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**Fourth Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach
to International Chemicals Management**

Lodz, Poland, 27–29 June 2011

Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The fourth Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management will take place at the Bureau for Chemical Substances and Preparations, 30/34 Dowborczyków Street, Lodz, Poland. It will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 27 June 2011, when opening and welcoming statements will be made.
2. A workshop on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in collaboration with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) will take place on Monday and Tuesday, 27 and 28 June 2011, following the opening of the regional meeting.
3. The regional meeting will reconvene at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 28 June 2011. Participants may wish to meet in plenary session from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday 28 June 2011 and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 29 June 2011.
4. Participants may wish to elect two co-chairs and a rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

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

3. Preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group

6. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/1, which provides information on the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group and the provisional agenda for its first meeting, to be held in Belgrade from 15 to 18 November 2011. The representative of the secretariat will provide additional information, including on possible arrangements for regional consultations and a technical briefing to be held before the meeting.

4. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

7. The representative of the secretariat will present an overview of Strategic Approach meetings that have taken place since the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009. They include a full round of regional meetings: for Africa, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 28 and 29 January 2010, for Asia and the Pacific, in Beijing on 23 and 24 November 2009; for Central and Eastern Europe, in Lodz, Poland, on 9 and 10 December 2009; for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Kingston on 8, 9 and 12 March 2010; and

for the grouping of countries known as “EU-JUSSCANNZ”,¹ in Paris on 18 November 2010.

A second round of regional meetings was recently initiated in preparation for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. In this respect, the fourth African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach was held in Nairobi from 4 to 8 April 2011 and the third Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting took place in Panama City from 31 May to 3 June 2011. The resolutions adopted at the fourth African regional meeting can be found in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/2.

8. Regional coordinating groups have also met as follows: the African core group met in Nairobi on 20 and 21 August 2009, in Abidjan from 24 to 28 January 2010 and in Nairobi on 4 April 2011; the Central and Eastern Europe regional coordinating group met in Brno, Czech Republic, on 6 September 2009 and in Lodz on 6 December 2009; the Latin American and Caribbean regional coordinating committee met in Santiago on 15 and 16 November 2009, in Kingston on 7 March 2010 and in Panama City on 30 May 2011. Two teleconferences of the Bureau were held, on 22 June and 24 November 2009, and a meeting of the Bureau was held in New York on 4 May 2011 at the time of the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The second face-to-face meeting of the Bureau was recently held in Ljubljana to complete discussions in preparation for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. The fifth meeting of the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme was held on 29 and 30 June 2010. The Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee held its eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh meetings, respectively, in Washington, D.C., on 15 and 16 October 2009, Geneva on 30 and 31 March 2010, Rome from 18 to 20 October 2010 and Geneva on 13 and 14 April 2011.

9. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/2, which contains the report of the third Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Lodz on 9 and 10 December 2009.

10. By its resolution II/2, the Conference encouraged regional focal points to continue to play a facilitative role within the regions and requested them to report to the Conference at its third session on the outcomes of regional meetings and other regional activities during the intersessional period. Participants may wish to discuss the report to be submitted by the regional focal points pursuant to resolution II/2 and make proposals related thereto.

(a) Evaluation of and guidance on the implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach

(i) Inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action

11. At its second session, the Conference adopted a procedure for the inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach. In accordance with this procedure stakeholders wishing to propose additional activities for inclusion are to prepare a justification document comprising: a synopsis of background information including the relevance of the activity to protecting human health or the environment; ways in which the activity would contribute to achieving national, regional or global commitments; objectives, priorities and needs; ways in which the activity reflects best practice and will be effective; information about the means of implementation; conclusions and a specific proposal. The adopted procedure foresees regional consultation on any proposals received and calls for a regional view of the priority to be accorded to the proposals. The Open-ended Working Group may select a limited number of proposals to be forwarded to the Conference at its third session for detailed consideration.

12. In relation to nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, the Conference at its second session already agreed to include the issue of nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials in the Global Plan of Action on to the agenda for the third session of the Conference.² Since time at the second session of the Conference precluded considering the justification document for inclusion of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials in detail, the Government of Switzerland subsequently provided a revised justification document for the proposed actions taking into account consultations following the second session of the Conference. The proposed justification document prepared by the Government of Switzerland is provided in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/3.

13. Participants at the fourth African regional meeting also developed an additional proposal to include the issue of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products in

¹ European Union, Japan, United States of America, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand.

