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**Third Africa regional meeting on the Strategic Approach  
to International Chemicals Management**  
Abidjan, 28–29 January 2010

## **Report of the Third Africa Regional Meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

### **I. Opening**

1. The opening of the third African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and accompanying workshops organized by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), as well as the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the World Health Organization (WHO) took place at 10.00 Monday 25 January 2010 at the Hotel Belle Côte, Riviera Palmeraie, Abidjan. The SAICM national focal point of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Dakouri Raphaël Zadi, welcomed the participants and outlined the challenges faced by the African continent with regard to the use and management of chemicals.

2. Following welcoming statements by Mr. Georg Karlaganis on behalf of UNITAR, Mr. Peter Kearns on behalf of the OECD, Ms. Gabi Eigenmann on behalf of Switzerland, Mr. Michael Schoiswohl on behalf of the SAICM secretariat, and Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia) in his capacity as SAICM regional focal point, the Minister of Environment, Water and Forests, of Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Ahizi Aka Daniel, declared the third African regional meeting on SAICM and the accompanying workshops open. In his opening remarks, he underlined the importance attached to the application of the Strategic Approach to chemicals management issues as evidenced by the consequences of incidents such as the illegal traffic and disposal of toxic waste at the coast of Abidjan in 2006. He emphasized that despite ongoing efforts by African countries, the situation remained of concern due to a lack of financial resources and access to technology. He emphasized that the meeting would offer an important opportunity to exchange experiences, share information and initiate joint efforts, particularly in the area of international illegal traffic of hazardous substances which required urgent attention. He expressed his hope that the meeting would adopt recommendations and that concrete action be envisaged for their implementation, including through governmental authorities, the private sector and civil society.

3. Following the opening on Monday 25 January 2010 and an information meeting on nanotechnology co-organized by OECD and UNITAR as well as a joint Rotterdam

Convention and WHO workshop on awareness-raising and strengthening of industrial chemicals management, the regional meeting reconvened at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 28 January 2010. Ms. Lesley Onyon, representing the SAICM secretariat welcomed participants to the regional meeting and expressed her thanks to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the meeting. She added that the current meeting was the first opportunity for the African region to hold a full meeting after the convening of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in May 2009. She recalled that the second session of the Conference had marked the completion of the first phase of implementation of SAICM. Currently SAICM has embarked on its second phase aiming for more concrete action and accelerated implementation of SAICM. The presence of representatives of intergovernmental organizations was acknowledged, highlighting the importance they placed on SAICM implementation.

4. The SAICM regional focal point, Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia) expressed the meeting's gratitude to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for the organization of the meeting and acknowledged the financial support provided by the Government of Spain. The SAICM national focal point of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Dakouri Raphaël Zadi, highlighted the areas of illegal traffic, waste, heavy metals and mercury, and sustainable development for further consideration at the meeting and expressed gratitude to intergovernmental organizations as well as donors for the support provided.

## **II. Organizational matters**

### **A. Election of officers**

5. The meeting elected Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia) and Mr. Dakouri Raphaël Zadi to serve as co-chairs of the meeting. Ms. Caroline Njoki Wamai (Kenya) agreed to serve as rapporteur.

### **B. Adoption of the Agenda**

6. The agenda, as set out in SAICM/Afr.3/1 was adopted without changes on the understanding that documents prepared by the African Core Group at its fifth meeting, as submitted through document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/3 would be considered under corresponding agenda items and that the terms of reference of the African Core Group would be considered under item 14 concerning "other matters". Similarly, the understanding was expressed that an update on activities undertaken in relation to perfluorinated chemicals would be provided by the secretariat under agenda item 6 "emerging policy issues" and that an update on current negotiations on a legally binding instrument concerning mercury would be provided under item 14.

### **C. Organization of work**

7. The meeting agreed to meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday 28 January and Friday 29 January.

### **D. Attendance**

8. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following countries: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia. Switzerland attended the meeting as an observer.

9. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the following intergovernmental organizations: Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Africa, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

10. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the following non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and academia and research institutes: AGENDA for Environment and Development, AREMEDD, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), International Pops Elimination Network (IPEN), Day Hospital Institute for Development and Rehabilitation (DHIDR), Development Indian Ocean Network, Environmental Conservation Society, Environmental Health Fund, Groupe pour la Promotion de la Flore et la Faune (GAPROFFA), Groundwork - Friends of the Earth South Africa, Informer, Sensibiliser, Eduquier sur les POPs en Côte d'Ivoire, International Trade Union Confederation/Africa, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement, Pesticide Action Network (PAN), Physicians for Social Responsibility, Safe Water for Africa Community Initiative, Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev Nigeria).

### **III. Outcomes of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and follow-up action**

11. Introducing the agenda item, the representative of the secretariat said that the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 10 to 15 May 2009, had been a major milestone in that it had provided the opportunity to conclude unfinished business such as the establishment of the Bureau, an open-ended working group, rules of procedure, and a budget for secretariat activities. The Conference had adopted a significant number of resolutions to set the scene for the coming period. Resolution II/7 on the Commission on Sustainable Development recognized that chemicals would be included in the Commission's work cycle for 2010-2011 and encouraged engagement by SAICM stakeholders. She stressed the importance of active participation of SAICM stakeholders in the Commission's work related to chemicals management.

12. Resolution II/3 on financial and technical resources for implementation stressed the importance of secure financing for the implementation of SAICM. Currently discussions were ongoing on the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility including on the possible strengthening of support for chemicals management. Resolution II/3 also called for an evaluation of the SAICM Quick Start Programme.

13. As one of its most important functions, the Conference had considered emerging policy issues. Four issues had been considered by the second session of the Conference: nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and lead in paint. The Conference agreed on follow-up action for all four issues including by requesting intergovernmental organizations to take up the relevant issues in their work programme. Perfluorinated chemicals were also considered by the Conference and cooperative action agreed. The Conference had also agreed on procedures for the nomination of emerging policy issues for consideration at future sessions of the Conference.

14. Other important outcomes of the Conference included agreed arrangements for reporting on progress in SAICM implementation and a request for the development of a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector.

15. The representative of the secretariat furthermore provided information on recently held meetings. The African Core Group had held its regional meeting in Nairobi on 20 and 21 August 2009 and had prepared the agenda for the current meeting. The Core Group had also developed a regional position for the Commission on Sustainable Development and the African Regional Implementation Meeting held in October 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The regional coordinating group for the Central and Eastern European region met in Brno, Czech Republic, on 6 September 2009 and had prepared for the Commission meetings and for the SAICM Central and Eastern European Regional Meeting held in Lodz, Poland, on 9 and 10 December 2009. The Asia-Pacific region held its second meeting on SAICM in Beijing, 23 and 24 November 2009. Among other things, the region agreed to establish an Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Group on SAICM at that meeting. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting was scheduled to take place in Jamaica in March 2010.

16. The representative of the secretariat also reported on teleconferences held by the new Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to discuss, among other things, the scheduling of the third session of the Conference. Finally she reported on the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee that had met in Washington to consider the seventh round of applications.

17. One representative of a non-governmental organization made observations in relation to the performance of the region at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. He noted that while the region had extensively prepared its engagement at that session, priority issues agreed by the region, such as in relation to electronic waste, had not been actively promoted at the Conference by the whole region but brought forward by single countries or groups only. Furthermore, he referred to the issue of financing SAICM implementation and underscored that the achievement of the 2020 goal would not be possible without a financial mechanism in place. Finally, he expressed the concern that in contradistinction to other emerging policy issues agreed at the second session, which were being addressed by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the issue of electronic waste, being a priority of the African region, was not being given the same level of attention and consideration by the IOMC and its Participating Organizations. He suggested that the SAICM secretariat should be requested to assist in ensuring that this issue received adequate attention. Noting that work had commenced in the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Conference at its second session, the representative of the SAICM secretariat referred to specific agenda items under which issues concerning financing SAICM implementation and emerging policy issues could be considered.

## **IV. Health Issues**

### **A. Update from the Libreville health and environment inter-ministerial conference**

18. In introducing the agenda item, the representative of the secretariat referred to document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/11, which contained an update on the follow-up to the first inter-ministerial conference on health and environment in Africa, held from 26 to 29 August 2008 in Libreville. This included progress in the establishment of joint plans of action between the health and environment sectors, the conduct of country situation analyses and needs assessments to assist in the implementation of the Libreville Declaration in Gabon and Kenya as well as Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali and Mozambique provided additional opportunities for further prioritizing chemical safety considerations. She furthermore referred to the organization of the second inter-ministerial conference before the end of 2010 and encouraged the meeting to consider the provision of input in that regard.

19. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to resolution II/8 of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management regarding health aspects of the sound management of chemicals and said the resolution emphasized building linkages between regional initiatives that focussed on health and the environment and SAICM. The work of the second inter-ministerial conference was relevant in that regard and participants were encouraged to discuss ways to engage in the work of that conference.

