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

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The third African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management will take place at the Hotel Belle Côte, Riviera Palmeraie, Abidjan. It will be opened at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 28 January 2010, when opening and welcoming statements will be made.
2. Participants may wish to elect two co-chairs and a rapporteur.
3. Participants may wish to meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2. Adoption of the agenda

4. Participants may wish to adopt as the agenda for the meeting, amended as appropriate, the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/1.

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

5. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/1, which contains the report of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009. The representative of the secretariat will give a brief overview of the key outcomes of the session, upon which participants may wish to reflect.
6. The representative of the secretariat will also present an overview of Strategic Approach meetings held since May 2009. The African core group met in Nairobi on 20 and 21 August 2009, while the Central and Eastern Europe regional coordinating group met in Brno, Czech Republic, on 6 September 2009 and in Lodz, Poland, on 6 December 2009. The Latin American and Caribbean regional coordinating committee met in Santiago on 15 and 16 November 2009. The current round of regional meetings has included the second Asian and Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held on 23 and 24 November 2009 in Beijing, and the third Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting, held on 9 and 10 December 2009 in Lodz. Two teleconferences of the Bureau have been held on 22 June and 10 November 2009, respectively. The eighth meeting of the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee took place in Washington, D.C., on 15 and 16 October 2009.

4. Health issues

(a) Update from the Libreville health and environment inter-ministerial conference

7. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/11, which contains 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 includes 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 and the organization of the second inter-ministerial conference before the end of 2010. Participants may wish to take note of the information provided and discuss ways to engage in the conference's work.

(b) Strategic Approach health sector strategy

8. By its resolution II/8 on health aspects of the sound management of chemicals, the International Conference on Chemicals Management invited the Strategic Approach secretariat to develop in consultation with the World Health Organization a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in Strategic Approach implementation. The strategy would be formally considered at the Conference's third session, in 2012.

9. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/12, which contains an update on work by the secretariat to develop the draft strategy, including arrangements for a consultation in Ljubljana on 4 and 5 February 2010. The secretariat draws attention to preparatory information being sought ahead of the consultation to obtain a clearer picture of how the Strategic Approach is seen by the health sector and to garner ideas for how the sector's engagement can be strengthened. Participants may wish 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.

5. Reporting guidelines

10. At its second session the Conference adopted a set of indicators to be used by all stakeholders in regularly reporting on progress in implementing the Strategic Approach; arrangements for the preparation of a baseline report for the period 2006–2008; and arrangements for subsequent periodic reporting to the Conference beginning at the third session, to be held in 2012. The Conference requested the secretariat to prepare a baseline estimates report by the end of March 2010.

11. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/Afr3/INF/13, which contains information on the electronic data-collecting system prepared by the secretariat. Participants may wish to note the deadlines for reporting and provide any outstanding comments to enable the reporting system to be completed.

6. Emerging policy issues

(a) Past issues

12. Resolution II/4 provides for concerted actions on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, lead in paint, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and chemicals in products. Resolution II/5 pertains to managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives. The representative of the secretariat will present an overview of activities undertaken in the implementation of those resolutions. An update on progress in that regard is contained in document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/14. Participants may wish to take note of the joint organization by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in collaboration with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, of an awareness-raising workshop on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanotechnology held prior to the current meeting on 25 and 26 January 2010.

(b) Feedback on issues proposed by the African region but not considered at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

13. 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. Twenty-one stakeholders proposed 36

issues for possible consideration as emerging policy issues. These included the four issues nominated at the second African regional meeting (biofuels, electronic waste, climate change and waste containing heavy metals (as recorded in annex VIII to document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/7)) and also issues nominated by 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).

14. Participants may wish to discuss those submissions that were not considered in detail at the Conference's second session. In so doing, participants may wish to identify additional information that may be available and take into account the future nomination process and information requirements adopted by the Conference at its second session that will be outlined under agenda item 6 (c).

(c) Future issues, i.e., nominations

15. At its second session the Conference adopted as an annex to resolution II/4 the modalities that it wished to use for considering emerging policy issues at future sessions. These processes are to be facilitated by the secretariat and to provide for the participation of all stakeholders. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/15, which contains information on the updated procedures and a November 2010 deadline for submission of nominations ahead of the Conference's third session.

7. Preparations for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

16. By its resolution II/7 on the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Conference referred to the planned inclusion of chemicals in the Commission's work cycle for 2010/11. It encouraged Strategic Approach stakeholders to participate in the Commission's work on chemicals, including through regional preparatory processes.

17. Participants will have before them information notes on the Commission and preparations for its review of chemicals (SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/2), the regional implementation meeting on sustainable development organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/3) and on the outcomes of that meeting (SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/4).