² Paragraph 88 of the report of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM/ICCM.2/15) records that “the Conference agreed to include adding the issue of nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials to the Global Plan of Action on the agenda for the third session of the Conference”.

the Global Plan of Action. The resulting justification document has also been made available as document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/3.

14. Participants may wish to consider the two proposals so that any additional information and comments can be conveyed to their proponents, bearing in mind that the Open-ended Working Group will consider and assess the proposals to be forwarded to the Conference at its third session.

(ii) Reporting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach

15. At its second session, the Conference adopted a set of 20 indicators to be used by all stakeholders in regularly reporting on progress in the implementation of 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 its third session, in 2012, with the consideration of the first periodic report for 2009–2011.

16. The secretariat is preparing a draft of the baseline report presenting information on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach over the period 2006–2008. The report is based on information provided in the course of regular reporting for regional meetings and at the second session of the Conference by over 100 Governments and 60 organizations, including non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and industry bodies, supplemented by information from the secretariat's databases, including lists of focal points, approved Quick Start Programme projects and web-based sources for multilateral environmental agreements, and from other United Nations secretariats.

17. In accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Conference at its second session, comments on the baseline report will be invited in preparation for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. The representative of the secretariat will provide an update on the current status of this work.

18. An electronic reporting tool in the form of a password-protected electronic questionnaire has been completed following a period of feedback from stakeholders. The electronic reporting tool has been used to solicit specific information for each of the indicators on risk reduction; knowledge and information; governance; capacity-building and technical cooperation; and illegal international traffic. The information collected by this means will be included in the first progress report on implementation of the Strategic Approach (2009–2011). Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/4 on the preparation of reports on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

19. The Open-ended Working Group will consider any necessary adjustments to the electronic reporting tool. Additional information will be solicited at the end of 2011 to complete the first progress report (2009–2011). A formal evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, taking into account the baseline and first progress reports will be submitted to the Conference at its third session. The representative of the secretariat will present an overview of the data submitted by stakeholders using the electronic reporting tool. Participants may wish to discuss their experience with use of the electronic tool and the work needed to complete the reports on implementation before the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the Conference.

(b) Implementation of and coherence between international instruments and programmes

20. Document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/5 contains omnibus decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, which were adopted at the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the three conventions, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 22 to 24 February 2010. By those decisions, the conferences of the parties requested, among other things, the secretariats of the three conventions to develop for consideration in 2011 a proposal for cross-cutting and joint activities for possible inclusion in the programmes of work of the three conventions for 2012–2013, taking into account when appropriate the Strategic Approach, and to prepare a report on other clearing-house mechanisms and similar mechanisms in the area of chemicals and wastes, especially the Strategic Approach clearing-house mechanism. An update on the activities undertaken pursuant to the omnibus decisions was considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fifth meeting, held from 25 to 29 April 2011 in Geneva. Participants may wish to share information of relevance to the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

(c) Financial and technical resources for implementation

21. By its resolution II/3, on financial and technical resources for implementation, the Conference set out a number of measures to secure the long-term, sustainable financing of Strategic Approach implementation. These were directed at all stakeholders, including relevant financial institutions, notably the Global Environment Facility (GEF); Governments in a position to do so; intergovernmental organizations; the private sector, including industry; foundations; and non-governmental organizations. By the same resolution, the Conference requested the Quick Start Programme Executive Board to evaluate the Quick Start Programme, report on its effectiveness and the efficiency of its implementation (see agenda item 8) and make recommendations in the light of its findings for the consideration of the Conference at its third session. It also invited all stakeholders to assess and report to the secretariat on the steps that they were taking to implement the Strategic Approach financial arrangements and requested the secretariat to compile and synthesize those reports for consideration by the Conference at its third session.

22. A strategy on sound chemicals management for the fifth GEF replenishment was considered by the GEF Council in November 2010. In keeping with its mandate, GEF aims to support priority objectives as outlined in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach that generate global environmental benefits. The draft strategy includes an annex describing possible GEF support for the emerging policy issues of lead in paint, chemicals in products and electronic wastes. Participants may wish to share information and experiences on the use of GEF resources for the sound management of chemicals.

