

**Report on Activities  
of the  
Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound  
Management of Chemicals (IOMC)  
and its Participating and Observer Organizations  
for Implementation  
of the  
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals  
Management (SAICM)**

**January 2009**

**IOMC**



**INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS**

A cooperative agreement among **FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO and OECD**

*This publication was developed in the IOMC context. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or stated policies of individual IOMC Participating Organizations.*

The Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development to strengthen co-operation and increase international co-ordination in the field of chemical safety. The participating organisations are FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO and OECD. The World Bank and UNDP are observers. The purpose of the IOMC is to promote co-ordination of the policies and activities pursued by the Participating Organisations, jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

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**Table of Contents**

- I. Introduction**
- II. IOMC and SAICM Development**
- III. IOMC's joint support for implementation of SAICM**
- IV. Specific support from IOMC participating organizations**
  - FAO
  - ILO
  - OECD
  - UNEP
  - UNIDO
  - UNITAR
  - WHO
- V. Specific support from IOMC observer organizations**
  - UNDP
  - World Bank

## I. Introduction

1. The IOMC was established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. The members consist of 7 organizations: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, two observer organizations are also participating in the IOMC: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.

2. The objective of the IOMC is to strengthen international cooperation in the field of chemicals and to increase the effectiveness of the organizations' international chemicals programmes. It promotes coordination of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment. The vision statement of IOMC is to be the pre-eminent mechanism for initiating, facilitating and coordinating international action to achieve the goal agreed at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development of ensuring that, by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

3. The IOMC has in the past carried out a number of successful joint activities that support the SAICM goal such as:

- Supporting establishment and implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS), in the area of health and environmental hazards ([www.oecd.org/env/classify](http://www.oecd.org/env/classify); [www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/](http://www.unitar.org/cwm/ghs/));
- Addressing the problems of obsolete/unwanted pesticides in Africa ( through the “Africa Stockpiles Programme), by building capacity in countries for prevention, management and disposal of obsolete pesticides ([www.africastockpiles.org](http://www.africastockpiles.org));
- Supporting countries to implement the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, through the Secretariat provided jointly by FAO and UNEP in Rome and Geneva ([www.pic.int](http://www.pic.int));
- Assessing existing chemicals, through sharing the burden of information gathering, testing, assessment of High Production Volume Chemicals among OECD countries and identifying the needs for further work on such chemicals ([www.oecd.org/env/existingchemicals](http://www.oecd.org/env/existingchemicals));
- Developing guidance on, and promotion of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) and Release Estimation Techniques (RETs) ([www.oecd.org/env/prtr](http://www.oecd.org/env/prtr) and [www.unitar.org/cwm/prtr/](http://www.unitar.org/cwm/prtr/)); and
- Supporting countries to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Substances (POPs) an to develop their National Implementation Plan (NIPs) ([www.pops.int/documents/implementation/nips](http://www.pops.int/documents/implementation/nips)).

## **II. IOMC and SAICM development**

4. IOMC was a co-convenor, together with UNEP and the Intergovernmental Forum for Chemicals Safety (IFCS), of the first International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1) in Dubai in 2006 that adopted SAICM. During three Preparatory Committee meetings, IOMC actively contributed to the development of the three core texts of SAICM: the Dubai Declaration, the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) and the Global Plan of Action (GPA). At ICCM1 IOMC submitted a number of information documents presenting the position of IOMC on a number of issues such as:

- Preparation of a strategy for capacity-building in the context of SAICM;
- Ways of monitoring progress in the implementation of SAICM, including proposed criteria for a SAICM oversight body;
- Information sources and exchange on capacity-building for chemicals;
- Performance of secretariat functions in support of implementation of SAICM; and
- Preparation of a Guide to Resource, Guidance and Training Material of IOMC Participating Organizations Relevant to National Implementation of SAICM.

