
International Conference on Chemicals Management

Second session

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda *

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to
International Chemicals Management: modalities
for reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation**

**Proposal on modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in
implementation**

Note by the Secretariat

1. The International Conference on Chemicals Management undertakes periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach. One of its functions in that regard is “to receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach and to disseminate information as appropriate.” Such reports will be an important tool in the Conference’s performance of another of its functions, namely, “to evaluate the implementation of the Strategic Approach with a view to reviewing progress against the 2020 target and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary.”
2. The Conference has yet to consider what modalities it will use for monitoring progress in implementation. Based on work carried out in preparation for the second session of the Conference the secretariat has the honour of providing in the annex to the present note a proposal for the adoption of a limited number of indicators to be used by stakeholders in reporting on implementation of the Strategic Approach to facilitate monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. The secretariat’s proposal has been developed in consultation with an international project steering committee¹ and takes into account the results of a project sponsored by the Government of Canada,²

* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

1 The international project steering committee comprised representatives of Governments and regional groups, industry and non-governmental organizations, the Executive Board and Trust Fund Implementation Committee of the Strategic Approach’s Quick Start Programme and a representative of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. From October 2008, the secretariat of the Organization of American States also participated.

2 The project sponsored by the Government of Canada was carried out by the consulting firm Resource Futures International, with guidance provided by an international project steering committee. The project outputs included a questionnaire for the following groups of Strategic Approach stakeholders: Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and intergovernmental organizations. The project also developed a baseline estimates report assessing the availability of data that could be used to compile an assessment

which was carried out over the period from July 2007 to March 2008. The proposal also takes into account experience gained by pilot testing reporting indicators developed by Governments and stakeholders³ in the context of another project carried out from June to August 2008. Participants in the informal discussions held in Rome on 23 and 24 October 2008 reviewed a summary of the results of those projects and developed guidance on the subject. The secretariat has also taken that guidance into account in preparing the present proposal.

3. The proposal of the secretariat includes twenty indicators against which overall progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach could be assessed over the next three sessions of the Conference, the last of which is expected to take place in 2020. Indicator data would be collected nationally and then aggregated and monitored regionally and globally. The Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach provides the framework for the proposed indicators, which relate to the five categories of objectives set out in the Strategy: risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation and illegal international traffic.

4. For the present proposal, indicators have been selected taking into account the likely availability of data and ease of data collection. It is assumed that the data needed to assess each indicator is readily available to all stakeholders. This judgment is based on experience gained during the pilot-testing by Governments and other stakeholders and from the ad hoc reporting that has to date been undertaken in preparation for regional meetings. Data will be collected from stakeholders using a simple electronic data collection tool, which will be developed by the secretariat. This will assist data collection and verification nationally and will assist in aggregation of the data by region and globally. Other data will be provided by the secretariat, for example in relation to the Strategic Approach's Quick Start Programme, and through agreement with the secretariats of multilateral environment agreements relating to chemicals and hazardous wastes. Guidance on the data to be collected on each indicator will also be developed to ease data collection and increase the validity of the overall assessment.

5. In making a selection of possible indicators from those developed under the Government of Canada-sponsored project an emphasis was given to indicators which are output-related, essentially enabling progress with activities by stakeholders to implement the Strategic Approach to be monitored. This focus on outputs is proposed at the present time to give the best chance of providing results that are representative of different countries and regions. In the future, indicators of the impact of sound chemicals management should also be developed to assess the effectiveness of the efforts undertaken. For example, one key area of interest in this area is data on the levels of chemicals in environmental and human media. A number of countries and organizations are already engaged in initial efforts of this nature, for example in relation to monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; the collection of data from pollutant release and transfer registers; biomonitoring of selected vulnerable populations focusing on children's environmental health and the collection of data on poisonings and other chemicals-related incidents. Further consideration and development of indicators on the effectiveness of efforts to achieve sound chemicals management could be undertaken in the intersessional period so that a wider range of indicators could be included in the future.

6. In accordance with the guidance developed during the informal discussions, a single set of indicators is proposed for all stakeholders: Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Supplementary reporting would also be encouraged. Many stakeholders have found that the preparation of a narrative report on activities is useful in this regard, particularly for sharing progress made on key issues and for highlighting lessons learned that would be of interest to other stakeholders.

7. Some stakeholders have complementary data that would supplement the minimum set of indicators being proposed by the secretariat. Such data include information from participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals such as data on the implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and data from non-governmental organizations such as the International POPs Elimination Network, the International Council of Chemical Associations and

of progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach for the period from 2002 to 2007. The results of this project are available on the Strategic Approach website, www.saicm.org.

3 The following nine Governments participated in the pilot testing: Belarus, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Germany, Liberia, Nigeria, Panama, Romania and South Africa. One industry group, the International Council of Chemical Associations, also participated. The results of the pilot testing are available on the Strategic Approach website, www.saicm.org.

Croplife International. Stakeholders could be asked at the current session of the Conference to commit themselves to contributing specific complementary information.