20. In the ensuing debate, participants emphasized the importance of strengthening the linkages and synergies between the health and environment sectors in the area of chemicals management. One participant queried whether follow-up of the Libreville Declaration was being monitored and argued for the establishment of such a mechanism with WHO to ensure continued engagement and synergies between the health and environment sectors. Another participant emphasized the importance of information sharing on the Libreville process, encouraging SAICM focal points and the SAICM secretariat to disseminate relevant information in order to ensure that necessary linkages between the health and environment sector can be made and pursued nationally with respect to chemical safety. Another participant encouraged those who had participated in the first inter-ministerial conference to disseminate information to all stakeholders at the national level. One participant furthermore proposed that the African region should have a single voice regarding SAICM and related processes. He referred to the regional focal point suggesting that he should be present at relevant meetings in that regard, facilitate the development of common positions, share information and oversee follow-up.

21. It was highlighted by one meeting participant that there had been limited opportunities for participation by non-governmental organizations in the first inter-ministerial conference and the meeting of partners on the implementation of Libreville Declaration in contrast with the multistakeholder nature of SAICM. One participant stressed the need for non-governmental organization involvement during the process leading up to the second inter-ministerial conference and that such involvement should also be emphasized at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

22. Several participants shared information on activities undertaken in follow-up to the Libreville Declaration. One participant stressed that how to move forward at the national level in implementing the Libreville Declaration remained a key issue. The representatives of Kenya and Gabon acknowledged support from the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund in supporting implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and the Environment in Africa, focusing on the development of technical guidelines and capacity building for situation analysis and needs assessment in view of developing country plans for joint action. Both representatives spoke strongly about the results of the project which were now emerging which had clearly exposed a lack of coordination between the health and environment sectors, including with regard to information-sharing on issues such as poisoning. As a result of the project, health and environment ministries were currently exploring how to enhance coordination and strengthen interlinkages based on the Libreville Declaration. It was emphasized that relatively little financial resources were available at the national level for the environment sector in comparison with the health sector.

23. The chair of the meeting recalled that the Libreville Declaration called upon WHO and UNEP to support, along with other partners and donors, including African development banks and African subregional economic communities, the implementation of the Declaration. A number of countries referred to the lack of participation of the WHO at the present regional meeting and encouraged WHO to become more engaged in SAICM implementation, particularly through further engagement with the WHO Regional Office for Africa and WHO offices found in all African countries.

24. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization informed the meeting about activities that had been undertaken in the framework of the Rotterdam Convention, which reviewed national action plans on chemicals management and covered all sectors as identified by key stakeholders. She referred to pilot activities in this regard that had taken place in Tanzania and She encouraged SAICM national focal points in other countries to seek information from colleagues within their relevant health ministries such as the role of primary health care workers in improving the documentation of pesticide exposures and to contact the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention to express interest their interest in participating in similar projects together with WHO.

25. It was proposed by several participants that the results of the pilot situation analysis and needs assessment in Kenya and Gabon should be shared with all participants. One participant suggested the development of guidance and roadmaps exploring how the environment and health sector can work jointly based on experiences and lessons learned. Coordination would be a key element for the generation of synergies and the establishment of coordination offices could be further explored.

26. Turning to the second inter-ministerial conference on health and the environment to be held by the end of 2010, one participant recalled that the region had developed a position paper for the first conference, which was presented by the SAICM regional focal point at the Libreville Conference. She observed that the submission of the position paper and her participation as the regional focal point had brought the issue of chemicals management to the attention of both Ministers of Health and Ministers of Environment present at the Conference. Building on that experience, she proposed that a process be established for the development of additional input to be presented at the second inter-ministerial conference. Another participant proposed that the African Core Group be tasked with the development of input for the second inter-ministerial conference.

27. The meeting agreed that the African Core Group should develop the region's input concerning chemicals, its linkages to health and the environment, and regional priorities in that regard to the second inter-ministerial conference on health and environment to be held by the end of 2010.

## **B. Strategic Approach health sector strategy**

28. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/12 and the development of the strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in SAICM implementation. She recalled that the convening of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management had been scheduled back-to-back with the World Health Assembly. Although other pressing matters had precluded consideration of SAICM at the Assembly, the issue would be taken up at the World Health Assembly meeting in May 2010.

29. In the absence of a representative of WHO, the secretariat reported that in preparation for the World Health Assembly in May 2010, a report on SAICM had been considered by the 126<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Executive Board held in Geneva from 18 to 23 January 2010. During the discussion on SAICM the Executive Board considered two draft resolutions that had been introduced by Executive Board members, one concerned improvement of health through safe and environmentally sound waste management and the other concerned the improvement of health through sound management of obsolete pesticides and other obsolete chemicals. Both draft resolutions referred to the outcomes of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and the need to explore ways to work more closely with SAICM. In addition, the draft resolution on obsolete pesticides and obsolete chemicals refers to the synergies to be gained in the area of capacity-building among international instruments, conventions, regulations and processes, (including SAICM, the chemicals-related multi-lateral environment agreements and the

International Health Regulations (2005). The draft resolutions will now be considered by the Sixty-third World Health Assembly in May 2010. Participants of the present regional meeting were encouraged to discuss this matter further with their national delegations to the World Health Assembly.

30. Reflecting on the outcomes of the second session of the Conference regarding health, the representative of the secretariat updated the meeting on progress in the development of a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in implementation of SAICM. This was a specific action requested in resolution II/8 of the Conference. A meeting was scheduled to take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in the week following the present regional meeting on 4 and 5 February 2010 to develop a draft health sector strategy. Two experts from the African region had been invited to participate in this meeting, Mr. Ibrahim Longolomoi (Kenya) and Mr. Ernest Mashimba (Tanzania). The meeting would involve sixteen participants drawn from different parts of the health sector and would also have the involvement of non-governmental organizations, representing, peak international professional bodies for doctors and nurses, as well as those non-governmental organizations having a long-standing involvement in SAICM development and implementation, notably Health Care Without Harm, the World Federation of Public Health Associations and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment.

31. Participants were encouraged to provide their input regarding SAICM-related health sector experience, collaboration and involvement to assist in the development of the strategy. In particular, participants were encouraged to discuss their initial views on the preparatory questions identified in annex II to document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/12 and the best ways of engaging health sector colleagues in their respective countries.

32. In the ensuing debate, several participants referred to the limited participation of the health sector in SAICM and the predominant focus of this sector on the treatment of major diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. Extended outreach activities were hence required, including through relevant umbrella organizations, in order to raise awareness on the significance of sound chemicals management for the health sector. One participant proposed that SAICM establish centres of excellence on the ground in order to promote such awareness.

33. With regard to the meeting on the health sector strategy in Ljubljana on 4 and 5 February 2010, one participant stressed the importance of the region's participation in the process as well as the need to share information on its outcomes. He added that a meeting could be organized in the region to consider the outcomes of the process.

34. The meeting decided to establish an informal working group to further discuss and develop the region's input into the meeting in Ljubljana. The working group comprised representatives from Burundi, Djibouti, FAO, the Gambia, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Senegal, Tanzania and Physicians for Social Responsibility.

35. A statement on possible objectives, strategies and outcomes that the African region wished to see incorporated in the draft strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in SAICM implementation was subsequently adopted by the regional meeting and is contained in annex IV of this report.

## V. Reporting guidelines

36. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/13 providing an update on the development of arrangements for reporting on progress in SAICM implementation. She said that at its second session the Conference had agreed on a set of 20 indicators on various elements from the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy to report against. A baseline report would be prepared by the

secretariat by March 2010 to cover the reporting period 2006-2008 followed by a progress report covering 2009-2011. Both reports would be considered at the third session of the Conference. An electronic tool was being developed which would simplify the reporting procedure and provide data on progress, as requested by the Conference, and which would facilitate the aggregation of data on a regional basis.

37. The secretariat's baseline report would take into account the questionnaires that had been provided by SAICM stakeholders in the period 2006 to 2008. Information contained therein would be extracted in order to compile the baseline report. Information relevant to the first progress report would be collected using the electronic tool. Stakeholders might wish to supplement information in the baseline report at that time. To allow sufficient time to comment on the reporting tool and its accompanying guidance and the baseline report compiled by the secretariat, stakeholder comments would be invited over the period March and April 2010.

38. Responding to a query from one participant as to when the reporting process would commence, the representative of the secretariat clarified that the electronic tool was available in draft form and would be shared at the end of February 2010. She added that a reasonable length of time would be foreseen for comments to be provided on the electronic tool, even though the tool would not deviate from the reporting indicators and process agreed upon at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

39. One participant inquired whether the reporting tool would follow the same format for each stakeholder. The representative of the secretariat referred to the decision taken at the Conference that the same indicators would apply to all stakeholders. However, questions could be phrased differently to adapt to different categories of stakeholders. She invited participants to provide comments on the reporting tool, once it is available, which would be taken into consideration.

