
International Conference on Chemicals Management

Second session

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

Item 4 (f) of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International
Chemicals Management: emerging policy issues**

Annotated list of submissions on emerging policy issues

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate for the information of participants an annotated list of the submissions made by Governments, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations in response to the questionnaire prepared as a means for Strategic Approach stakeholders to propose “emerging policy issues” for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session. The annotated list is contained in the annex to the present note.
2. The annotated list of submissions was prepared by the secretariat in accordance with a request from the participants in the informal discussions held in Rome on 23 and 24 October 2008 to assist the preparations for the session.
3. Each submission on the list is annotated with short notes referring to readily available information relating to how the issues mentioned in the submission meet agreed screening criteria that were developed during the informal discussions. The agreed criteria are as follows:
 - (a) The magnitude of the problem, its impact on human health and/or the environment, taking into account vulnerable sub-populations and any toxicological and exposure data gaps;
 - (b) The extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies;
 - (c) The level of knowledge about the issue;
 - (d) The extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature;
 - (e) The feasibility of the action proposed;
 - (f) The relevance of the issue to a broad number of countries or regions, and stakeholders, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

4. The annotated list provides a tool to help stakeholders compare the issues identified in the submissions against the criteria and to navigate their way through the submissions; it groups similar issues so that they may be considered together and provides a reference to the page number in the compilation of submissions where a copy of the original submission can be found on the Strategic Approach website (www.saicm.org). It also identifies the proponent of each issue.
5. A glossary of terms and abbreviations used in the and a set of notes follow the list. The notes provide some of the comments made and review the consultations that were held as part of the process of interpreting the criteria. They also provide references to supporting literature.
6. The annotated list is provided for the information of participants. Neither it nor the accompanying glossary or notes has been formally edited.

Annex

Annotated list of submissions on emerging policy issues

Issues are listed in no priority order for ease of reference only

Reference	Page reference of SAICM/InfDisc/INF/1	Emerging policy issue	Source of submission	How the issue meets the definition	Screening criteria ⁱ						Type of requested action in submission
					Magnitude of problem & impact	Extent addressed by other bodies	Level of knowledge	Cross cutting - nature	Feasibility of proposed actions	Relevance to broad no of stakeholders	
1	4	Biofuels	African region	Increased production and use of pesticides	Uncertain	FAO, UNEP DTIE ⁱⁱ	Fair	Yes	OPS 14(j)	Global	QSP support for interventions Implementation of FAO Code of Conduct
2	4	Electronic waste	African region	Downstream impact	Estimates exist for some equipment types	Basel Convention ⁱⁱⁱ IFCS ^{iv} GeSI ^v & UNEP DTIE ^{vi}	Fair	Yes	OPS 14(i)	National Regional Global	National extended producer responsibility, ESM, Control of (illegal) traffic
	15	Electronic wastes	Peru								Call for greater responsibilities for near-end-of-life electronic goods
3	5	Waste with heavy metals e.g. dry cell batteries	African region	Unsound waste management	Uncertain	National waste management instruments Basel Convention (ESM)	Fair	Yes	OPS 14(i) 16(d)	National Regional Global	Regional awareness raising, capacity building, legislation to control importation & control
4	5	Climate change	African region	Changing patterns of production & use	Estimates by Independent Panel on Climate Change	UNEP OCHA, WHO, OECD	Application to chemicals management - Not known	Yes		Global	Emergency response systems for disaster conditions
	62	Climate change	IFCS			IFCS VI resolution & brochure					National awareness raising, information & training, targeted research & precautionary approaches

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5	24	Pd and Cd – enhancing management capacity actions ^{viii}	USA	Risk management	Under assessment	UNEP ^{viii}	Under assessment	Yes	OPS 14(d) ii	National Regional Global	Cooperative risk reduction actions, research into alternatives & information on environmental flows
	53	International transport of Pb and Cd	IFCS								Consideration of outcomes of Forum VI regarding trade in products & waste
6	92	Use of lead in paints	Toxics Link	Risk reduction	Vulnerable groups	IFCS ^{ix x}	Less-well known in developing countries	Yes	OPS 14(d)	Global	Information exchange, discussion & concrete actions to phase-out use in paints
7	35	Heavy metals need for further global action	IFCS	Risk management	Sufficient to warrant concerted international risk reduction efforts	UNEP ^{xi}	Good	Yes	OPS 14(g)	National Regional Global	Consider actions in context of SAICM at national, regional & global levels for Hg, Pb and Cd
	12	Sound management of specific substances	Japan								Global action on sound management of Hg
8	6	PIC – regional coordination	Bahrain	Risk management of certain highly hazardous chemicals	NK. Relates to compliance with Convention	Rotterdam Convention	Good	Yes	OPS 16(a)	Regional	Survey on level of coordination, need for legal system, training and networking
9	7	PBT risk management	Belarus	Identification, assessment & management of specific risks	Unknown	Criteria & programmes exist ^{xii}	Good	Yes	OPS 15	National	National technical capacity building, information provision, guidance & financial support

