (perhaps also as a clearinghouse repository). This network would feed into a regional communication process that could also be accessed domestically.”

- √ Could the existing and ongoing Health and Environment Ministers (HEMA) Forum of the OAS be that high level consensus mechanism for facilitating the Buy-in of the RAP?
- √ Is HEMA that highest level of authoritative agreements being initiated at the RCC level – should a Bottom-up Buy-in mechanism be applied? If yes, what would be the timing for initiating that high level authoritative agreements process?
- √ Will the coordination of the regional interventions – in light of the RAP - require the availability of a regional/centralized coordination and administration mechanism in the form of a permanent regional secretariat with a designated coordinator? Yes, then which regional entity is suitable to take up that role?

Dr. Conway was of the view that the stated role, function and composition of the SAICM LAC RCC did not provide answers for the fundamental questions raised earlier. Structurally, the RAP should result in integrating the priority-actions identified by RCC members at their First Meeting⁶ – Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, June 11-13, 2008- in relation to those identified through the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) articulated around agreed cross-cutting mechanisms. As an illustration, an outline of the proposed DRAFT was then presented. Considerations on the financial, proposed timeframe for implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were also outlined with the intention of stimulating reactions from participants.

The following issues were raised in the discussions that followed Dr. Conway's presentation:

- Duplication of activities is an issue in SAICM implementation due to the absence of a regional coordination mechanisms for bilateral and International Governmental Agencies;
- Private sector involvement is of primary importance in fostering the regional policy dialogue associated with the life-cycle management of chemicals;
- There is a need for a centralized regional mechanism for information sharing on SAICM LAC related activities, coordination of bilateral agencies interventions, and international governmental organizations;

⁶ SAICM LAC RCC First Meeting Report is available at: <http://www.saicm.org/> under "Regional Activities".

- Sustained financial mechanisms for supporting SMC activities at the regional level are lacking - a regional strategy is needed to fill that gap, which could be realized by using the OAS as a potential mechanism for generating the financial support that is needed;
- The OAS' hemispheric umbrella and country access, supported by the organization's legislative framework and SMC mandates are crucial in fostering the regional policy dialogue necessary for SAICM implementation and RAP endorsement;
- The involvement of senior civil servants/ institutions in countries - that are independent of political influence- can help to ensure continuity in policy and actions associated with SAICM implementation as established in country NIPs and integrated into the RAP;
- The OAS has the appropriate scope and framework for undertaking the regional coordination of SAICM implementation, as well for facilitating the involvement of the private sector and civil society, and most importantly, to support the prerogatives of associated trans-boundary MEAs such as Basel, which requires strong regional coordination;
- There is a need to identify a SMC Regional Champion for : (1) effective coordination of actors and stakeholders; (2) facilitating buy-in by country senior level policy makers; (3) undertaking lobbying efforts required for fostering the policy dialogue and associated interventions; (4) conducting the public education/information on SMC issues that is necessary for making the interventions sustainable; and (5) facilitating the exchange of information/ lessons learned through a centralized regional network.
- At the present time, there is no binding mechanisms backing up SAICM Framework (non-binding endorsement), and it is unlikely to have such a framework by the end of the second session of the International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM2) scheduled for May 2009. As a result, through its SMC mandates and resolutions, OAS is uniquely positioned to foster the SAICM implementation framework in the LAC Region.

MODALITIES AND AREAS FOR INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION ON SMC

A brief presentation of the decision-making framework of the OAS was made by the Chairman in order to better inform the meeting on the precise role which the OAS can play in the context of regional implementation of SAICM mandates. Further information in this regard is available at:

- <http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/aboutoas.asp>
- <http://www.oas.org/legal/intro.htm>

On the role of the OAS in SMC and SAICM implementation:

The meeting in summary agreed that the Organization of American States (OAS) was uniquely positioned in the LAC region for:

- *Supporting the policy development and implementation mechanisms pertaining to SAICM, by virtue of its hemispheric reach; its well established mechanisms for policy dialogue among development partners at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, notably among, Governments, businesses and with civil society; and the integrated nature of its diverse operations which offer opportunities for functional linkages in SAICM-related areas, such as health, environment, risk management, and public security, all of which are acknowledged as necessary for achieving the regional coordination mechanisms needed for the effective implementation of SAICM;*
- *Promoting the integration and involvement of the private sector/chemical industry and civil societies in the SMC process through establishing agreed-upon cooperation mechanisms for addressing the life-cycle management of chemicals ;*
- *Assisting the countries in regional information gathering and sharing – as means of building effective technical and institutional capacity building and inter-country cooperation;*
- *Facilitating at the national level the elaboration of appropriate legislative framework necessary for supporting SMC's interventions, consistent with National Implementation Plans (NIPs); and,*
- *Creating an enabling environment for dialogue amongst the relevant bilateral agencies engaged in SMC/SAICM related interventions.*

In addition, the meeting expressed the desire to see such inter-agency coordination meetings being held on a regular basis within the Americas, and recommended that the OAS to integrate specific language addressing the regional needs for coordination and management of Chemicals at the documentation for the upcoming Summit of the Americas in April, 2009. The meeting also cited the need to synchronize the outcomes of the inter-agency consultation with SMC related activities being undertaken by other sub-regional entities such as CEC.

OAS Sound Management of Chemicals Programme: The Way FORWARD

Jean Marc Racine, Environmental Management Specialist at the OAS/DSD, in charge of the Sound Management of Chemicals Programme, and OAS Focal Point for SAICM, then outlined the immediate way forward to the meeting. He indicated that the Inter-agency coordination meeting's outcome will be integrated in the SAICM LAC Regional Action Plan being drafted for the region.