40. In response to further questions raised by another participant, the representative of the secretariat explained that the report to be developed on the basis of the data collected through the electronic tool would be formally considered by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session in 2012. Prior to its formal consideration, however, the responses will be compiled and shared through the SAICM website. She furthermore clarified that the data collection tool would include space for the provision of information in narrative form.

## **VI. Emerging policy issues**

### **A. Past issues**

41. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management had been the first opportunity for the Conference to perform its important function of addressing emerging policy issues including adoption of a future procedure for nominations. A formal procedure to select emerging issues had not been established at that time and the approximately 30 proposals submitted had been narrowed down to four with some difficulty. In each of the four cases the Conference requested follow-up action by intergovernmental organizations. Hence, while the SAICM secretariat was not directly involved in the work on each issue it was following progress and providing updates on that progress. The secretariat representative referred to SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/14.Rev.1, which contained an update on progress in the implementation of resolution II/4 and resolution II/5 adopted by the International

Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session. Moreover, the secretariat provided regular updates via its website.

42. The meeting noted the information provided by the secretariat.

**(a) Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products**

43. The representative of the secretariat recalled that the International Conference on Chemicals Management, at its second session, had adopted resolution II/4 which, among other things, invited specific stakeholders, namely the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention, to convene a workshop to consider issues in relation to electrical and electronic products, based on a life-cycle approach. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, and the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions were preparing the workshop back-to-back with the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention scheduled for May 2010. At the workshop a series of options and recommendations for future work, through existing mechanisms, where possible, would be developed for submission to the intersessional open-ended working group and for consideration and possible cooperative action by the third session of the Conference. The representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that the African Core Group, at its fifth meeting, had developed recommendations on hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products for the consideration of the regional meeting as contained in the report of the fifth meeting of the African Core Group on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM/RM/Afr.3/3).

44. One representative of a non-governmental organization emphasized that electronic waste remained of major concern to the continent, which continued to suffer from capacity shortfalls to effectively tackle the issue, including in relation to illegal traffic. He referred to a case of illegal shipment of electronic waste, which had been successfully intercepted yet posed considerable challenges in terms of its further handling and future disposal. He expressed hope that such issues would be addressed at the workshop, including the provision of legal and technical assistance for the employment of all means under international law to prevent such incidents and protect the environment and human health accordingly.

45. One member of the African Core Group and representative of a regional centre of the Basel Convention introduced the recommendations developed by the African Core Group in relation to the pertinent agenda item. He explained that the recommendations intended to offer guidance to the workshop in terms of objectives and key issues, such as the need to adopt a life-cycle approach; the issue of producer responsibility, which required both voluntary and regulatory approaches; the need for mechanisms to track electronic waste; the importance of legislation; the problem of near-end-of-life and end-of-life; and challenges posed by the informal sector. He also emphasized that issues in relation to electronic waste were also relevant for initiatives undertaken with regard to chemicals in products.

46. Referring to preparations for the workshop, which were mostly undertaken by a steering group established to that effect, he deplored that the organizations explicitly referred to by the International Conference on Chemicals Management were not sufficiently engaged in the preparatory process for the convening of the workshop. He informed the meeting that approximately USD 500,000 was needed for the convening of the workshop, in particular to ensure adequate representation from developing countries, and that lack of funding posed a serious challenge. He emphasized that the SAICM secretariat should take an interest in the issue and assist in resolving the problem by creating an enabling environment for the financing of the workshop.

47. The representative of the SAICM secretariat responded by drawing the meeting's attention to the wording of resolution II/4, which invited specific stakeholders to undertake the activities agreed upon by the International Conference on Chemicals Management. He referred to ongoing activities that stakeholders were pursuing without involvement of the secretariat in relation to other emerging policy issues, as envisaged by the Conference and the mandates formulated in resolution II/4. While following activities in the implementation of resolution II/4 with interest, the secretariat could only take an observatory role. However, he added that the concerns expressed at the meeting were duly noted and that the secretariat would discuss the issue further, including with regard to any assistance that could be provided.

48. One representative of a non-governmental organization submitted proposals concerning the objectives of the workshop, which should include an item on the identification of financial resource options that included dedicated assistance for activities, such as clean-up, and a request to the Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Convention and the SAICM secretariat to assist with fundraising efforts for the workshop.

49. The meeting adopted the recommendations with the amendments proposed. The recommendations adopted by the meeting, as amended, are contained in annex I of this report.

**(b) Lead in paint**

50. With regard to lead in paint the Conference endorsed the establishment of a global partnership to promote phasing out the use of lead in paints. UNEP and WHO would serve as the secretariat for the partnership. Current activities and progress included: outreach to potential partners, which, upon becoming members of the global partnership, are expected to contribute resources (financial or in kind) or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities; initial working meeting to adopt a framework and terms of reference for the initiative (tentatively scheduled to take place in March 2010 in Geneva); information note to elicit information from potential partners and contributors on possible contributions to the global partnership; distribution of a newsletter update and information on the planned approach to the global partnership work; and the establishment of a website relevant to the global partnership as a portal to background information.

51. The representative of IPEN referred to a global study on the issue of lead in paint, which surveyed four African countries and found that 80 percent of all paints examined in these countries contained lead. The meeting noted the information provided by the secretariat as well as the study, which is available at the following website: [www.ipen.org](http://www.ipen.org).

**(c) Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials**

52. With regard to nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, follow-up action was primarily based on awareness-raising. Much work was currently underway under the auspices of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Member countries were encouraged to broaden the visibility of their work and to engage developing countries on the issue with a view to addressing their concerns at the third session of the Conference. OECD had requested the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to assist with that awareness-raising for developing countries. A series of workshops on nanotechnology was being conducted in conjunction with SAICM regional meetings, including the current meeting which had been preceded by such a workshop, held on 26 and 27 January 2010. In addition, the Conference had requested a report on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials including issues of relevance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Some initial preparatory work had been undertaken by Switzerland and the United Kingdom and a draft outline for

the report would be circulated shortly by the SAICM secretariat for comments. The report would be developed by the secretariat on the basis of submissions by stakeholders and considered by the Conference at its third session.

53. The representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that the African Core Group, at its fifth meeting, had developed a proposed resolution on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials for the consideration of the regional meeting as contained in the report of the fifth meeting of the African Core Group on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM/RM/Afr.3/3).

54. Upon introduction of the resolution by the representative of Nigeria, one meeting participant, representing a non-governmental organization, expressed his gratitude to the African Core Group for the preparatory work and submitted two proposals concerning the draft resolution as presented by the African Core Group, namely to delete paragraph 1, lit. e, and to move paragraph 11 to paragraph 1 (becoming a sub-paragraph thereof). The meeting adopted the resolution, as amended. It is contained in annex II of this report.

#### **(d) Chemicals in products**

55. The representative of the secretariat recalled that the Government of Sweden, with support from other governments, had already convened a workshop on chemicals in articles/products in February 2009. The Conference had agreed to continue work on the topic and called for a steering group to be established to guide a project on the topic. The emphasis of the work was to improve the knowledge and information on possible hazards of chemicals in products. A meeting to define the scope of the project organized by the UNEP Chemicals Branch took place mid-December 2009 in Geneva and considered the issue more thoroughly.

56. On the day preceding the current meeting, a side event was held to brief participants on the outcomes of the December meeting and to obtain the views of the region on priority issues.

57. The meeting noted the information provided by the secretariat.

#### **(e) Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives**

58. Referring to resolution II/5 adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, the representative of the secretariat recalled the understanding expressed during the debate on the adoption of the agenda as summarized above, that an update on activities undertaken in relation to perfluorinated chemicals would be provided by the secretariat for the information of the meeting as a matter related to emerging policy issues. He explained that follow-up work on perfluorinated chemicals to develop, facilitate and promote national and international product stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches was being led by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in association with other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). A database was in the process of being developed for information exchange purposes, a test version of which should be completed by the end of 2010. He added that the 2009 survey report on perfluorinated chemicals was completed and would be submitted to the 45th Joint Meeting, which was to be held in the week of 8 February 2010. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development was continuing to consider how best to develop, facilitate and promote national and international product stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches for perfluorinated chemicals based on its existing work programmes and in association with other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme on the Sound Management of Chemicals.

## **B. Feedback on issues proposed by the African region but not considered at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management**

59. The representative of the secretariat recalled that the particular emerging policy issues discussed at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management were selected from a larger number of issues submitted by stakeholders as part of the preparatory work for the Conference. The African region had submitted four issues emanating from the second African regional meeting, *i.e.* biofuels, electronic waste, climate change and waste containing heavy metals (as recorded in annex VIII of document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/7). Three other issues had been nominated from countries and organization from the region, namely Burkina Faso (management of obsolete pesticides) and the African non-governmental organizations, the Zambian Consumer Association (control and monitoring of risks to children) and the Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit of the University of Cape Town, South Africa (comprehensible chemicals information).