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10	9	Management of obsolete chemicals	Burkina Faso	Need for sound disposal	Significant in some areas	World Bank, Stockholm Convention, FAO, IOMC	Good	Yes	OPS 14 (h)	National	Technical cooperation
	18	Utilization of obsolete pesticides	Ukraine								Incomplete questionnaire. National technical & resource support
	14	Hotspots caused by temporary storage of HCH	Macedonia								Regional technical cooperation and financial support
11	10	Chemicals in products	France/ EU	Risk management	Uncertain. Impact on vulnerable groups in the case of toys (children)	Potential link to sustainable consumption & production	Poor	Yes	OPS 15 (b)	Global	Consideration of workshop results and proposal for information system on chemicals in articles(products)
	38	Toys and chemical safety	IFCS								Information sharing about hazards and risks, research on impacts of product safety, educational efforts, harmonization of international standards
	12	Chemicals in products	Japan								Information exchange & discussion on further steps needed
12	87	National PRTR	CENN	Risk management	NK	OECD ^{xiii}	Good	Env	OPS 15 (f)	National	Continued support for setting up national PRTR in Georgia

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13	9	Safety assessment of existing chemicals	Japan	Risk assessment and management	Large estimates of chemicals in use	OECD & WHO risk assessment programmes ^{xiv}	Growing	Yes	OPS 15(b)	Global	Information exchange on results & assessments ¹
	89	Risk assessment/reduction from priority chemicals	EcoTox								National actions to evaluate priority chemicals
14	16	Samoa- chemicals mgt challenges	Samoa	Strengthened governance	N/A	N/A	Good	Yes	OPS 16 (a)	National	National interagency collaboration and development of a national chemicals profile
15	85	PFOA emission reduction	BIAC	Risk reduction	Estimates of production and use being surveyed	OECD countries Stockholm Convention ^{xv}	Fair	Yes	OPS 14 (d)	National Regional Global	Advocacy and work to establish product stewardship programs
	19	Perfluorinated chemicals	USA								Global cooperative action for reducing exposures incl. national or international stewardship program, information exchange, development of alternatives,
16	30	Applying precaution	IFCS	Principle of sound chemicals management	N/R	Principle embedded in national laws, regional & international agreements	Good	Yes	OPS 14 (e)	National Regional Global	Provision of information, Capacity building for implementation
17	26	Ecologically-based IPM and IVM	IFCS	Risk reduction	Regional cross border vector control needs	WHO and FAO ^{xvi}	Fair	Yes	OPS 14(j)	Regional Global	Considerations of Forum VI recommendations

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Includes also the issue of sharing of chemical safety data made in same submission

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18	41	Nanotechnology & manufactured nanomaterials	IFCS	Applicability of current risk assessment methods to new technological products	Growing and new industry	IFCS VI. OECD, ILO. FAO, UNEP & WHO ^{xvii}	Poor	Yes	OPS 15 (b)	National; Regional Global	To consider recommendations from Forum VI
	64	Manufactured nanomaterials	IOMC								Conduct of information session at ICCM2, Future sessions to keep topic under review
	12	Sound management of specific substances	Japan								Information exchange in relation to nanomaterials
19	46	Substitution and alternatives	IFCS	Principle of sound chemicals management	Not known	IFCS VI	Fair	Yes	OPS 14 (j)	National Regional Global	Consideration of Forum VI recommendations include request for consideration of a global partnership addressing lead in paint
20	82	Health sector – prevention of chemicals-related adverse health impacts	WHO	Perceived inadequacy of existing international instruments to prevent large-scale chemicals-related health impacts	Frequent chemical incidents with significant national and international public health consequences	Uncertain There is some coverage of response by IHR ^{xviii}	Poor	Yes	OPS 9 and 16 (b)	National Regional Global	Strategies to strengthen multisectoral participation and cooperation in MEA, SAICM.& IHR implementation .
21	90	Comprehensible chemicals information	OEHRU	Risk management	Not known	UN ECE ^{xix}	Not known	Yes	OPS 15 (b)	National	Testing of comprehensibility of chemicals information
22	94	Control & monitoring of risks to children	Zambian Consumers	Vulnerability of children to chemical risks	Not known	WHO, ILO & Regional Health & Environment Initiatives ^{xx}	Fair	Health	OPS (16d)	National	Incomplete submission – issues relate to national, regional and international enacting of legislation

