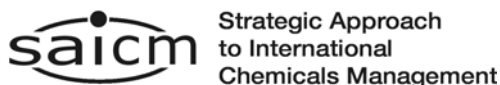


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International Conference on Chemicals Management**Second session**

Geneva, 11–15 May 2009

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations

Recognition of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management by the governing bodies of intergovernmental organizations

Note by the Secretariat

1. The development of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management was initiated by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh special session, held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 13 to 15 February 2002.¹ It was subsequently endorsed by heads of State at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,² and again at their World Summit, held in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005.³ In addition, the development of the Strategic Approach was endorsed by ministerial forums in the African region, the European Union and the Latin American and Caribbean region and for Arab countries.⁴

2. At its first session, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 February 2006, the International Conference on Chemicals Management encouraged intergovernmental organizations to play an active role in implementing the Strategic Approach. In their Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, ministers, heads of delegation and representatives of civil society and the private sector declared that they would “strive to integrate the Strategic Approach into the work programmes of all relevant United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes consistent with their mandates as accorded by their respective governing bodies”. Furthermore, the Conference, in its resolution I/1, “[commended] the Strategic Approach to the attention of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and [encouraged] them to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge the Strategic Approach with a view to incorporating its objectives into their

* SAICM/ICCM.2/1.

1 UNEP Governing Council decision SS.VII/3.

2 *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.

3 2005 World Summit Outcome (A/60/L1), which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixtieth session without a vote, on 16 September 2005 (A/60/RES/1).

4 For further details see the Strategic Approach website, www.saicm.org (go to “About SAICM” and “International Forums’ positions”).

programmes of work within their mandates and to report thereon to the International Conference on Chemicals Management”.

3. Since the adoption of the Strategic Approach in Dubai in February 2006, the governing bodies of the seven participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) have all formally recognized the Strategic Approach, as summarized below.

A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

4. At its 131st session, held in Rome from 20 to 25 November 2006, the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) endorsed the Strategic Approach and recognized the role of FAO in its implementation. The Council agreed on the importance of the Strategic Approach in assisting countries to meet the goals set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and in contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It also recognized the importance of FAO incorporating the Strategic Approach into its programme, consistent with its mandate, and that the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides was an important element in the Strategic Approach process. The Council suggested a range of activities for FAO in relation to implementation of the Strategic Approach, including in relation to good agricultural practices and obsolete pesticides.

B. International Labour Organization

5. At its 297th session, held in Geneva from 2 to 17 November 2006, the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) endorsed the Strategic Approach and ILO engagement in its implementation, including through participation in the Quick Start Programme.

C. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

6. Meeting in Paris on 28 March 2008, the Ministerial Council of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) adopted resolution C(2008)32, in which it decided, among other things, that OECD should make implementation of the Strategic Approach objectives an integral part of its chemicals programme and assist OECD member countries in their efforts to implement the Strategic Approach and work with non-member economies in implementation.

D. United Nations Environment Programme

7. At its ninth special session, held in Dubai from 7 to 9 February 2006, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) adopted decision SS.IX/1, in which it endorsed the Strategic Approach and authorized UNEP to fulfil certain functions in relation to the Strategic Approach secretariat, the trust fund of the Quick Start Programme and the convening of future sessions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. Earlier, at its twenty-third regular session, held in Nairobi from 21 to 25 February 2005, the Governing Council had, in its decision 23/9, requested the Executive Director, as a matter of high priority, to make appropriate provision for the implementation of the responsibilities of UNEP under the Strategic Approach, once adopted. More recently, at its twenty-fourth regular session, held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 February 2007, the Governing Council adopted decision 24/3, in which it took note of the UNEP plan of work in support of implementation of the Strategic Approach.

E. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

8. At its twelfth regular session, held in Vienna from 2 to 7 December 2007, the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) adopted decision GC.12/Dec.17, in which it endorsed the Strategic Approach and supported the participation of UNIDO in its implementation.

F. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

9. At its forty-fourth session, held in Geneva from 25 to 27 April 2006, the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) endorsed the Strategic Approach, supported UNITAR participation in the Trust Fund Implementation Committee of the Quick Start Programme and welcomed UNITAR involvement in pilot projects to support implementation of the Strategic Approach.

G. World Health Organization

10. The fifty-ninth World Health Assembly, which met in Geneva from 22 to 27 May 2006, adopted resolution WHA59.15, in which it took note of the Strategic Approach and requested the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) to facilitate its implementation by the health sector and support its implementation by working with IOMC partners. The sixtieth World Health Assembly, which met in Geneva from 14 to 23 May 2007, adopted resolution WHA60.26, in which it endorsed a global plan of action on workers' health for 2008 to 2018 calling for, among other things, strengthening of environmental protection through, for instance, implementation of the risk reduction measures foreseen in the Strategic Approach.

11. Information on the implementation activities of the IOMC participating organizations is set out in SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/3.

12. The International Conference on Chemicals Management may wish to note that the governing bodies of all seven IOMC participating organizations have responded positively to the Dubai Declaration and resolution I/1 of the Conference by formally recognizing the Strategic Approach and supporting the organizations' engagement in its implementation.