## **C. Future issues *i.e.* nominations**

60. Future modalities for considering emerging policy issues had been agreed at the second session of the Conference and were set out in resolution II/4 of the Conference. A copy of the nomination form for new issues was already on the SAICM website with a diagrammatic form describing the steps and timeframe for the process. Nominations could be made at any time up to a deadline of November 2010. In response to a question, the secretariat confirmed that the Open-ended Working Group will review and prioritize proposals for consideration at the third session of the Conference.

61. The meeting was requested to consider if there were any issues it might want to propose. The attention of the meeting was drawn to document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF.15.Rev.1 that contained the questionnaire to nominate new proposals. Comments on the questionnaire as well as proposed nominations could be sent to the secretariat.

62. One meeting participant representing a non-governmental organization suggested that regional priorities should provide the basis for the formulation of emerging priority issues, the nomination of which could be prepared by the African Core Group. He furthermore recalled that the guidelines approved by the International Conference on Chemicals Management should be used by all stakeholders in preparing submission of nominations and suggested that the African Core Group could assist in assuring that nominations are complete.

63. Another meeting participant proposed that even if the region was not yet prepared to identify emerging priority issues at this meeting, the SAICM regional focal point could be tasked to alert stakeholders six months prior to the expiration of the deadline as to the nomination procedure and encouraging them to generate awareness at national level in that regard.

64. Another meeting participant suggested that translations of the nomination form be made available. The representative of the secretariat confirmed that the forms were being translated and would be posted on the SAICM website in all United Nations languages shortly.

## **VII. Preparations for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

65. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to documents SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF.2, INF.3 and INF.4. He said that the Commission on Sustainable Development had adopted a programme of work under which it would consider chemical in its 2010-2011 work-cycle. At the time of that decision SAICM had not yet been adopted. While welcoming the interest of another body in chemicals management, he said the Commission should be mindful of the existence of and activities underway in SAICM. He said the main preparatory work for the Commission's 2010 session was taking place at the regional level through the United Nations regional economic commissions and that all regions had held their respective preparatory meetings.

66. The representative of the secretariat recalled that inputs to the regional implementation meeting for Africa had been discussed at the fourth meeting of the African core group, held on 20 and 21 August 2009, when a set of elements were adopted for an African regional position on preparations for consideration by the Commission on Sustainable Development. These elements are contained in annex I to document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/2. The regional focal point, as requested by the African core group, further developed these elements and submitted the result of subsequent regional consultations in the form of a regional position paper at the regional implementation meeting for consideration. The paper submitted is contained in the annex to document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/4. The meeting was held from 27 to 30 October 2009 in Addis Ababa. Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia), regional focal point, participated in this meeting, together with a representative of the Strategic Approach secretariat. The representative of the secretariat emphasized the good cooperation both the regional focal point as well as the SAICM secretariat had enjoyed with the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, a representative of which was present at the regional meeting.

67. The representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa recalled the mandate of the Commission in relation to the implementation of commitments on sustainable development, including those contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Agenda 21. He expressed his gratitude for the SAICM participation at the regional implementation meeting and emphasized the important contributions that the regional focal point and the SAICM secretariat had made to that process and its outcome, which had been conveyed to the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development. There were ample opportunities for further contributions of the region to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development concerning chemicals. He invited Members States of the Commission to ensure that SAICM representatives formed part of the delegations dispatched to participate in the Commission on Sustainable Development proceedings in May 2010. Moreover, specialized agencies of the United Nations would offer an entry point for additional input as they are expected to provide thematic reports on the thematic issues concerned. Finally, he referred to the regional deliberations which would be undertaken at the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in addition to the thematic review and invited the SAICM secretariat and the regional focal point to ensure that consistency prevailed among different discussion fora of the Commission on Sustainable Development. He furthermore invited the SAICM secretariat and the regional focal point as well as the African Core Group to work closely with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. He added that the Commission was developing a sustainable development report for Africa and invited participants to visit the Commission's website on the Commission on Sustainable Development process ([www.uneca.org/csd](http://www.uneca.org/csd)).

## VIII. Illegal traffic

68. The representative of the secretariat recalled that at the fourth meeting of the African Core Group, held in Nairobi 20 and 21 August 2009, concern was expressed that the issue

of illegal traffic had been identified as a regional priority at the first African regional meeting, held in Cairo from 11 to 14 September 2006, but that little action had been taken to tackle the problem. The African Core Group had accordingly requested that a report be prepared on illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products, focusing on current activities relating to the issue of illegal traffic, taking into account the results of the Symposium on Illegal International Traffic in Hazardous Chemicals held in Prague, Czech Republic in November 2006. In response to the request, the secretariat had prepared a draft report with the help of a consultant, Mr. Kenneth Chulley. He recalled that the draft report contained in SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/16 had been presented at a side event held on the first day of the present meeting. He explained that the report would be finalized subsequent to this meeting taking into account, *inter alia*, the debate under the agenda item. He accordingly encouraged meeting participants to offer additional comments and discuss the issue with a view to agreeing on specific projects to tackle the issue more effectively in the future.

69. The representative of the secretariat furthermore drew the attention of the meeting to the proposed recommendations on the issue of illegal traffic developed by the African Core Group, at its fifth meeting, for the consideration of the regional meeting. The proposal was contained in the report of the fifth meeting of the African Core Group on the Strategic Approach (SAICM/RM/Afr.3/3).

70. The representative of a regional centre of the Basel Convention informed the meeting that a regional workshop on ‘clamping down on illegal waste shipments to Africa’ was being conducted in cooperation with the Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) within the framework of the Basel Convention E-wastes Africa Project. He added that one component of the Basel Convention E-wastes Africa Project focused on capacity building regarding the issue of illegal traffic in electronic waste, in particular through the conduct of a training workshop in Africa and Europe, and suggested that this activity could be broadened to encompass the issue of illegal traffic of chemicals in general.

71. The representative of Benin provided further information on the project, which involved several West-African countries and brought all stakeholders together.

72. The representative of Kenya expressed appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Basel Convention to strengthen capacity in Kenya with regard to controlling the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and informed the meeting about components of these activities comprising legal gaps analysis, strengthening of regulatory frameworks and strengthening of capacities. The project brought together all relevant sectors.

73. The representative of an intergovernmental organization emphasized the centrality of institutional weaknesses and capacity problems in tackling the issue of illegal traffic. She added that a comprehensive instead of a piecemeal approach was needed to respond to emerging illegal traffic issues.

74. One representative of a non-governmental organization commented on the questionnaire circulated by the secretariat in preparation of the draft report, urging that the questionnaire be made more specific and suggesting that they be circulated to all countries and stakeholders. He suggested that the data contained in the draft report be reviewed.

75. The representative of IPEN introduced the recommendations on illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products developed by the African Core Group. The meeting adopted the recommendations, as proposed by the African Core Group. The recommendations are contained in annex III to this report.

## **IX. Financing the implementation of SAICM**

76. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat acknowledged that finance was a key issue and that SAICM resolution II/3 had addressed various issues under the overarching policy strategy. In that same resolution, the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme was requested to evaluate the Quick Start Programme and SAICM stakeholders were invited to report on the effectiveness of SAICM financial arrangements generally. The evaluation of the Quick Start Programme and the report on financial arrangements would be considered at the third session of the Conference.

77. Document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF.9 provided information on a process initiated by the Executive Director of UNEP for financing options for chemicals in general. Consultations on those options took place in July 2009 in Nairobi and in October 2009 in Bangkok. The results would be forwarded to the special session of UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Bali, Indonesia in February 2010, to the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and to the third session of the International Conference on Chemical Management. Options canvassed in the discussions included improved use of the Global Environmental Facility and a separate mechanism for financing chemicals.

78. The representative of IPEN emphasized the importance of the issue of financing and provided further information on the consultative process, in which the following countries from the region had participated: Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. There was general agreement that chemicals and waste management was underfinanced and that a life-cycle approach needed to be followed in relation to financing. A proposal made at the consultative process to establish a voluntary trust fund required further explanation and met some resistance among participants in the consultative process. The desk study submitted for the second meeting had been amended and the UNEP Executive Director was expected to develop a policy paper on the issue. There was an understanding that the consultative process needed to go forward beyond the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Forum and the extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions scheduled to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in February 2010. He furthermore observed that the need for financial resources exceeded what could be expected to be provided by donor countries and called upon industry to make contributions, including through the internalization of costs.

79. Responding to a query from one participant as to whether the issue was on the agenda of the extraordinary meetings of the multilateral environment agreements referred to, the representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that the issue was indeed not formally included on the agenda, but that it would be taken up at the special session of UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

## **X. SAICM implementation**

### **A. Sharing experience, including on use of guidance documents**

80. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to document SAICM/RM/Afr.2/INF.6 on the 2009 edition of guidance for developing implementation plans for SAICM. He noted that it reflected comments received at and since the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. Additional comments on ways to improve the guidance would be welcome. The regional coordinating committee of the Latin America and Caribbean Group had studied the guidance and, following their suggestion, the guidance would be renamed the 2009 edition as it was no longer a pilot edition. He said that the document drew on broad experience in

integrated chemicals management. Countries had also examined the guidance during implementation of Quick Start Programme projects. The document was submitted for use on a voluntary basis. He informed the meeting that the guidance was being translated into the six languages of the United Nations as in-kind contribution from the IOMC organizations.