5. During the ICCM, the nine Executive Heads of agencies cooperating in the IOMC issued a Joint Statement about their participation in the implementation of the SAICM and affirmed the commitment of IOMC organizations to:

- Work together to strengthen the sound management of chemicals;
- Contribute to the achievement of SAICM within the mandates and in accordance with decisions of the governing bodies of the organizations;
- Promote coordination of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately, in order to achieve the sound management of chemicals;
- Cooperate to ensure the most effective use of the organizations human, technical and financial resources;
- Exploit the synergies between IOMC organizations and other organizations;
- Strengthen the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to participate fully in SAICM;
- Undertake and support, together with other multilateral, regional and bilateral agencies, and within the resources at their disposal, technical assistance and investment activities to assist countries in the establishment and implementation of appropriate programmes for the sound management of chemicals; and
- Support country efforts at national, regional and international levels as appropriate.

## **III. IOMC's joint support for implementation of SAICM**

6. Ongoing activities on chemicals within the participating and observer organizations of the IOMC support the main goal of SAICM as specified in the OPS. IOMC plays a key role as executing agencies for the implementation of government-mandated priorities agreed for SAICM. The Global Plan of Action (GPA) of the Strategic Approach lists nearly 220 activities that identify one or more IOMC organizations as an actor.

7. IOMC has specifically addressed the issue of coordination of participating organizations (POs) activities relating to SAICM implementation and has established mechanisms for sharing information. For example, at each bi-annual IOMC meeting, POs discuss and coordinate their new activities

supporting SAICM implementation. In this respect, each PO provides information on SAICM-related activities on its own website. Links are being established between the POs websites and the SAICM page of the IOMC website [www.who.int/iomc/saicm/](http://www.who.int/iomc/saicm/). POs have also nominated focal points for SAICM to facilitate contacts and exchanges about SAICM-related issues, in particular with the SAICM secretariat.

8. IOMC will continue to update its Inventory of Activities. This Inventory was originally structured according to the objectives of Agenda 21, Chapter 19 of the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. After the adoption of SAICM, the IOMC Inventory has been restructured to follow the 5 sections of the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS): Risk reduction, Knowledge and information, Governance, Capacity Building and technical cooperation, Illegal International Traffic. The IOMC Inventory provides the title of each activity, the name of the IOMC Participating Organization responsible for funding, any partners involved in the implementation, programme area, outputs of project, duration of activity, resources allocated, geographical coverage and the relevant contact point. The IOMC Inventory is available on [www.who.int/iomc/events/en](http://www.who.int/iomc/events/en)

9. Based on Resolution I/4 adopted by the ICCM, Organizations of IOMC and UNDP have formed a Trust Fund Implementation Committee for projects financed by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund administered by UNEP. The Trust Fund Implementation Committee is responsible for appraisal and approval of projects submitted for funding under the Trust Fund. The committee has so far had 6 meetings and approved more than 110 projects. IOMC organizations are currently assisting countries in undertaking projects and are developing other ones that they propose to initiate under the SAICM Quick Start Programme.

10. During regional meetings for SAICM implementation, IOMC organizations are doing on-the-spot coordination and are sharing the responsibility for participating in various coordinating mechanisms for Strategic Approach such as:

- the African Core Group in which WHO participates,
- the Latin America and the Caribbean coordinating committee in which UNITAR participates and
- the Central and Eastern European regional coordinating group in which ILO participates.

IOMC has also participated in the international project steering committee established by the secretariat to provide guidance to a Government of Canada-sponsored project aimed at developing a mechanism for reporting on progress with implementation of the Strategic Approach.

11. The IOMC has developed a number of SAICM-related documents such as an “IOMC source guide for SAICM implementation”, listing materials available from IOMC organizations on chemicals management and a Guidance for "Developing a Capacity Assessment for the Sound Management of Chemicals and National SAICM Implementation" both available on [www.who.int/iomc/saicm/](http://www.who.int/iomc/saicm/). The IOMC has also updated its SAICM Strategy for capacity building.

## IV. Specific support from IOMC participating organizations

### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

12. In November 2006, SAICM was endorsed by the 131<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO Council. It agreed on the importance of SAICM in assisting countries to meet the goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. FAO Council recognized that the successful implementation of SAICM depended on smooth interdisciplinary cooperation at national, regional and UN-level, and it stressed the need for the agricultural sector to be fully involved in the SAICM process.

13. The *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides* (the Code of Conduct) was considered by the FAO Council as an important element of the SAICM process. In view of the broad range of activities identified through the Global Plan of Action, FAO's Governing Bodies provided guidance to the Organization to focus on risk reduction, including the possibility of progressive bans on highly hazardous pesticides, promoting good agricultural practices, ensuring environmentally sound disposal of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides, and capacity building in establishing national and regional laboratories.