23. A consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes management was launched by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in recognition of the need for adequate resources in the field of chemicals and wastes management. The process was first announced at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, in early May 2009, and thereafter at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. A progress report on the consultative process was considered by the Governing Council of UNEP at its twenty-sixth session, held in Nairobi from 21 to 24 February 2011 and, by decision 26/7, the Executive Director was requested to submit a final report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session, in February 2012.

24. Four meetings in the process have been held to date: in Nairobi, on 24 and 25 July 2009; in Bangkok, on 25 and 26 October 2009; in Pretoria, South Africa, on 10 and 11 January 2011; and in Glen Cove, United States of America, on 4 and 5 May 2011. Four complementary tracks for the financing of the sound management of chemicals are under discussion, including mainstreaming of sound management of chemicals; industry involvement, including public-private partnerships and the use of economic instruments at the national and international levels; a new trust fund similar to the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol; and introducing safe chemicals and wastes management as a new focal area, expanding the existing persistent organic pollutants focal area under GEF or establishing a new trust fund under GEF. The secretariat of the Strategic Approach has not been invited to participate directly in the consultative process and the implications for the consideration of financial issues at the third session of the Conference have not yet been determined.

25. A resolution on financial considerations adopted by the participants at the fourth African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach is contained in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/1. Participants will also have before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/6, which provides an update on financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach. Participants may wish to consider the information provided and take note of developments since the second session of the Conference.

(d) Emerging policy issues

(i) Issues considered in detail by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session

26. By its resolution II/4, on emerging policy issues, the Conference provided for concerted action on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, lead in paint, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and chemicals in products, while resolution II/5 pertains to managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives. An update on progress on those issues, including resolutions from recent regional meetings, is provided in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/7. In addition, the report of an international workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products held in Vienna from 29 to 31 March 2011 is contained in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/9. Participants may also wish to

take note of an awareness-raising workshop on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials organized jointly by UNITAR, in collaboration with IOMC, to be held on 27 and 28 June 2011.

(ii) New proposals for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session

27. At its second session, the Conference adopted as an annex to resolution II/4 the processes that it wished to use for considering emerging policy issues at future sessions. These processes were to be facilitated by the secretariat and to provide for the participation of all stakeholders. A call for nominations of emerging policy issues for consideration by the Conference at its third session was conducted over the 18-month period ending on 18 November 2010. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/8, which provides information on the two emerging issues that have been nominated for possible consideration at the third session, namely, international cooperation to build awareness and understanding and to promote actions on endocrine disrupting chemicals, submitted by UNEP, and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, submitted by the International Society of Doctors for the Environment. In accordance with the processes established by the Conference, stakeholders were invited to submit comments and relevant information on the proposed issues to the secretariat by 30 April 2011. Participants may wish to begin discussions on the regional priority accorded to the issues ahead of the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group where it will be decided whether to add new emerging policy issues onto the agenda for the third session of the Conference for detailed consideration.

(e) Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation

28. By its resolution I/1, the Conference 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 programmes of work within their mandates and to report thereon to the Conference. Furthermore, in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, ministers, heads of delegation and others assembled at the first session committed themselves to striving “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”.

29. At the sixty-third session of the World Health Assembly, held in Geneva from 17 to 21 May 2010, participants considered a report outlining the importance of the sound management of chemicals for the protection of human health and providing an update on implementation of the Strategic Approach from a health sector perspective, including further opportunities for action. The Assembly adopted resolution WHA 63.25, on improvement of health through safe and environmentally sound waste management, and resolution WHA 63.26, on improvement of health through sound management of obsolete pesticides and other obsolete chemicals. Progress in the implementation of these resolutions was considered by the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) at its 128th session, held in Geneva from 17 to 25 January 2011.

30. At its twenty-sixth session, the UNEP Governing Council considered a report on implementation of its decision 25/5 of 20 February 2009, on chemicals management, including UNEP support for implementing the Strategic Approach. By its decision 26/3, on the world environment situation, the Governing Council welcomed the outcomes of the second session of the Conference and the progress made in implementing the Strategic Approach, stressed the importance of its implementation and further development, and welcomed efforts to enhance the engagement of the health sector in its implementation. By its decision 26/3, on chemicals and waste management, the Governing Council invited the Conference to take into account, at its third session, the information provided in the scientific reviews on lead and cadmium and to consider how the risks from those metals should be reduced at the national, regional and global levels.

31. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and IOMC participating organizations may wish to provide participants with an update on their commitments and contributions to the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

32. In its paragraph 24, the Overarching Policy Strategy provides that the functions of the Conference include “to promote information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation”. Among the many important aspects of the secretariat’s work have been the establishment of the Strategic Approach information clearing house and the engagement of scientific organizations in support of Strategic Approach implementation. The secretariat has undertaken outreach and awareness-raising efforts with the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and with

organizations that have networks of national associations, such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the International Union of Toxicology. The 2011 International Year of Chemistry provides additional opportunities for such cooperation. The secretariat will provide an update on the current status of the information clearing-house and participants may wish to provide additional information on relevant regional information exchange and technical cooperation initiatives.

5. Health sector strategy

33. By its resolution II/8, on health aspects of the sound management of chemicals, the Conference invited the Strategic Approach secretariat to develop, in consultation with WHO, a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in Strategic Approach implementation for consideration at the third session of the Conference.

34. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/10, which sets out a draft strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in Strategic Approach implementation developed by the secretariat taking into account, among other things, the outcomes of a consultation on the development of a strategy held in Ljubljana on 4 and 5 February 2010. The draft strategy has been available for comment on the Strategic Approach website since November 2010. An update on the comments received by the secretariat is provided in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/11. Participants may wish to consider the draft strategy in the light of the comments received.

6. Cooperation with intergovernmental bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development

35. By its resolution II/7, on the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Conference referred to the inclusion of chemicals in the thematic cluster for consideration by the Commission in its 2010–2011 cycle and it encouraged Strategic Approach stakeholders to participate in the Commission's work on chemicals, including through regional preparatory processes. During the regional meetings that followed the second session of the Conference, Strategic Approach stakeholders showed an active interest in regional preparatory processes for the eighteenth session of the Commission, including in regional implementation meetings and a learning centre (seminar) that was held as part of the formal session. The nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was held in New York from 2 to 13 May 2011 and included a learning centre and a partnerships event that both featured the Strategic Approach. Participants may wish to reflect on discussions on chemicals held as part of this session to identify any further opportunities for strengthening participation.

36. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (known informally as "Rio + 20") will be held in Brazil from 4 to 6 June 2012 and will mark the twentieth anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, and the tenth anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/12, which provides information on the preparations for the Conference, including its themes (a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development) and the summary prepared by the co-chairs of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, which took place on 7 and 8 March 2011. Participants may wish to share information and views on preparations for the Conference at the regional level and any opportunities that may exist for highlighting the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in the work of the Conference.

7. Activities and budget of the secretariat

37. The representative of the secretariat will provide an update on funding needs, including for secretariat staffing, the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, regional meetings, the Open-ended Working Group and the third session of the Conference.

8. Quick Start Programme

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

38. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/13, which provides an update on the status of approved Quick Start Programme projects, including a list of approved projects in the Central and Eastern European region. Participants may wish to provide information on the implementation of approved projects in the region.

(b) Progress with the evaluation of the Quick Start Programme

39. 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 terms of reference for the evaluation, developed by the Executive Board at its fifth meeting, are provided in document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/10. The representative of the secretariat will provide an update on preparations for the evaluation, the recommendations of which will be submitted for consideration by the Conference at its third session. A preliminary report may be available for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group. Participants may wish to comment on the preparations for the evaluation and to provide guidance to the region's representatives on the Executive Board.

9. Venue and date of the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

40. Paragraph 25 of the Overarching Policy Strategy provides that, where appropriate, sessions of the Conference should be held back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations to enhance synergies and cost-effectiveness and to promote the Strategic Approach's multisectoral nature. The first and second sessions of the Conference were held back-to-back with sessions of the UNEP Governing Council and the World Health Assembly, respectively. At its second session, the Conference decided to delegate responsibility to the Bureau to take a decision on the venue and date of its third session. Participants will have before them document SAICM/RM/CEE.4/INF/1, which provides an update on preparations for the third session.

41. Preliminary arrangements were originally made by the secretariat for the third session to be held in Geneva from 28 May to 1 June 2012, during the week preceding the 101st session of the International Labour Conference. The dates have been revised, however to 15–20 July 2012, in view of changes to the dates of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also to be held in 2012. The representative of the secretariat will provide further information on the venue and date of the third session.

10. Other matters

42. Participants may wish to discuss any other matters.

11. Adoption of the report

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

12. Closure of the meeting

44. It is expected that the meeting will be closed by its Chair by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 29 June 2011.