List of acronyms

BIAC	Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD
Cd	Cadmium
CENN	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network
ESM:	Environmentally sound management
EU	European Union
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations
HCH	1,2,3,4,5,6-hexachlorocyclohexane
Hg	Mercury
IFCS:	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IHR	International Health Regulations (2005)
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOMC	Interorganization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPM	Integrated Pesticide Management
IVM	Integrated Vector Management
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OEHRU	Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit (of the University of Cape Town, South Africa)
OPS	Overarching Policy Strategy (of the Strategic Approach)
OSPAR	Oslo and Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North Atlantic
Forum VI	The sixth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
MEA	Multilateral Environment Agreement
PBT	Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic
PFOS	Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid O
PIC	Prior Informed Consent procedure of the Rotterdam Convention
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRTR	Pollution Release and Transfer Register
REACH	The Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (an EU instrument for chemicals management)
Rotterdam Convention	The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SAICM QSP:	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Programme
Stockholm Convention	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
UNECE	United Nations Economic Committee for Europe
UNEP DTIE:	United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
UNEP OCHA	United Nations Environment Programme Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

i **Screening criteria.** Informal discussions held in Rome on 23 to 24 October 2008 to assist preparations for the second session of the Conference agreed the following selection criteria could provide a basis for further consideration of the priority of nominated emerging policy issues: (i) The magnitude of the problem, its impact on human health and/or the environment, taking into account vulnerable sub-populations and any toxicological and exposure data gaps; (ii) The extent to which the issue was being addressed by other bodies; (iii) The level of knowledge about the issue; (iv) The extent to which the issue was of a cross-cutting nature; (v) The feasibility of the action proposed; and (vi) The relevance of the issue to a broad number of countries or regions, and stakeholders, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The following remarks on application of the screening criteria are based on the experience of preparing the present annotated list of submission on emerging policy issues. *“The extent addressed by other bodies.”* The annotations provide notes on other bodies that are or have worked on this issue, particularly at an international level, where relevant. Information on this element may be incomplete at the time of making the submission. *“The level of knowledge about the issue.”* The submissions have been annotated with a view to stating the level of general understanding of an issue, not the level of understanding or need for information by the proponent of the submission. *“The feasibility of action proposed.”* The relevance of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy is

noted as this may be pertinent to consider in terms of the functions of the Conference. Ultimately however, feasibility may be an consideration that can only be fully addressed as a subsequent step to screening when consulting and developing what actions may be considered by the Conference and in what timeframe.

ii Both FAO and UNEP are working to address some aspects of biofuels, for example in the context of food security and agriculture (FAO) and in the context of biodiversity, emissions to the environment, soil degradation, rural development and technology (UNEP DTIE). The FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is a guidance document to help ensure that pesticides are managed in ways that minimize risks to public health and the environment

<http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Code/guide.htm>

iii Electronic waste was addressed at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention held in October 2004 when electronic wastes were included as a priority waste stream in the Strategic Plan. The Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste and decision VII/2 were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eight meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya from 27 November to 1 December 2006. A workplan for the period 2009-2011 was subsequently agreed. Technical guidelines on e-waste are being prepared. Partnerships for mobile phones and for computing equipment are in place.

iv Electronic waste may also be linked to the issue of substitution and alternatives, as discussed by Forum VI, held from 15 to 19 September 2008, in Dakar, Senegal and in relation to the international transport of lead and cadmium, discussed at the same Forum..

v A Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) was established in 2001 as an alliance between GeSI's secretariat, UNEP and the International Telecommunication Union to further sustainable development in the ICT sector. GeSI fosters global and open cooperation, informs the public of its members' voluntary actions to improve their sustainability performance, and promotes technologies that foster sustainable development. GeSI aims to support companies and institutions across the ICT industry, including manufacturers, network operators, service providers, trade associations and associate organisations connected to the industry. GeSI currently has an e-waste working group.