The proposed mechanism will be as follows:

- OAS Country Permanent Missions will be invited to comment in light of the Organization's related SMC resolutions and mandates;
- SAICM LAC Regional Coordination Committee will then be invited to review and comment; and,
- The SAICM LAC RAP will be submitted to the SAICM Secretariat.

It was the hope of the OAS to have the Final SAICM LAC RAP ready for presentation to the Second Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) scheduled for May 11-15, 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland.

MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked the participants for their presence and invaluable contributions to the meeting, and confirmed that the OAS continue such inter-agency consultation meetings for the benefit of the countries of the Americas.



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Organization of American States**

ANNEX I

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING ON SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS DECEMBER 3rd, 2008- OAS HEADQUARTERS SALÓN COLÓN

17th and Constitution Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

Background/Context

In February 2008, at the SAICM Regional Conference on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) for Latin America and Caribbean organized by the SAICM Secretariat administered by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) for the SAICM implementation in the LAC region was formed, and the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States (OAS/DSD) was designated by the RCC Members as the LAC RCC's Regional Agency for the SAICM implementation in the Americas.

In June 2008, the OAS/DSD in collaboration with the SAICM Secretariat, organized the first meeting of the SAICM RCC for LAC at which regional and international experts offered recommendations and identified opportunities for developing an effective SMC in the Americas, and more importantly on the urgency of addressing the goals of SAICM and its mechanisms.

The involvement of the OAS in promoting environmentally-sound chemicals management in Latin America and the Caribbean is a reflection of the growing use of chemicals in all facets of agricultural and industrial production in particular and the development process in general. It is also a reflection of the desire of OAS member states to ensure that the use of these chemicals does not adversely affect human health and the health of the environment. The need for urgent action to address these concerns is emphasized in Declaration of Mar del Plata (Argentina) which was adopted at the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) at their meeting held in June 2005. Additional mandates have come from OAS' Summits of the Americas held in Quebec City (Canada) in 2001, and Monterrey (Mexico) in January 2004, at which Member States called for the elaboration and implementation of a cooperative agenda for preventing and reducing environmental health related impacts of obsolete and potentially harmful chemicals

The OAS/DSD's Sustainable Chemicals Management initiative is being implemented within the framework of the above-mentioned OAS mandates, with the objective of building national and regional cooperation mechanisms and providing the necessary decision-making tools for supporting the region's compliance with regard to the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions, and related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), as articulated into the SAICM mechanism.

The Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting

Following up on the outputs of the OAS/DSD's Chemicals program generated since 2006, including priority actions identified and specific recommendations from the countries, and the establishment for the collaborative mechanisms for supporting for supporting the Regional Agency for the SAICM LAC implementation, the OAS proposes to convene an Inter-agency Coordination Meeting on **December 3, 2008** at OAS Headquarters in Washington D.C.

The meeting aims at:

- (a) Reviewing the status of chemicals management programs and activities within the Hemisphere in the context of the priorities identified by OAS Member States;
- (b) Identifying gaps that need to be filled;
- (c) Reaching consensus on the proposed preliminary steps towards the implementation of the SAICM framework in the region, as articulated in the Regional Action Plan (RAP).



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ANNEX II

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING ON SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS (SMC)
DECEMBER 3rd, 2008 – OAS HEADQUARTERS
SALÓN COLÓN
17th and Constitution Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20006

AGENDA

**Meeting Chair: Cletus I. Springer, Director,
Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States
(OAS/DSD).**

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|--------------|---|
| 9:00 - 9:15 | Welcome Remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cletus I. Springer, Director, OAS/DSD.▪ Ambassador Alfonso Quiñonez, Executive Secretary, Secretariat for Integral Development (OAS/SEDI). |
| 9.15 - 9:20 | Adoption of Agenda |
| 9:20 – 9:35 | Towards the implementation of the OAS Mandates on Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) - <i>Introduced by Cletus Springer, Director, Department of Sustainable Development, and Organization of American States.</i> |
| 9:35 – 9:45 | Open Discussion: Q & A. |
| 9:45 – 10:00 | Coffee Break |
| 10:00 –10:50 | Current and proposed initiatives on SMC for the LAC Region <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – <i>Amy Fraenkel, Director and Regional Representative, United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for North America (UNEP-RONA) - (15')</i>▪ The World Bank (WB) - <i>Steve Maber, Middle East and North Africa Region. Work with GEF in the Africa Stockpiles Programme and DDT Monitoring Project in Honduras. (15')</i>▪ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - <i>Alejandro Ramirez-Pabon, Programme Specialist, Montreal Protocol Unit,</i> |

*Energy and Environment Group, Bureau for Development Policy.
(15')*

10:50– 11:50	Open discussions – Q&A
11:50– 13:00	Light lunch
13:00– 13:20	Summary of the Morning Session and overview of the Afternoon Session– <i>Jean Marc Racine, Environmental Management Specialist, Department of Sustainable Development, OAS.</i>
13:20– 13:50	Towards the Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in the Americas: Proposed Process and Structure for Development of the LAC SAICM RAP/Strategy - <i>Dr. Thomas Conway, International Expert, Resource Futures International (RFI).</i>
13:50– 14:50	Open discussion
14:50– 15:00	Modalities and areas for inter-agency coordination and collaboration on SMC– <i>Introduced by Cletus Springer, Director, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States.</i>
15:00– 15:30	Open Discussion and outcomes
15:30– 15:50	Wrap up and presentation of the main outcomes of the meeting – way forward by <i>Jean Marc Racine, Environmental Management Specialist, Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC), Department of Sustainable Development.</i>
15:50– 16:00	Closing Remarks by <i>Mr. Cletus I. Springer</i> Director, Department of Sustainable Development, OAS.