14. In April 2007, at the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture – the advisory body of the FAO Agricultural Department - FAO published an information document, “New Initiative for Pesticide Risk Reduction” (available at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/011/j9387e.pdf>). This international initiative was welcomed by the members of the Committee, and ever since FAO has given increased priority to work on the reduction of risks associated with the use of pesticides including possible progressive bans of highly hazardous (highly toxic) pesticides.

15. FAO has participated in several SAICM Regional and Sub-regional meetings including those for Arabic/Near East countries, Asian-Pacific countries EU-JUSSCANNZ, Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe. FAO has been nominated as the IOMC contact point for the Asian-Pacific region should a Regional Core Group be established. A specific SAICM page on FAO's website was created to provide information on FAO's documentation and publications of direct relevance to SAICM and its implementation (<http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Code/SAICM.htm>)

16. FAO works in all regions consistently building institutional capacity and commitment in national organizations and implementing programmes to adequately manage and control pesticides. The focus of these programmes is on the regulation of pesticides throughout their life-cycle and the implementation of effective registration systems and post-registration control (enforcement of laws and regulations).

17. FAO's in partnership with WHO supports the continuous operation of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications (JMPS). Pesticide residue monitoring against regulated Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) is important in ensuring that crops to which pesticides have been applied are safe for human as well as animal consumption. Similarly, pesticide specifications, determination of equivalencies and their use in national registration and decision making is a little-utilized powerful tool to achieve the overall strategy of risk-reduction and the goals of building national capacities through training and implementation of these guidelines in decision-making.

18. Addressing highly hazardous pesticides is a current focus of FAO's work on pesticide risk reduction. Various instruments and programmes exist within the work and activities of the FAO Plant Protection Service to address highly hazardous pesticides, internationally, regionally and nationally:

- The Code of Conduct provides a globally accepted standard and reference point for pesticide management. FAO leads the work to update the Code of Conduct when required. FAO, in collaboration with WHO, convenes an expert panel that develops technical guidelines for the implementation of specific technical aspects of the Code of

Conduct. FAO also operates a scheme to monitor implementation of the Code of Conduct.

- Besides its normative work on pesticide management, FAO has provided direct technical assistance to a large number of countries to help strengthen regulatory control of pesticides.
- The Rotterdam Convention, the secretariat for which is jointly provided by FAO and UNEP, provides an early warning system for countries on the potential dangers of highly hazardous pesticides by sharing information on national bans or severe restrictions and information on human poisoning and environmental damage. The information available under the Convention may be used to strengthen national decision making on pesticides. Through the PIC procedure, countries are empowered to make informed decisions on which pesticides they want to receive and to exclude those they cannot manage safely. Exporting Parties are legally bound to respect the import decisions of other Parties. The Convention helps developing countries to prevent problems associated with highly hazardous pesticides before they emerge ([www.pic.int](http://www.pic.int)).
- The regional Africa Stockpile Programme (ASP) functions currently as the world-wide model for disposal of obsolete pesticide stocks, and links disposal with preventive measures. FAO provides the technical leadership for this multi-stakeholder programme which is of an exemplary nature as it consists of donor agencies (World Bank and GEF), the private sector (CropLife International) and civil society (NGOs) as well as FAO. FAO also assists countries to eliminate and prevent recurrence of obsolete pesticides in all global regions.
- Through support for regional and national IPM field programmes and related policy reform, , FAO contributes to pesticide use reduction and selection of less hazardous products by farmers. In September 2008, the International Forum on Chemical Safety issued recommendations which emphasized the important role of IPM in pesticide risk reduction, and called upon international organisations, national governments and other stakeholders to support and mainstream IPM and adopt a pro-active approach to involve the agricultural sector in SAICM.

19. The Code of Conduct, JMPR and JMPS, the Rotterdam Convention, the IPM Programme, Obsolete Pesticides Prevention and Disposal Programme that includes the ASP together provide a comprehensive framework and sound basis for FAO-led contributions to the implementation of SAICM.. Pesticide use reduction and the replacement of highly hazardous pesticides with less hazardous plant protection systems are essential steps towards the sound management of chemicals.