vi UNEP DTIE's Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch, Programme for Innovation and Life Cycle Management is undertaking work on e-waste. The International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) has prepared two e-waste manuals <http://www.unep.or.jp/ietc/SPC/publications.asp> and currently has a pilot project on e-waste in Cambodia.

vii The submission from the United States is also relevant to the issue "lead in paints".

viii The UNEP Governing Council during its 24th session held from 5 to 9 February 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya mandated UNEP to provide information to address data and information gaps and to compile an inventory of risk management measures, which leads on from the mandate at the 23rd session to review scientific information on lead and cadmium, focusing especially on long-range environmental transport. UNEP through its Division of Policy Development and Law, is also the clearing house for a Global Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, launched by at the WSSD in 2002

ix A resolution on eliminating lead in paints was adopted by Forum VI, held from 15 to 19 September 2008 in Dakar, Senegal. This resolution was adopted in addition to the recommendations on substitution and alternatives, and included a request to establish an ad hoc Working Group to prepare a draft terms of reference for a global partnership to be submitted to the second session of the Conference.

x Lead in paints was also submitted by the IFCS secretariat, in the context of the submission on substitution and alternatives. Forum VI adopted the Dakar Resolution on Eliminating Lead in Paints. A copy of this resolution can be found in SAICM/InfDisc/INF1 (p50-51).

xi At its 24th session held from 5 to 9 February 2007, Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP Governing Council recognised that efforts to reduce risks from mercury were not sufficient to address the global challenges posed by mercury and concluded that further long term international action is required. In [decision 24/3](#) it called for a review and assessment of the options of enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments in order to make progress in addressing this issue. Two major areas of work set out in the decision comprise the strengthening of the UNEP mercury programme partnerships and the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group of Governments, regional economic integration organizations and stakeholder representatives to review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments.

xii Technical criteria defining persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic exist under EU REACH for use in the regulation, evaluation and authorization of chemicals, regional conventions for protection of the marine environment (OSPAR), for the screening of potential POPs under the Stockholm Convention and in other settings

xiii OECD has a Task Force on PRTR and maintains www.PRTR.net which provides a global portal to Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) information and activities from countries and organisations around the world. The website aims to assist countries in the development, implementation and improvement of PRTR programmes.

^{xiv} OECD has a longstanding cooperative programme for the investigation of existing chemicals and hosts a global portal giving free public information on the properties of chemicals linking the work of a number of government and intergovernmental authorities worldwide <http://webnet3.oecd.org/echemportal/>. WHO is engaged in the preparation and updating of high-quality international chemical risk assessments on pesticides, food additives, veterinary drug residues in food, food contaminants and other chemicals that can be used by countries for identifying, prioritizing and managing risks to public health

^{xv} Under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the POP Review Committee has adopted a risk management evaluation for Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and decided to recommend to the Conference of Parties that it consider listing PFOS acid, its salt, and PFOS fluoride in Annex A or Annex B of the Convention and specifying the related control measures. It is planned that the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention consider this matter in May 2009.

^{xvi} WHO has published a Global Strategic Framework for Integrated Vector Management (IVM) which provides a basis for strengthening vector control on a manner compatible with national health systems. IVM underpins many of the specific disease vector activities led by WHO. Integrated Pest Management is an integral part of many of the activities of FAO.

^{xvii} An attachment to the IOMC submission provides a summary of the existing and planned activities of its participating organizations.

^{xviii} The submission from WHO asserts that extent to which public health needs are covered by existing multilateral environment agreements covering chemicals and wastes is poor. The purpose and scope of the International Health Regulations (2005) are to “to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade” The regulations encompass all public health risks and unusual health events, including biological, chemical and radiological/nuclear that constitute an international concern and require Parties to strengthen core capacities in relation to surveillance and response at local/community, intermediate and national public health levels.

^{xix} The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is the custodian of the Globally Harmonized System (the GHS) for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. The GHS includes a methodology for testing the comprehensibility of labels and material safety data sheets.

^{xx} WHO has several activities addressing the special vulnerability of children’s health to environmental hazards, <http://www.who.int/ceh/en>. Children’s environmental health is a priority in a number of regional ministerial initiatives on health and environment including those of the Health and Environmental Ministers of the Americas and the Children’s Environmental and Health Action Plan for Europe. Children’s safety and health is also the concern of the ILO International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour.
