



Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

SAICM: an introduction

Information bulletin No 1, January 2008

In this bulletin:

- About SAICM
- Key characteristics of SAICM
- The development of SAICM
- Implementation arrangements
- IOMC
- Stakeholder networks
- ICCM
- Quick Start Programme
- Donors to the SAICM QSP Trust Fund
- SAICM in the regions
- SAICM information clearing house
- SAICM secretariat
- Contact information



“The sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development.”

Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management
 6 February 2006

About SAICM

The consumption of chemicals by all industries and modern society’s reliance on chemicals for virtually all manufacturing processes make chemicals production one of the major and most globalized sectors of the world economy.

Acknowledgement of the essential economic role of chemicals and their contribution to improved living standards needs to be balanced with recognition of potential costs.

These include the industry’s heavy use of water and energy and the potential adverse impacts of chemicals on the environment and human health. The diversity and

potential severity of such impacts make sound chemicals management a key cross-cutting issue for sustainable development.

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world. It comprises the **Dubai Declaration** expressing high-level political commitment to SAICM and an **Overarching Policy Strategy** which sets out its scope, needs, objectives, financial considerations, underlying principles and approaches and implementation and review arrangements.

Objectives are grouped

under **five themes**:

- risk reduction;
- knowledge and information;
- governance;
- capacity-building and technical cooperation;
- illegal international traffic.

The Declaration and Strategy are accompanied by a **Global Plan of Action** that serves as a working tool and guidance document to support implementation of SAICM and other relevant instruments and initiatives. Activities in the plan are to be implemented, as appropriate, by stakeholders, according to their applicability.



SAICM's goal

SAICM has as its overall objective the achievement of sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment. This "2020 goal" was adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 as part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.



Key characteristics of SAICM

- SAICM is distinguished by its
- comprehensive scope;
 - ambitious "2020" goal for sound chemicals management;
 - multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral character;
 - endorsement at the highest political levels;
 - emphasis on chemical safety as a sustainable development issue;
 - provision for resource mobilization;
 - formal endorsement or recognition by governing bodies of key intergovernmental organizations.

The Development of SAICM

SAICM was adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in Dubai on 6 February 2006 after a three-year consultation. Originally called for by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the development of SAICM was endorsed by Heads of State and

Government at their summits in Johannesburg in 2002 and New York in 2005. The development process was overseen by a Preparatory Committee, which engaged over 140 Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Representatives were drawn from all relevant

sectors, including agriculture, environment, health, industry and labour. The ICCM and sessions of the Preparatory Committee were co-convened by UNEP, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS).

Implementation Arrangements

All SAICM stakeholders have committed themselves to its implementation according to their own needs and capabilities. Governments may wish to develop national and regional SAICM implementation plans. Intergovernmental organizations, such as and those noted below, are integrating

SAICM objectives into their programmes of work. Networks of non-governmental organisations, including industry associations, are also actively contributing to SAICM implementation.

IOMC



A key group of agencies providing support for the implementation of SAICM are the seven participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC):

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- International Labour Organization (ILO);
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR);
- World Health Organization (WHO).

In addition, two observer organizations participate in the IOMC:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- World Bank.

As of December 2007, the governing bodies of FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, WHO and UNITAR had endorsed or otherwise formally recognised SAICM.

Further details can be found at: www.who.int/iomc/

Stakeholder Networks

SAICM is a community of partners, comprising stakeholders from Governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society, including the private sector, working towards sound chemicals management by 2020. A network of SAICM national and other focal points is maintained by the SAICM secretariat. The designation of focal points provides an important mechanism for communication and for access to support from the SAICM

Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. All applications to the Trust Fund must be endorsed by the relevant national focal point and also, in the case of civil society applicants, the non-governmental organization focal point. As of January 2008, over 140 Governments, 12 intergovernmental organisations and 40 non-governmental organisations had designated focal points.



Dubai: Venue for ICCM1



Geneva: Venue for ICCM2

Donors to the SAICM QSP Trust Fund

The Governments of
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Finland
France
India
Madagascar
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Republic of Korea
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States

and

the European Commission

have contributed
over \$13 million
to the QSP Trust Fund
in 2006-2007.