8. The Conference is expected to meet for the third time in 2012 and then again twice more by 2020, the target year for achieving the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal for the sound management of chemicals.⁴ It is therefore proposed that work to collect the proposed indicator data be given priority by the secretariat in the coming intersessional period. As only very limited baseline data are available on a global basis, the preparation of a new baseline report compiling information from all stakeholders should be completed by the first quarter of 2010. Progress reports would be prepared approximately six months in advance of each future session of the Conference. Progress with the preparation of reports on implementation would be discussed, as appropriate, at regional meetings.

9. A steering committee could be convened to assist with finalization of the electronic reporting instrument and associated guidance and to provide oversight of the preparation of the baseline report and first progress report.

10. The Conference may wish:

(a) To consider adopting the proposed indicators for reporting on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach;

(b) To request that the secretariat prepare a baseline estimates report by the first quarter of 2010 and a first progress report by the end of 2011, with oversight and guidance from a steering committee comprising experts in monitoring and evaluation nominated by Strategic Approach stakeholders;

(c) To make a formal evaluation of progress on implementation of the Strategic Approach at its third session, taking into account the above-mentioned baseline estimates report.

⁴ Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, chapter III, paragraph 23.

Annex

Proposed indicators for reporting by stakeholders on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach

Data to be collected nationally and monitored at the regional and global levels

	Indicator	Notes on data to be collected
Risk reduction		
1.	Number of countries (and organizations) having mechanisms in place for determining the chemicals used in their countries and for setting priorities for risk reduction	<i>Data collection should take into account efforts to establish national inventories and improve customs information systems.</i>
2.	Number of countries with national legislation addressing key categories of chemicals	<i>A selection of key categories of chemicals will be included.</i>
3.	Number of countries (and organizations) implementing agreed chemicals management tools	<i>Data collection should take into account implementation of recognized tools prepared by participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, e.g., the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, guidance for establishing pollutant release and transfer registries and product stewardship programmes in industry. Tools would include those for pollution prevention.</i>
4.	Number of countries (and organizations) engaged in activities that result in comparable monitoring data on selected environmental pollutants and human health priority substances	<i>Data collection should take into account environmental and biomonitoring efforts, including collaborative efforts, monitoring of human poisonings and chemical accidents. Data will take account of work being developed.</i>
5.	Number of countries (and organizations) with adequate hazardous waste management arrangements	<i>Data collection should take into account inventories of waste, permit systems and policies and legislation for the environmentally sound management of waste.</i>

	Indicator	Notes on data to be collected
Knowledge and information		
6.	Number of countries (and organizations) actively working to improve the provision of information according to internationally harmonized standards	<i>Data collection should take account of implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), labelling according to national guidelines and the availability of harmonized hazard information. Regional initiatives should be reported on by regional organizations.</i>
7.	Number of countries (and organizations) that have specific strategies in place for communicating information on the risks associated with chemicals to vulnerable groups	<i>Data collection should include consultative processes and training directed at vulnerable groups such as women, children and the elderly.</i>
8.	Number of countries (and organizations) with research programmes addressing safer alternatives and cleaner production technology	<i>Collected data should include the amount of research being funded.</i>
9.	Number of countries (and organizations) with websites where national partners can gain access to information about the sound management of chemicals	<i>Collected data should include websites providing risk management information and details of relevant legislation.</i>
Governance		
10.	Number of countries (and organizations) that have committed themselves to implementation of the Strategic Approach through national policies and/or programmes	<i>Data collected should include the commitments of governing bodies of intergovernmental organizations</i>
11.	Number of countries (and organizations) with a national coordinating mechanism in place for chemicals management	<i>Collected data should include participation of specified stakeholders.</i>
12.	Number of countries (and organizations) with national policies and legislation in place to implement key international chemicals priorities	<i>Collected data should include ratification of multilateral environment agreements, implementation of specified international agreements and other specified international instruments.</i>

	Indicator	Notes on data to be collected
Capacity-building and technical cooperation		
13.	Number of countries (and organizations) with implementation plans for the Strategic Approach	<i>Collected data should include plans made as part of broader initiatives and not only dedicated plans.</i>
14.	Number of countries (and organizations) providing resources (financial and in-kind) to assist capacity-building and technical cooperation with other countries.	<i>Collected data should include assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.</i>
15.	Number of countries (and organizations) that have identified and prioritized their national capacity-building needs for the sound management of chemicals.	<i>Data collection should focus on plans that are publicly available.</i>
16.	Number of countries (and organizations) engaged in regional cooperation on issues relating to chemicals management.	<i>Collected data should include regional cooperation on risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity-building and illegal international traffic.</i>
17.	Number of countries where chemicals management is included in official development assistance programming	<i>Collected data should reflect perspectives of both developed and developing countries (donors and recipients).</i>
18.	Number of countries with capacity-building projects supported by the Strategic Approach's Quick Start Programme Trust Fund	<i>Collected data should include information on the three strategic priorities of the Strategic Approach's Quick Start Programme.</i>
19.	Number of countries making applications for capacity-building assistance to other sources of funding	<i>Collected data should include applications to identifiable funding bodies, developing and developed countries and the private and not-for-profit sectors.</i>
Illegal international traffic		
20.	Number of countries having legislation to prevent traffic in toxic, hazardous and severely restricted chemicals	<i>Collected data should include legislation that implements relevant provisions of multilateral environmental and other agreements.</i>