81. The representative of UNITAR informed the meeting about its intention to pilot test the guidance document.

## **B. Questionnaire**

82. As part of the preparations for the current meeting, the secretariat has continued its usual practice of requesting in advance of the meeting information from Governments and intergovernmental and other organizations on the initial implementation of the Strategic Approach. A short questionnaire was distributed for these purposes to Governments and organizations and the responses thereto are contained in documents SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/17/Add.1 and SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/18/Add.1, respectively. The deadline for responses was set at 15 January 2010. The representative of the secretariat provided an update on the responses received.

## **C. Regional action plan**

83. A regional action plan for the implementation of the Strategic Approach in Africa was adopted at the first African regional meeting, held in Cairo from 11 to 14 September 2006. The plan was reviewed at the fourth meeting of the African core group, held in Nairobi on 20 and 21 August 2009. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/2, which contains in its annex VI the views of the African core group on the plan's status of implementation. He added that the African Core Group reviewed the status of implementation at its fifth meeting. A revised version of the document was hence contained in Annex VII of the report of the fifth meeting of the African Core Group on the Strategic Approach (SAICM/RM/Afr.3/3). Participants were invited to discuss the status of the regional action plan with a view to ensuring that it serves to facilitate implementation of the Strategic Approach at the national, subregional and regional levels, as appropriate.

84. One meeting participant recalled that the regional action plan had been developed in 2006 and that a revision could be done on the basis of the preparatory work undertaken by the African Core Group, in particular its views on the status of implementation contained in Annex VII of the report of the fifth meeting of the African Core Group (SAICM/RM/Afr.3/3).

85. Another participant emphasized that many activities had been undertaken and lessons had been learned in relation to SAICM implementation and the implementation of the regional action plan, which should be shared among all stakeholders in the region. Several participants expressed their continuous commitment to achieve the overall SAICM goal of sound chemicals management by 2020 and shared information on activities undertaken in that regard.

86. The representative of UNITAR referred to the guidance document discussed under the previous agenda sub-item, which contained a section on the development of regional implementation plans and the implementation of which could be included in the regional action plan as envisaged in other regions, such as in Latin America and the Caribbean.

87. On the understanding that lessons learned on activities would be shared in the future, the meeting endorsed the revised views of the African Core Group on the status of implementation of the SAICM regional action plan, as contained in Annex VII of the report

of the fifth meeting of the African Core Group on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM/RM/Afr.3/3).

## **XI. Regional projects and priorities (for example Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, mainstreaming)**

88. Possible regional projects and priorities were identified at the first African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Cairo from 11 to 14 September 2006. The status of progress on each project was reviewed by the African Core Group at its fourth and fifth meeting, held on 20 and 21 August 2009 and 24 January 2010 respectively. The revised summary of progress, as discussed by the African Core Group at its fifth meeting, is contained in SAICM/RM/Afr.3/3 (annex VI thereto), which builds on the summary developed at its fourth meeting as contained in document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/2 (annex II thereto). The summary shows the progress made in a number of priority areas, categorizes this progress as substantive or limited and identifies the areas where no activities have been initiated. A number of new priorities were also identified by the African Core Group for reporting for 2012: chemicals in products, e-waste and liberating funds for activities.

89. In the absence of the representative of the World Health Organization, the representative of the secretariat introduced document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/19 which contained information relevant to consideration of regional work on the priority topic of subregional poisons centres. She referred to the status of poisons centres in the region and developments in the African region that may help to foster advances on this priority such as the establishment of a Network of African Poisons Centres and Applied Toxicologists and recent workshops on poisons centre training and on GHS. She noted that the issue of poisons centre development had been discussed in the context of the preceding joint WHO and Rotterdam Convention Workshop on awareness-raising and strengthening of chemical risk assessment and management.

90. In response to a question on the support provided by WHO for assisting countries to strengthen their abilities to deal with chemical poisoning, the secretariat referred to tools such as the INTOX Data Management system, authoritative information on the recognition and management of poisoning including on clinical use of antidotes, peer-reviewed information on the effects of chemicals contained in INCHEM and in International Chemical Safety Cards, training courses for poisons centre staff in developing countries and an electronic networking system for poisons centres around the world which provided rapid peer and scientific support and mutual assistance. Referring to the number of serious and unexpected chemical poisonings involving African countries in recent years, the secretariat also referred to the work of the WHO in providing humanitarian and technical emergency assistance. This work had also come more into focus with implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) under which countries had an obligation to inform WHO of any unexpected or unusual public health event irrespective of origin or source. One participant welcomed the offer made by WHO in document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/19 to assist in developing proposals for more concrete activities for establishment of subregional poison centers and for taking advantage of any upcoming workshops and meetings to further develop proposals. It was suggested that the regional focal point coordinate the region's engagement in this regard, including the identification of countries interested to participate. Another participant representing a non-governmental organization noted that attention should not only be given to the establishment of new poison centers, but also to the enhancement of existing ones.

91. In relation to other priorities, one representative of a non-governmental organization stated that the priorities identified should be considered not only in relation to project activities but also in the context of emerging policy issues discussed under a previous

agenda item. In the latter regard, some reflection was necessary as to why specific priorities were not recognized as emerging policy issues at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. He furthermore referred to the need to translate decisions and resolutions taken by the regional meeting into practice, such as in relation to regional priorities and the activities envisaged for their implementation.

92. Another representative of a non-governmental organization recognized that some progress had been achieved in a number of priority areas. However, noting that capacity building for chemicals management in general and SAICM implementation in particular remained of highest importance for Africa, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) was not given adequate attention. Most chemical containers sold to farmers did not bear any cautionary information other than the name of the chemical. Given the widespread illiteracy in the region, the use of colours in a harmonized system should be promoted for the labelling of chemicals. He furthermore referred to pesticides, wastes and chemicals in products as preeminent priorities. With regard to pesticides, he noted the traditional manner of agricultural activities in the region involving large segments of the population and that poisoning did not necessarily take place by direct exposure to pesticides, but by consumption through contaminated crops. It was furthermore recognized that electronic waste was being dumped on the continent and disposed of in manners which had negative impact on the health of the population, such as the burning of electronic waste in open air. Finally, insufficient attention was being given to the problem of chemicals in products, in particular chemicals in toys, which posed significant health risks to children exposed to them.

## **XII. Quick Start Programme**

### **A. Status of approved projects and applications in the regions**

93. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF.5.Rev.1, report of the secretariat on the Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund. He reiterated that 92 projects had been approved for a budget of approximately 20 million dollars. The document also provided a breakdown of approved projects for the African region.

94. In the ensuing discussion, several participants noted the importance of the Quick Start Programme and described progress made in the implementation of specific projects. Experiences were shared with regard to projects relating to the safe handling of pesticides, the establishment of integrated regulatory and policy frameworks for SAICM implementation, mainstreaming, implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and the Environment, and capacity building, including with regard to GHS. One participant encouraged the Quick Start Programme Executive Board to design methods that would shorten the current delay in commencing of project implementation. Several participants suggested that lessons learned in Quick Start Programme project implementation should be developed and shared. He added that the time frame envisaged for Quick Start Programme projects, *i.e.* 18 months, would be insufficient for complex and longer-term activities, such as mainstreaming of sound chemicals management.

95. The representative of UNITAR stated that it was involved in approximately 25 projects in the region and expressed its availability for the provision of continued support to advance regional priorities.

### **B. Preparation for the Quick Start Programme evaluation**

96. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat said the International Conference on Chemicals Management had agreed that the Quick Start Programme should be evaluated in 2010. The secretariat was currently initiating that evaluation, a draft outline for the terms of reference of which was also provided in the information document. The evaluation would be further discussed at the Quick Start Programme Executive Board meeting in April 2010. Any comments from the region were welcome and should be fed into that meeting through the Executive Board regional representatives for the Africa region.

97. The representative of the secretariat explained that each individual project had monitoring and evaluation provisions built in. For the overall evaluation the intention was that there would be a desk study undertaken at the SAICM secretariat and field visits and interviews on projects selected for evaluations. An opportunity to comment on the evaluations would be provided through the SAICM website and should result in an effective overview of the programme.

98. One participant representing a non-governmental organization highlighted the risk of donor fatigue, which should be looked at in the evaluation. Referring to the difference between trust fund contributions and non-trust fund contributions, he furthermore queried to what extent a difference will be made in the evaluation. The representative of the secretariat responded that the issue would be looked at when further developing the terms of reference for the evaluation.

### **C. Board meeting**

99. The representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that the fifth meeting of the Executive Board would take place in April 2010. He encouraged participants to provide guidance to their regional representatives on issues relating to the Quick Start Programme.