18. Possible 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.

19. Participants may wish to review progress on preparations for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development with a view to identifying further inputs that may be needed.

8. Illegal traffic

20. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/16, which contains a report on illegal traffic. This report was prepared by the secretariat following a request at the fourth meeting of the African core group, held in Nairobi on 20 and 21 August 2009. At this meeting 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. Participants may wish to review the report with a view to agreeing on specific projects to tackle the issue more effectively in the future.

9. Financing the implementation of the Strategic Approach

21. By its resolution II/3, on financial and technical resources for implementation, the International Conference on Chemicals Management set out a number of measures to secure the long-term, sustainable financing of Strategic Approach implementation. These were directed at relevant financial institutions, notably the Global Environment Facility, Government stakeholders (particularly those concerned with bilateral and multilateral development assistance) and the private sector, including industry. As part of this resolution, the Conference requested the Quick Start Programme Executive Board to evaluate the Programme and to report on its effectiveness and the efficiency of its implementation (see agenda item 10) and requested the secretariat to prepare a broader financial report based on stakeholders' input on steps taken to implement Strategic Approach financial arrangements. Both reports would be considered at the Conference's third session.

22. A consultative process for financing options for work on the sound management of chemicals and wastes was initiated by the UNEP Executive Director at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. Two consultations in this regard have been held: in Nairobi on 24 and 25 July 2009 and in Bangkok on 25 and 26 October 2009. Participants will have before them document SAICM/Afr.3/INF/9, which contains an update on these financial considerations. Participants may wish to discuss the information provided and take note of developments since the Conference's second session.

10. Strategic Approach implementation

(a) Sharing experience, including on use of guidance documents

23. The Strategic Approach secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research have jointly developed a pilot guidance document to assist in the preparation of Strategic Approach implementation plans. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/6, which contains a copy of the guidance. The guidance has been recently revised based on comments received since its presentation at the Conference's second session. The revised guidance document will be published as a 2009 edition and is currently being translated. Participants may wish to consider the guidance document further with a view to facilitating its broad circulation and use.

(b) Questionnaire

24. 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 and SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/18, respectively. The deadline for responses was set at 15 January 2010. The representative of the secretariat will provide an update on the responses received. Participants may wish to take note of the information and share additional information on national implementation activities.

(c) Regional action plan

25. 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. The African core group suggested that a questionnaire should be developed, similar to that used to facilitate reporting on implementation of the Strategic Approach, to assess the current status of government activities in relation to the regional action plan. Participants may wish 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.

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

26. 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 at the fourth meeting of the African core group, held on 20 and 21 August 2009. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/2, which contains, in its annex II, a summary of progress on each project as discussed by the African core group. 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 (illegal traffic waste, early warning systems and subregional poisons centres). 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. Participants may wish to examine the summary overview by the African core group and discuss how they wish to proceed with the possible regional projects identified.

12. Quick Start Programme

(a) Status of approved projects and applications in the regions

27. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/5, which contains an update on Quick Start Programme developments, including a list of approved projects in the African region. Participants may wish to provide information on the implementation of approved projects in the region.

(b) Preparations for the Quick Start Programme evaluation

28. By its resolution II/3 on financial and technical resources for implementation, the Conference requested the Quick Start Programme Executive Board to evaluate the Programme and report on its effectiveness and the efficiency of its implementation. The representative of the secretariat will provide an update on preparations for the evaluation. A proposed outline for draft terms of reference for the evaluation is contained in document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/5. Participants may wish to comment on the outline and to provide guidance to the region's representatives on the Executive Board.

(c) Board meeting

29. The fifth meeting of the Executive Board will take place in April 2010. Participants may wish to provide guidance to their regional representatives on issues relating to the Quick Start Programme.

13. Information clearing house

30. Paragraph 28 (f) of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy states that the secretariat will provide "information clearing-house services such as provision of advice to countries on implementation of the Strategic Approach, referral of requests for information to relevant sources, and facilitation of access to information and expertise in support of specific national actions". Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/Afr.3/INF/8, which contains information on the status of the Strategic Approach information clearing house.

31. Participants may wish to discuss their views on how information resources pertinent to the African region can be enhanced and what clearing-house services would be useful to the region.

14. Other matters

32. A workshop on awareness-raising and strengthening of industrial chemicals management jointly organized by the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the World Health Organization will take place on Wednesday, 27 January 2010. Participants may wish to take note of the outcomes of this workshop.

33. Participants may wish to discuss any other items of business.

15. Closure of the meeting

34. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the meeting. Participants may wish to entrust the completion of the report to the rapporteur in consultation with the co-chairs and the secretariat.

35. It is expected that the meeting will be closed by its chair by 6 p.m. on Friday, 29 January 2010.
