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**International Conference on Chemicals Management**

**Second session**

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

Agenda item 4 (e)\*

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International**

**Chemicals Management: financial and technical resources for implementation**

**Summary and commentary on submissions received from  
stakeholders in response to the questionnaires on financial  
arrangements for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals  
Management**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**Executive summary**

1. The functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management include working to ensure that the necessary financial and technical resources are available for implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and evaluating the performance of its financing. Submissions, which are summarized in the present note, were received from 22 Governments, 4 intergovernmental organizations and 5 non-governmental organizations in response to a questionnaire issued by the Secretariat on the Strategic Approach financial arrangements. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather information to assist stakeholders in preparing for the second session of the Conference. The submissions process was undertaken in advance of the informal preparatory discussions held in Rome on 23 and 24 October 2008. An earlier version of the present note was issued as document SAICM/InfDisc/3 for the informal discussions. Participants in the second session of the Conference may wish to take account of the views expressed by respondents as they consider the performance of the financing of the Strategic Approach.
2. Responses to the questionnaire revealed that considerable efforts have been made by many Governments and organizations to support the financing of Strategic Approach objectives at the national or sub-national levels. In the case of Governments, this has often involved the integration of Strategic Approach objectives into formal planning documents. Some developed country Governments indicated that existing plans and assessments relating to chemicals management adequately reflected Strategic Approach objectives. Many of the Governments of developing and transition economy countries that responded appeared to be relying on projects under the Quick Start Programme as a means of assessing needs and integrating Strategic Approach objectives. The use of economic instruments to support the cost of chemicals management was reported by many of the developed country Governments that

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\* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

responded. Notwithstanding the evidence of significant investments to implement the Strategic Approach at the national level, it might be observed that a relatively small proportion of developing and transition economy countries responded to the questionnaire and those respondents may be assumed to be among the more active and committed of such Governments. This suggests that the overall picture of efforts to support the financing of Strategic Approach at the national level in the initial implementation phase (2006–2008) may be less positive. General reporting on implementation progress that has been sought in preparation for the second session of the Conference may provide additional indications.

3. Responses to questions on enhancing industry partnerships suggest that relatively few new initiatives have been taken in this area since the adoption of the Strategic Approach. Developed country Governments tended to indicate that existing initiatives or responses to other developments such as regionally-applied legislation were sufficient. One intergovernmental organization with a specific mandate relating to industrial development had active programmes to enhance industry partnerships. No response to the questionnaire was received from industry associations.

4. Responses indicated that new work to integrate Strategic Approach objectives into national planning for development assistance cooperation was under way in a significant number of developing and transition economy countries and that the Quick Start Programme was a key facilitator in this regard. A small but important group of donor Governments also confirmed that chemicals management, and sometimes specifically Strategic Approach, objectives were being reflected in development cooperation planning. While the governing bodies of all participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) had formally recognized the Strategic Approach, the limited responses to the questionnaires did not reveal the extent to which Strategic Approach objectives had been reflected in the activities of most of the organizations. More extensive information in this regard is expected to be presented at the second session of the Conference.

5. Responses to questions provided only a glimpse of the use of existing sources of relevant global funding, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. It may be necessary to undertake more systematic and direct research in conjunction with the relevant secretariats and implementing agencies to obtain a true picture.

6. Given that the Quick Start Programme is the only new mechanism specifically dedicated to supporting initial enabling activities to implement the Strategic Approach, it is unsurprising that responses to questions on this arrangement were relatively extensive. They have been supplemented with additional data provided by the Secretariat. Comments on the adequacy on the effectiveness of the Programme were generally positive, though some respondents noted that administrative delays had affected the commencement of projects. Some respondents were of the view that more resources were needed and that restrictions on the number of projects for which individual countries were permitted to apply should be lifted.

7. The Secretariat would like to express its appreciation to the Governments and organizations that have made generous financial and in-kind contributions enabling the Secretariat to fulfil its functions. Resources have been sufficient for the Secretariat to fulfil most of these functions in the initial phase of Strategic Approach implementation. There are nevertheless continuing resourcing challenges to be discussed during the second session of the Conference.

8. Additional issues raised by respondents included the need to resolve arrangements for financing the implementation of the Strategic Approach after the Quick Start Programme, to broaden the donor base, to improve the availability of practical technology, to improve multisectoral engagement in the Strategic Approach and to make financial arrangements more flexible.

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