100. In the ensuing discussion, one participant expressed concerns that the methods of work of the Quick Start Programme had not changed and that relevant forms were still not available in French. The representative of the secretariat responded by referring to the practical difficulties of processing applications for Quick Start Programme funding in all United Nations languages.

101. Another participant noted that while the Quick Start Programme had been set up to assist SAICM implementation in all regions, not all countries had access to such funds while others were involved in several projects. Several participants inquired as to the submission modalities for multi-country projects, in particular whether submissions were needed for each country involved. The representative of the secretariat provided further information on eligibility criteria and the modalities for Quick Start Programme projects, including in relation to multi-country projects.

## **XIII. Information clearing house**

### **A. Status of information clearing house**

102. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that one of the official functions it had been assigned was the establishment of an information clearing house. Due to financial constraints the task could not be undertaken prior to the second session of the Conference. The secretariat presented a preliminary version of the information clearing house website and said it was expecting to launch the information clearing house shortly. He reminded the meeting that the information clearing house was intended to supplement the SAICM website and offer an entry point to chemicals related information from a broad base of sources and forums. It was also intended to include a section for country pages

where countries could, on a voluntary basis, share information on relevant activities being undertaken at the national level, and a provision for regional pages. Countries would be offered the opportunity to provide web links to relevant sites or key documents themselves such as national implementation plans and policy and legislative documentation. Pages would also be developed for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. A test version of the information clearing house web-based portal was demonstrated at the meeting.

103. Several participants expressed appreciation for the information clearing house initiative. It was suggested that the information clearing house site should serve as a means to share experiences and lessons learned among the SAICM community. Participants representing non-governmental organizations encouraged that information on the activities of non-governmental organizations be included and that the information should be accessible in several languages. Participants moreover suggested that a process be foreseen to ensure accuracy and authenticity of information made available via the clearing house portal. The representative of the secretariat clarified that the ownership of the information to be disseminated via the clearing house portal would be with all stakeholders and that a password system would be foreseen to ensure the authenticity of information uploaded on the site. It is intended that SAICM focal points would be authorized to provide information accordingly. In addition, the secretariat would monitor as well as administer the information clearing house portal with a view to ensuring its accuracy and authenticity. There would also be the possibility to comment on information available in one of the forums that the information clearing house portal is expected to host.

104. The meeting took note of the information provided.

#### **B. Regional contribution to the clearing house**

105. The representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that the secretariat had been examining the possibility of developing regional pages with password restricted access that might permit regions to discuss documents under development and allow its use as a forum to develop regional positions in the lead up to SAICM meetings. Additionally the possibility of developing a chat room or bulletin board to share views was being examined. Comments on the information clearing house website would be welcome as soon as the site was launched.

### **XIV. Other matters**

#### **A. Information on mercury negotiations**

106. Information was shared by participants on the current process for the development of a legally binding instrument on mercury by participants who had been involved. One participant and member of the bureau of the intergovernmental negotiating committee provided an overview of the two meetings that the region had held thus far in relation to mercury with a view to identifying key issues of concern. She encouraged African countries to take advantage of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Programme, which aimed at protecting human health and the global environment from the releases of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and where feasible ultimate elimination of global anthropogenic mercury releases to air, land and water. She referred to the current membership of the Programme, which comprises Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali and Nigeria, and emphasized the importance of more African countries joining the Partnership Programme pending the finalization of the negotiation process. Moreover, she drew the meetings attention to a request from UNEP for information to facilitate the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee at its first session to be held in Stockholm in June 2010. She summarized the categories of information requested, which included key

information sources relating to mercury, risk assessment tools, national or regional actions taken to control mercury, national assessments of the costs of inaction on mercury, and on data on mercury releases to water bodies and the health effects of such releases, and emphasized the importance of African countries responding to the request in preparation for the negotiations.

107. She furthermore explained that in preparing for the intergovernmental negotiating committee process, the African region at its meeting of August 2009 had identified a Core Group of Negotiators representing the five African sub-regions that will function in consolidating and negotiating Africa's issues throughout the negotiation process within the framework of the intergovernmental negotiating committee. This group was modelled after the SAICM African Core Group that was established right from the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the development of SAICM. Africa has also been able to elect its two bureau members for the mercury intergovernmental negotiating committee during the open-ended working group meeting, which was held in Bangkok in October 2009.

108. With regard to mercury priorities in the African region, participants at the African regional meeting, which was held in Nairobi from 17 to 19 August 2009, had emphasized the need for specific data on mercury emissions by geographical areas while also noting the technical and financial difficulties of obtaining data on mercury. In order to help address this challenge UNEP had engaged an African non-governmental organization, namely Friends of the Earth/Zero Mercury from South Africa, to provide technical assistance to work with countries to gain a better understanding of mercury knowledge and related gaps in Africa, using previously developed inventories and a draft National Mercury Profile template. The countries that participated were Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

109. The representative of Friends of the Earth/Zero Mercury provided an overview of an analytical report which is intended to provide information based on data from the mercury profile tool, existing mercury inventories and other readily available sources in support of the region's participation in the global mercury debate. He highlighted the widespread use of coal and wood for household energy consumption as well as mercury emitted from coal fired power plants. Moreover, metals mining and the production of minerals as well as artisanal and small scale mining, in particular gold mining, were important areas for the region. The analysis report contained several observations and recommendations which the region may wish to further consider in preparing for negotiations. The chair of the meeting stated that the report would be circulated once reviewed and finalized.

110. The other African member of the bureau of the intergovernmental negotiating committee shared additional information on the negotiation process, that it would meet five times, that the first meeting would be held in Stockholm in June 2010 and that Burkina Faso, supported by the African group, had expressed interest in hosting one meeting. He added that Mali, participating in the UNEP Global Partnership Programme, hosted a workshop from 8 to 10 December 2010, funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Government of Finland and executed by the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development, concerning the dangers emanating from the use of mercury in small-scale artisanal gold mining. At that workshop, a sub-regional plan of action on this issue had been developed.

## **B. Nanotechnology workshop**

111. The representative of UNITAR referred to the awareness-raising workshop on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, which UNITAR had held jointly with OECD on 26 and 27 January 2010 in Abidjan.

### **C. Revised terms of reference of the African Core Group**

112. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to African Core Group's proposals for a revision of its terms of reference as contained in Annex IV of the report of the fifth meeting of the African Core Group on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/3). Two revisions were proposed for the consideration of the regional meeting. First, the proposed revision in paragraph 1, lit. c related to the membership of the African Core Group and the inclusion of the regional representative on the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. Second, it was proposed to prescribe that the African Core Group would strive to convene in person at least once a year subject to the availability of funding.

113. The meeting adopted the revised terms of reference of the African Core Group as proposed by the African Core Group at its fifth meeting. The revised terms of reference, as adopted, are contained in annex V

### **XV. Adoption of the report**

114. The rapporteur informed the meeting that the meeting report would be adopted after the meeting on the basis of a draft report to be circulated to all meeting participants.

### **XVI. Closure of the meeting**

115. Following the customary exchange of courtesies the meeting was declared closed at 16.40 p.m. on Friday 29 January.

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## Annex I

### **Recommendations on hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products by participants in the African regional meeting on implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 25- 29 January 2010**

Participants in the African regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 25 to 29 January 2010,

*Mindful* that preventing harm to human health and the environment from inputs, products, or wastes containing harmful substances, or that lead to the formation of harmful substances, is an important element in achieving the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM),<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming* electronic and electrical waste as an emerging policy issue, as proposed by the African region along with Peru, and that the fate and sound management of chemicals during the life cycle of electronic and electrical equipment and products constitute important elements of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM),

*Recognizing* that near-end-of-life and end-of-life electronic and electrical products are a growing concern as a result of dumping in developing countries, which results in the illegal transboundary movement of their hazardous constituents such as heavy metals and brominated flame retardants,<sup>2</sup>

*Further recognizing* that the increased amount of electronic waste arising from the domestic consumption of such products will have an impact on health and the environment unless soundly managed,

*Aware* that there is a lack of capacity to handle electronic waste in an environmentally sound manner in almost all developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially least developed countries and small island developing States, leading to the release of hazardous substances causing harm to human health and the environment,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electronic and Electrical Waste on the occasion of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and in particular the World Forum on E-waste, which called, inter alia for the promotion of clean technology and green design for e-products, including the phase-out of hazardous substances used in production and included in components and the promotion of product stewardship and extended producers responsibilities in the life-cycle management of electronic and electrical products,

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<sup>1</sup> Statement on SAICM and Transboundary Movement of Wastes, adopted at the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM at its first meeting held in Bangkok, from 21 to 23 May 2007, contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/3 Annex V.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution II/4 on emerging policy issues adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 11 to 15 May 2009.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

*Recalling also* resolution II/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted at its second session held in Geneva, from 11 to 15 May 2009, which notes the importance of considering product stewardship and extended producer responsibility aspects in the life-cycle management of electrical and electronic products;