## **The International Labour Organization (ILO)**

20. The ILO Governing Body endorsed the SAICM at its 297<sup>th</sup> Session (November 2006) and approved the follow-up activities proposed by the Office to implement SAICM objectives. This included active involvement by the ILO in the operations of the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee, as well as supporting ILO-related activities in the SAICM's Global Plan of Action.

21. The ILO's main contribution to SAICM implementation focus on assisting member States to implement firstly, the main ILO chemicals-related Conventions, namely the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) and the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174). With these two Conventions in mind, regional workshops are planned for the Arab States this October (2007).

22. Secondly, implementation by member States of the Globally Harmonised System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) remains a priority, as well as an important SAICM objective. The ILO, in collaboration with UNITAR, will continue to work through the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the GHS. A full list of activities may be found the GHS Sub-Committee website at <http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2007/ac10c4/UN-SCEGHS-13-inf11e.pdf>
23. Furthermore, from 10-13 December 2007, the ILO held a Meeting of Experts to Examine Instruments, Knowledge, Advocacy, Technical Cooperation and International Collaboration as Tools with a view to Developing a Policy Framework for Hazardous Substances. ILO action the field of chemicals was discussed and a roadmap was adopted for the ILO's future work in the area of hazardous substances. The fulfilment of SAICM objectives featured prominently in the discussions.
24. The Meeting of Experts reiterated the importance of the ILO's Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), as the basis for the sound management of hazardous substances at the workplace, as recognised at ICCM1. It supported the many international initiatives and different instruments dealing with these matters, but acknowledged that in spite of many efforts, the level of ratification of, and knowledge about, these instruments remained low. The Meeting therefore focused on a plan of action to increase awareness of the subjects and means to harmonize and simplify the existing instruments to the benefit of all stakeholders. In particular, SAICM was considered as a very helpful instrument to cope with these issues, and it could be an important element in a future plan of action.
25. The Meeting recommendations to the ILO are as follows:

#### **“Introduction**

1. Chemicals are widely used throughout society, with both positive and negative effects on health, well-being and socio-economic aspects. Significant but still insufficient progress has been made in international chemicals management and regulations. Serious incidents still occur and there are still negative impacts on both human health and the environment. Workers who are directly exposed to hazardous substances should have the right to work in a safe and healthy environment, as well as to be properly trained, informed and protected. Governments, employers and workers continue their efforts to minimize the negative effects of the use of hazardous substances through appropriate and efficient regulations and management systems.
2. Decent work must be safe work. Occupational safety and health (OSH) has always been a central issue for the ILO. ILO Conventions such as the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155), the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), and the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174), have contributed to the development of a coherent approach to chemical safety respecting concerns both for workers and human health and the environment. Those instruments, as well as the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), also serve as a good basis for employers', workers' and governments' work on OSH. There is an obvious need to promote all these ILO instruments.
3. The principles and rights embodied in chemical safety instruments have had a significant influence on the development of global OSH and chemical safety management frameworks through, for example, the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs), implementation strategies such as Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, and more recently, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). As mentioned in the *Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health*, given its tripartite participation and recognized global mandate in the area of OSH, the ILO is particularly well equipped to make a real impact in the world of work. Furthermore, factors such as continuous scientific and technological progress, global growth in chemicals production and changes in the organization of work, which may result in different types of atypical employment, call for an ongoing, coherent global response.

4. A relevant, coherent and effective approach is to use a management systems approach based on the general ILO principles on OSH and social dialogue. It should aim at the continuous harmonization, integration and improvement of preventative and protective systems and tools, encompassing both the workplace and the environment. It is a fact that the sound management of hazardous substances in the workplace is an essential element in reducing their impact on the environment, workers and industry. The SAICM's Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management recognizes the importance of the ILO's two key chemical safety standards namely, Conventions Nos 170 and 174, in promoting the sound management of hazardous substances throughout their life cycle.

#### **Plan of action**

5. In order to obtain synergies and a multiplier effect in this area, the ILO should proactively provide a higher level of input in the implementation of the SAICM regarding OSH issues. The Meeting of Experts recommends a plan of action based on the following fundamental pillars: information and knowledge; preventative and protective systems aimed at reduction of risks; capacity building; social dialogue; and good governance. The plan of action should be implemented through a variety of instruments, including ILO standards and joint actions, and be based on the principles of the 2003 *Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health* and the SAICM, and in partnership with workers, employers and governments. It should address the following areas.

