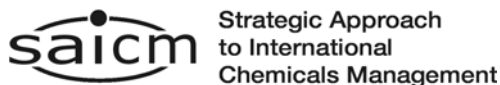




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Second Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Kingston, 8–9 March 2010

Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Emerging issues: future issues, i.e., nominations

Nomination of emerging policy issues for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session


Note by the secretariat

1. One of the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as set out in paragraph 24 (j) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, is “to focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action”. Paragraphs 14 (g) and 15 (g) of the Overarching Policy Strategy call, respectively, for existing, new and emerging issues of global concern to be sufficiently addressed by means of appropriate mechanisms, and for an acceleration of the pace of scientific research on identifying and assessing the effects of chemicals on human beings and the environment, including emerging issues.
2. At the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, representatives considered the modalities for carrying out the Conference’s functions with regard to emerging policy issues. The annex to resolution II/4 sets out the procedures to be followed by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in receiving nominations for emerging policy issues and preparing them for future consideration.
3. An emerging policy issue is considered by the Conference to be an issue involving any phase in the life cycle of chemicals and that has not yet been generally recognized, is insufficiently addressed or arises from the current level of scientific information and which may have significant adverse effects on human health or the environment.
4. In accordance with the procedures adopted by the Conference at its second session, stakeholders wishing to nominate emerging issues for consideration at the Conference’s third session, in 2012, should complete the questionnaire found in the annex to the present note and return it to the secretariat (by fax to 41 22 797 3460, or by e-mail to saicm@unep.org) by 30 November 2010.
5. An overview of the steps for the consideration of emerging policy issues by the Conference based on resolution II/4 is also contained in the annex to the present note.

* SAICM/RM/LAC.2/1.

6. Participants may wish to discuss in plenary session the possible priority emerging issues for Latin America and the Caribbean and agree on arrangements for working together to submit a nomination or nominations before 30 November 2010.

Annex

<p>Questionnaire for Governments and organizations to nominate possible emerging policy issues for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session</p>	 <p>Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management</p> <p>Please return by 30 November 2010 to:</p> <p>SAICM secretariat 11-13 chemin des Anémones CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva Switzerland Tel: 41 22 917 86 31 Fax: 41 22 797 34 60 E-mail: saicm@unep.org</p>
<p>Issue</p> <p><i>(Brief title)</i></p>	<p>Submitter</p> <p><i>(Government or organization, address, contact name)</i></p>
<p>State the problem</p> <p><i>(Briefly describe the emerging issue and how it is consistent with the definition of an emerging policy issue, i.e., an issue involving any phase in the life cycle of chemicals and that has not yet been generally recognized, is insufficiently addressed or arises from the current level of scientific information and which may have significant adverse effects on human health or the environment. Cite any key studies or authorities that are relevant in this regard. Attach a supplementary document with further details if needed.)</i></p>	
<p>Information that can be used to assess the nominated issue</p> <p><i>(Provide information that will help to assess the issue against the following criteria: (i) Magnitude of the problem and its impact on human health or the environment, taking into account vulnerable subpopulations and any toxicological and exposure data gaps; (ii) Extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies, particularly at the international level, and how it is related to, complements or does not duplicate such work; (iii) Existing knowledge and perceived gaps in understanding about the issue; (iv) Extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature; and (v) Information on the anticipated deliverables from action on the issue. Attach a supplementary document with further details if needed.)</i></p>	
<p>Describe the proposed cooperative action</p> <p><i>(Describe the proposed cooperative actions, or options for such actions, to be considered in moving forward on the nominated emerging policy issue, including a rationale for how the proposed actions would address the nominated issue. Actions that proponents might wish to consider may include:</i></p> <p><i>(a) Dissemination of information through the secretariat's clearing-house function or other mechanisms;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Recommendations from the Conference, which could include requests for action addressed to the governing bodies of intergovernmental organizations, Governments, scientific bodies, civil society stakeholders and the private sector; (c) Initiation of follow-up work under the auspices of the Conference, including through intersessional work at regional meetings, workshops, training sessions, internet-based consultations, teleconferences, work by subsidiary bodies, the secretariat or other mechanisms; (d) Specific commitments by Governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector, such as intersessional work or partnerships; and (e) Relevance, as appropriate, to the Global Plan of Action and the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy or other mechanisms for providing capacity-building to proponents. Attach a supplementary document with further details if needed.)</i></p>	

Steps for considering emerging policy issues by the International Conference on Chemicals Management*

*based on resolution II/4

An emerging policy issue involves any phase in the life cycle of a chemical and that has not yet been generally recognized, is insufficiently addressed or arises from the current level of scientific information and which may have significant adverse effects on human health or the environment.

A. Call for nominations

Note: Deadline 18 months in advance of the next session of the Conference.

B. Submission of initial information

- (a) Why the issue is considered to be an emerging policy issue;
- (b) How the issue meets the selection criteria:
 - (i) Magnitude of the problem and its impact on human health or the environment, taking into account vulnerable subpopulations and any toxicological and exposure data gaps;
 - (ii) Extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies, particularly at the international level, and how it is related to, complements or does not duplicate such work;
 - (iii) Existing knowledge and perceived gaps in understanding about the issue;
 - (iv) Extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature;
 - (v) Information on the anticipated deliverables from action on the issue.

C. Initial review and publication of submissions

- (a) Secretariat to check nominations against agreed criteria. Proponents will be contacted to provide any missing information;
- (b) Secretariat to compile a list of nominations, annotated with summary information on each of the criteria, similar nominations to be grouped;
- (c) Secretariat to publish nominations and invite comment 15 months ahead of the Conference;
- (d) Proponents may submit revised nomination (within 3 months – i.e., up to 12 months ahead of the Conference) and may join with other proponents;
- (e) Secretariat will consolidate a final list of nominations, annotated with a summary of information on each of the criteria.

D. Prioritization of submissions

- (a) Regions may prioritize the issues by engaging with Strategic Approach stakeholders including via regional and national focal points will be engaged in this process;
- (b) Secretariat to compile submissions on the priority of issues.

E. Inclusion of emerging policy issues on the provisional agenda of the Conference

Open-ended Working Group to review and prioritize proposals in preparation for the Conference. Submission of items on the agenda of the Conference to be in accordance with the rules of procedure.

Planning timeline

**September 2009
to
November 2010**

February 2011

May 2011

August 2011