*Noting, in particular,* the views as expressed in the Abuja Platform on E-waste created during the International Conference on E-waste Control held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 20 to 21 July 2009, regarding the special needs of African countries, including the domestication of the Basel Convention into national laws, the operationalization of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import Into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within Africa by the African Union and the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and to address this issue as one of the strongest emerging environmental issues in Africa;

*Noting with appreciation* the on-going Secretariat of Basel Convention E-waste Africa project funded by the European Union, the United Kingdom, Norway and the Dutch Association for the Disposal of Metal and Electrical Products (the “NVMP Foundation”), with the goal of building local capacity to address the flow of electronic and electrical wastes and products destined for reuse in selected African countries and augment the sustainable management of resources through the recovery of materials;

*Noting also with appreciation* resolution II/4 adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session for a workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products to be held in the margins of the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group meeting of the Basel Convention scheduled for May 2010;<sup>4</sup>

*Welcoming* the agreed objectives for the workshop including identifying and assessing where issues relating to the sound management of chemicals arise during the lifespan of electrical and electronic products, including the design of such products, green chemistry, recycling and disposal, in particular in the context of the requirements of the Basel and Stockholm conventions;<sup>5</sup>

1. *Request strongly* that the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, and the Secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants should commence arrangements to hold the workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products to be held in accordance with resolution II/4 adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, as electronic waste continues to remain a top priority environmental problem in the region; and the workshop should cover, among other issues, the design and manufacture of electrical and electronic products; and the repair, refurbishment, and disposal of near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products and take into account the following issues:

- (a) Green design and the eventual phase-out of, harmful substances contained in electrical and electronic products;
- (b) Legislative and voluntary extended producer responsibility and free take-back programs in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

including provisions for employment generation and poverty alleviation in the informal sector;

(c) Transparency with respect to information on hazardous substances contained in electrical and electronic equipment and products in the workplace and communities around disposal sites; and the tracking through final disposal of wastes and second-hand products by recyclers and manufacturers;

(d) Use of internationally recognized accreditation and certification standards for recycling that ensure compliance with the Basel Convention and other relevant conventions, such as Bamako as well as provide measures for full protection of the environment and human health;

(e) Protection of workers and community health all throughout the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products from manufacture to recycling and disposal;

(f) Development and application of harmonized tariff codes, model legislation, and international recycling guidelines and standards to better identify and control near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products and wastes; and to improve cooperation and strengthen organizations working to better enforce the Basel Convention and other rules regarding the control of transboundary movement of such waste and products in cooperation with customs officials and others;

(g) Capacity building and institutional strengthening to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to ensure the implementation of the Bamako, Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions as well as the domestication of these conventions into national laws;

(h) Development of effective policy and regulatory framework to address contaminated sites; and to prevent open dumping and burning of electrical and electronic wastes;

(i) Effective ban on the transboundary movement and illegal traffic in electronic and electrical waste from developed countries to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(j) Further capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially least developed countries, for the environmentally sound management, including recycling, of near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products and wastes;

(k) Capacity building of the informal sector to harness potential employment generation, economic and entrepreneurship opportunities through training workshops in repair, refurbishment, dismantling/disassembling, and recycling of electrical and electronic products, including the identification of hazardous and toxic components in electrical and electronic equipment, including components that are recyclable;

(l) Establishment of appropriate and relevant demonstration and pilot projects that advance the objectives of the workshop;

(m) Intense awareness-raising activities and projects for all major stakeholders sectors including the general public, informal sector, politicians, civil society, industry and government.

(n) Financial resource options, including a dedicated fund to provide assistance to developing and transition countries to implement targeted activities including cleanup of sites contaminated by handling of electronic waste.

3. *Request* the workshop to establish a multi-stakeholder working group with representation from all United Nations regions to work intersessionally and prepare recommendations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to be held in 2011, and for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to be held in 2012.
4. *Encourage* synergy with the United Nations Environment Programme's project addressing the emerging issue of chemicals in products especially in respect of information on chemicals and toxics within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products.
5. *Invite* Governments, public and private organizations as well as donors to provide financial and in-kind resources for the successful organization of the workshop, including financial support especially for the participation of stakeholders from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
6. *Request* the secretariats of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Stockholm and Basel Conventions to assist with fundraising efforts for the workshop.
7. *Invite* consideration of the recommendations of the workshop by the Open-ended Working Group of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management at its first meeting to be held in 2011 and of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session to be held in 2012.

## Annex II

### **Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials**

Participants in the African regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, convened in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, from 25 to 29 January 2010,

*Mindful* of the overarching goal articulated in Paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;

*Recognizing* the potential benefits, new opportunities, as well as hazards, risks, and ethical and social issues posed by nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;

*Recognizing* the necessity to address the safety aspects of nanotechnologies before allowing widespread dissemination in the environment of manufactured nanomaterials;

*Recognizing* the special vulnerability of children, pregnant women and the elderly to the hazards of manufactured nanomaterials;

*Considering* the special needs that African countries and other developing countries and countries with economies in transition may have in coping with manufactured nanomaterials and wastes containing such materials;

*Recognizing* that nanomaterials represent an emerging issue of global concern warranting a comprehensive global response, including consideration of appropriate legal and administrative frameworks;

*Concerned* that production and use of nanomaterials in many countries is increasing rapidly despite the lack of adequate data on human and environmental risks and the lack of any national legal and regulatory framework as well as of any comprehensive global policy framework;

*Recalling* the Dakar Statement on Manufactured Nanomaterials adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its sixth session, held in Dakar from 15 to 19 September 2008;

*Further recalling* resolution II/4 E on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials adopted by the International Conference on Chemical Management at its second session, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, which invited “Governments and other stakeholders to develop a report that focuses on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials including, in particular, issues of relevance to developing countries and economies in transition, and to make the report available to the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session”;

*Welcoming* the workshop on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and its key objective of awareness-raising and information sharing for African countries on issues related to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;

1. *Recommend* that the report on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials referred to in resolution II/4 E of the International Conference on Chemicals Management,

which is to be submitted to the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session, shall include developments and recommendations on:

- (a) The critical role of the precautionary approach in addressing the issue of nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials throughout their life cycle;
- (b) The easy accessibility of information on the use and risks associated with the life cycle of manufactured nanomaterials to the general public in order to raise awareness and prepare all stakeholders for informed decisions-making;
- (c) The implementation of the “no data, no market” principle, requiring submission of comprehensive hazard assessment including toxicology and ecotoxicology data prior to introduction into the market and commercialization of nanotechnology applications;
- (d) The need for the producers to provide appropriate information about the content of manufactured nanomaterials in order to inform consumers especially in developing countries about potential risks through product labelling and, as appropriate, websites and databases;
- (e) The critical role of the civil society in the African region and hence the need to strengthen their capacity so that it may effectively take part in decision making related to manufactured nanomaterials including developing the capacity for evaluating effectively the potential risks of nanomaterials especially for particularly vulnerable groups, such as children, pregnant women and elderly people;
- (f) The rights of countries to accept or reject the import and use of manufactured nanomaterials to minimize their risks;
- (g) The ethical and social risks and benefits of manufactured nanomaterials, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (h) Elements of regulatory framework needed to achieve safe management of manufactured nanomaterials, including interim measures such as national codes of conduct leading to global codes of conduct;
- (i) Aspects of sustainability assessment of nanomaterials throughout their life cycle;
- (j) The safe handling of waste containing manufactured nanomaterials;
- (k) The information of workers and users of manufactured nanomaterials throughout the supply chain, including waste handlers;
- (l) The consultation of workers and their representatives when developing occupational health and safety programs and measures in relation to manufactured nanomaterials;
- (m) Bio monitoring initiatives of workers exposed to nanomaterials as well as of patient treated with health care products containing nanomaterials;
- (n) Consumers right to know and right to choose, including through labelling and the creation of comprehensive public registers of nanomaterials and products containing them;
- (o) Mechanisms and best practices to ensure national capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially least developed countries, for the disposal of nanomaterials and handling of waste containing manufactured nanomaterials;

- (p) The involvement of the health sector in decisions and policy-making on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.
- (q) The encouragement of research institutions in Developing Countries and Countries with economies in transition for the initiation of research in nanomaterials for the purpose of creating local capacities to advise their government on issues related to nanomaterials.
2. *Require* that wastes containing nanomaterials are not transferred to countries that lack the capacity to adequately manage them.
  3. *Recommend* that the report on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session includes both differing and consensual points of view.
  4. *Encourage* the formation of a multi-stakeholder working group with representation from all United Nations regions to develop the report to be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session.
  5. *Invite* Governments and organizations in a position to do so to provide financial and in-kind resources for development of the report including support for developing and transition country government representatives, health sector representatives, trade union representatives and public interest non-governmental organizations.
  6. *Invite* countries and organizations to establish partnerships, with consideration of financial support, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to build scientific, technical, legal, and regulatory policy expertise related to the risks of manufactured nanomaterials.
  7. *Invite* countries and organizations to establish partnerships, with consideration of financial support for bio-monitoring initiatives of exposed population, including workers as well as patients treated with health care products containing nanomaterial,
  8. *Encourage* countries to set up and enforce legal provisions to ensure safe practices with regard to production, use, transport and disposal of nanoparticles and nanomaterials,
  9. *Encourage* the international community to continue activities to develop, fund, and share effective research strategies on potential risks to human health and the environment.
  10. *Encourage* intergovernmental organizations and other relevant organizations to consider how they may assist governments to implement these recommendations.