International Conference on Chemicals Management

The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) which adopted SAICM at its first session, held in Dubai from 4 to 6 February 2006, will be reconvened in 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2020 to review progress in SAICM implementation. The second session of the ICCM is scheduled for 11-15 May 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. Where appropriate, sessions of the ICCM are held back-to-back with governing body meetings of relevant intergovernmental organisations. The first session was held in conjunction with the 9th session of UNEP Governing Council, and the second session will be held immediately before the 62nd World Health Assembly. The functions of the ICCM are:

- a) To receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in SAICM implementation and to disseminate information as appropriate;
- b) To evaluate SAICM implementation with a view to reviewing progress against the 2020 target and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary;
- c) To provide guidance on SAICM implementation to stakeholders;
- d) To report on progress in SAICM implementation to stakeholders;
- e) To promote implementation of existing international instruments and programmes;
- f) To promote coherence among chemicals management instruments at the international level;
- g) To promote the strengthening of national chemicals management capacities;
- h) To work to ensure that the necessary financial and technical resources are available for implementation;
- i) To evaluate the performance of the financing of SAICM;
- j) To focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action;
- k) To promote information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation;
- l) To provide a high-level international forum for multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral discussion and exchange of experience on chemicals management issues with the participation of non-governmental organizations in accordance with applicable rules of procedure;
- m) To promote the participation of all stakeholders in SAICM implementation.

Quick Start Programme

SAICM's Quick Start Programme (QSP) aims to support initial enabling activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition. The QSP consists of a trust fund, as well as bilateral, multilateral and other forms of cooperation. The QSP aims mobilize resources for national priority initial enabling activities in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, in particular:

- a) Development or updating of national chemical profiles and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management;
- b) Development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement SAICM, building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals-related agreements and initiatives;
- c) Undertaking analysis, interagency coordination, and public participation activities directed at enabling the implementation of SAICM by integrating – i.e., mainstreaming – the sound management of chemicals in national strategies, and thereby informing development assistance cooperation priorities

The QSP is overseen by an Executive Board comprising two government representatives for each United Nations region, plus bilateral and multilateral donors and other contributors. A QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee is made up of the seven IOMC organizations and UNDP. The Trust Fund is administered by UNEP. The SAICM secretariat services the Executive Board and Trust Fund Implementation Committee, and facilitates the overall operation of the QSP, including applications to the Trust Fund.



Visit www.saicm.org
for

- the SAICM texts,
- focal points,
- meeting documents,
- the QSP programme
- the SAICM information clearing house and more



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International Environment House,
Geneva

SAICM in the regions

The Overarching Policy Strategy calls for regional meetings to prepare for future sessions of the ICCM, to facilitate input on SAICM activities and exchange regional expertise and information. Since the adoption of SAICM, regional and sub-regional meetings were scheduled as follows:

- Africa: Cairo, 11-14 September 2006
- Asia-Pacific: Bangkok, 21-23 May 2007
- Central and Eastern Europe: Riga, 4-6 December 2006
- EU-JUSSCANNZ countries: Barcelona, 20-22 November 2006
- Latin America and Caribbean, Panama City, 14-16 February 2008
- Arab countries: Cairo, 2 April 2007
- Pacific Island countries: Apia, 8-9 November 2007

These initial regional meetings have discussed establishing regional coordination

SAICM Information Clearing House

In order to foster SAICM implementation, and to facilitate access to information and expertise, the ICCM mandated the SAICM Secretariat to establish and maintain an information clearing house. The clearing house, which will be launched in early 2008, will contain a comprehensive range of links to SAICM related institutions; intergovernmental, regional and country resources; industry associations and civil society; scientific databases and publications; and many other topics.

SAICM Secretariat

UNEP has established and maintains overall administrative responsibility for the SAICM secretariat, with WHO also playing a lead role within the secretariat. The secretariat works closely with participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). The functions of the Secretariat are:

- a) To facilitate meetings and intersessional work of the Conference, as well as regional meetings, with maximum multi-stakeholder participation, and to disseminate the reports and recommendations of the Conference;
- b) To report to the Conference on implementation of the Strategic Approach by all participants;
- c) To promote the establishment and maintenance of a network of Strategic Approach stakeholders at the national, regional and, in the case of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international levels;
- d) To facilitate the development and dissemination of guidance materials to support implementation of the Strategic Approach by stakeholders;
- e) To provide guidance to stakeholders in the initiation of project proposals;
- f) To provide information clearing-house services such as provision of advice to countries on implementation of the Strategic Approach, referral of requests for information to relevant sources, and facilitation of access to information and expertise in support of specific national actions;
- g) To ensure that recommendations from the Conference are conveyed to relevant global and regional organizations and institutions;
- h) To promote the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information;
- i) To establish and maintain a working relationship with participating organizations of IOMC in order to draw upon their sectoral expertise.

In addition, the secretariat services the Quick Start Programme.