## Annex III

### **Recommendations on Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products**

Participants in the African regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), convened in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 25 – 29 January 2010,

*Noting* that illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals remains a particular problem for the African region;

*Recognizing* the challenges of fragmentation and un-coordination of interventions by African countries;

*Concerned* that despite international efforts over the past 20 years, illegal traffic remains a significant and growing challenge in the region, including due to the existence of limited capacity to institute and enforce control measures;

*Further concerned* that African countries do not have domestic legislation to provide customs and environmental officials with the necessary powers to detain and to return containers of illegal shipments;

*Equally concerned* about lack of good communication, collaboration and information-sharing mechanism among countries in the region which is essential for preventing illegal shipments;

*Recalling* Chapters 19, 20 of Agenda 21 and paragraph 23(e) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

*Mindful* of the lack of domestication and implementation of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa in addition to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in the region;

*Furthermore recalling* that combating the illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals is one of the five objectives set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which in paragraph 18 calls for actions:

- (a) To prevent illegal international traffic in toxic, hazardous, banned and severely restricted chemicals, including products incorporating these chemicals, mixtures and compounds and wastes;
- (b) To strengthen mechanisms and domestic and regional implementation supporting existing multilateral agreements that contain provisions relating to the prevention of illegal international traffic;
- (c) To promote information sharing and to strengthen the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition at the national and regional levels for the prevention and control of illegal international traffic.

*Mindful* that further action is hence needed to tackle the growing challenges posed by illegal traffic in the region;

*Recalling* the Probo Koala grave incident in Cote d'Ivoire in 2006 where tons of chemicals waste from a European country were dumped in various sites around Abidjan, resulting in deaths and 44,000 casualties;

1. *Recommends* that activities should be undertaken to support the achievement of the SAICM objectives relating to illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals and *encourage* relevant stakeholders to develop proposals in support of such activities at the regional, sub-regional and national levels targeted at strengthening the prevention or control of illegal traffic in Africa.
2. *Encourage* relevant stakeholders to consider and give priority to the following:
  - (a) African States should ratify and implement the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa and also implement effectively the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal.
  - (b) To develop and implement capacity building training programmes for custom officers, environment enforcement officers, relevant security agencies and judges that will result in the improvement of enforcement and the control of the illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals.
  - (c) Conduct assessment of outcomes of existing programmes and successful pilot projects with the intention of replicating or modifying them to address the gaps.
  - (d) Establishment and, where already existent, strengthening of analytical national or sub-regional and regional laboratories for analysis of imported chemicals as well as capacity to respond to the incidents and consequences of illegal traffic and dumping including activities to clean up and restore contaminated sites.
  - (e) To create a functional and sustainable network of enforcement officers at both national and regional level with efficient mechanism for good communication, collaboration, information sharing and alert trigger on cases of illegal traffic.
  - (f) Conduct capacity building programmes in emergency preparedness and response at both national and regional levels.
  - (g) Conduct research, at the national or sub-regional level, on illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals with an emphasis on its scope, nature, drivers, factors and extent and actions to address the problem.
  - (h) Develop national legislation to provide customs and environmental officials with the necessary powers to detain and to return containers of illegal shipments. A model of law that could be adapted by each country should be developed.
  - (i) Development of regional monitoring and information network to assist in information sharing, information flow and serve as a database for all relevant materials on illegal traffic in the region.

## Annex IV

### **African regional statement on the engagement of the health sector in Strategic Approach implementation**

1. A small group of interested stakeholders met during the course of the third African regional meeting on SAICM to discuss their views on the possible objectives, strategies and outcomes that might be sought during the secretariat consultation on the development of the strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in Strategic Approach implementation to be held in Ljubljana (4 and 5 February 2010).
2. The common understanding reached was that currently there was very little engagement of the health sector in SAICM and so awareness raising would be a fundamental part of the strategy. Ways of ensuring that SAICM became relevant for the health sector would be critical part of the success of the strategy. This would involve using language and concepts with meaning for the health sector participants.
3. The overall vision should be a situation where there was a strong alliance between environment and health ministries with chemical safety of equally high importance to both. People's health was of paramount importance to both environment and health ministers.
4. The Libreville inter-ministerial conference on health and environment had already shown what was possible with a strong equal commitment. The representative of Kenya spoke positively of the lessons learned from the Libreville process which might be shared more widely.
5. While the strategy would need actions at all levels, national, regional and international, the importance of national actions could not be overemphasized.
6. Improving the awareness and participation of the medical community was discussed as a major gap in SAICM implementation. Without the awareness of the effects of chemicals on health there could be little commitment to prevention or indeed knowledge of effective treatment, if needed. The role of poisons centres as part of chemical safety should be better understood and actions taken to establish additional centres and/or strengthen existing ones.
7. With an overall objective of ensuring a strong environment and health alliance, the following specific strategies were identified:
  - (a) Strengthen partnerships between environment and health sectors.
    - i) Establish poisons centres.
    - ii) Training doctors in environmental health and on how to take environmental histories,
    - iii) Establishing multisectoral approaches for both environmental impact assessments and health impact assessments, to include both health and environment considerations and to include agriculture.
    - iv) Cleaning up chemical contaminated sites, with health and environment working together.
  - (b) Sensitize the medical community.
    - i) Include chemical safety topics in special editions of journals read by doctors.

(c) Sensitize parliamentarians and high-level decision makers.

8. Training strategies were seen as important at all levels and to incorporate environmental issue in medical school curricula.

Indicators of success for the future should include the existence of joint committees and programming, the number of doctors trained in chemical safety, changes in job descriptions to show evidence of a wider consultative role involving both environment and health sectors and the extent to which health policies incorporate chemical safety.

ADVANCE

## Annex V

### **Composition, procedures and terms of reference of the African Core Group on SAICM**

1. The African Core Group on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) comprises the following members:
  - (a) The African SAICM regional focal point;
  - (b) Two Government representatives from each of the five African subregions (North, East, South, West and Central);
  - (c) The regional representative at the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
  - (d) The two African Government regional representatives on the SAICM Quick Start Programme Executive Board;
  - (e) One representative from each of the following three sectors of civil society: industry, labour and public interest;
  - (f) One representative of a key regional organization (for example, one that has region-wide responsibilities relevant to the sound management of chemicals) to be determined from time to time;
  - (g) One representative from a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals with a significant regional chemical safety program;
  - (h) The immediate past African SAICM regional focal point.
2. The working procedures of the African Core Group on SAICM are:
  - (a) To the extent possible, to undertake its work through correspondence, teleconferencing and, whenever eight or more members attend the same chemicals or wastes-related forum, meetings in person to reach consensus on issues of current concern. Subject to the availability of funding and without detriment to the foregoing, the African Core Group shall strive to convene in person at least once a year;
  - (b) To use English as the working language of the Group. The provision of interpretation during meetings shall be decided on a case-by-case basis, but whenever possible the language difficulties of the region shall be taken into account;
  - (c) To designate alternates or technical advisers to participate in meetings as required in order to ensure continuity and involvement.
3. The roles and responsibilities of the African Core Group on SAICM are:
  - (a) To provide technical assistance in the formation of regional and subregional project proposals as requested by the African SAICM regional focal point;
  - (b) To assist the regional focal point in harmonization and follow-up efforts intersessionally;
  - (c) To review, from time to time, the SAICM Global Plan of Action for the purpose of adapting it to national and regional priorities;
  - (d) To prepare, in collaboration with the regional focal point, materials and agendas for regional meetings;

(e) To assist the regional focal point in preparing draft regional position papers for submission to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the International Conference on Chemicals Management;

(f) To serve, through members of the Group, as conduits for the views of subregions on SAICM implementation;

(g) To facilitate reporting on SAICM implementation in Africa and on the provision of resources to support such implementation;

(h) To facilitate African promotion of the establishment of a new chemicals management focal area in the Global Environment Facility;

(i) To facilitate the promotion and adoption of national economic instruments that can help to cover the cost of sound chemicals management;

(j) To coordinate implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of SAICM in Africa, including by facilitating the full involvement of all stakeholders, coordination and cooperation, communication with other regional coordinators and the SAICM secretariat, progress reporting on implementation of the Regional Action Plan and information exchange within the African region and with other regions and by identifying and mobilizing available African institutional support, for example from the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

4. Members of the African Core Group shall be elected at each session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and shall serve until the close of the following session of the Conference.

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