#### ***Social dialogue***

6. The joint support from employers and workers and their participation are essential for successfully achieving the goals of the Organization with regard to the global management of hazardous substances. Such joint support and participation should include:
- the promotion of the ratification or implementation, as appropriate, of the corpus up to date ILO OSH instruments, with a particular focus on Conventions Nos 170, 174 and 187;
  - the promotion of a wide implementation of the ILO *Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems, ILO-OSH 2001* and the 2003 Global Strategy at the national, sectoral and enterprise levels;
  - in cooperation with the ILO and other appropriate intergovernmental organizations, the mobilization of resources to improve OSH training and information, and building and implementing a preventative safety and health culture;
  - encouraging and taking part in all aspects of the development, implementation and management of national OSH systems and programmes;
  - a contribution to the implementation of the SAICM and promoting the use of ILO Instruments and resources relevant to OSH and chemical safety, through the promotion of a partnership approach. Global framework agreements can be one example of this approach; and
  - construction of close cooperation on knowledge and information development, good governance, awareness raising and capacity building.

#### ***Information and knowledge***

7. The acquisition, management and dissemination of information and knowledge related to hazardous substances need to be continuous and integrated in the process of developing and marketing chemicals. Universal access to this information and knowledge is essential to the development of prevention and protection tools. This includes:
- assessing the hazardous properties of chemicals and strengthening screening and evaluation systems for new chemicals entering the market;
  - supporting efforts to harmonize chemical hazard identification, assessment and management methods at an international level;
  - promoting universal access to reliable information on hazardous substances such as classification and labelling and material safety data sheets in as many languages as possible;
  - taking into account the needs of all workers, particularly vulnerable and precarious workers;

- supporting the development and implementation of international standards and technical guidelines on the prevention of exposure to, and the sound management of, hazardous substances, including occupational exposure limits (OELs) and lists of occupational diseases;
- raising awareness about the strong links between the environment and the world of work and the fact that any workplace improvements in managing hazardous substances will contribute to the protection of the environment; and
- monitoring national and international activities related to safety in the use of new technologies such as nanotechnologies and possibly contributing to them through ILO participation in relevant intergovernmental coordination groups.

The contributions of all social partners to this process are vital.

**8.** In this context the ILO should focus its action, in cooperation with employers, workers and governments, on:

- promoting the adoption by member States and the implementation and use by industry of the GHS;
- increasing its input in the development, updating, translation, dissemination and overall promotion of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) ICSCs, as well as promoting the use of internationally recognized hazardous chemicals assessments such as the IPCS Environmental Health Criteria (EHC) and the Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICAD); and
- promoting the development of global networks to facilitate the sharing of good practices, methodologies, interventions, approaches and results of research to improve the sound management of hazardous substances, and making full use of the wide network of the ILO CIS national centres.

#### ***Implementation through ILO instruments***

**9.** The principles and rights in the corpus of the up to date ILO general OSH and chemical safety standards and related codes of practice and guidelines constitute a current, comprehensive and sound basis for developing coherent national OSH systems that include elements necessary for the sound management of chemicals at the workplace. As a priority, the ILO should assign central importance to the promotion of the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155), the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), and the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174), as well as the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), and related Recommendations.

**10.** The Meeting of Experts agreed that the five instruments 3 regulating a single chemical substance were obsolete and in need of revision. However, no consensus was reached on how to address this. OSH is an area which is in constant technical evolution. High-level instruments to be developed should therefore focus on key principles. The ILO should develop a methodology for a systematic updating of codes and guidelines on hazardous substances.

#### ***International cooperation***

**11.** In order to contribute fully to the implementation of the SAICM, the ILO should continue to:

- actively collaborate with other IOMC members as this is an effective mechanism for policy coordination for chemical management;
- strengthen ILO tripartite participation in SAICM activities and use the SAICM mechanisms to build technical cooperation synergies for the promotion of ILO instruments, guidelines and programmes related both to OSH and hazardous substances; and
- strengthen the technical collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in developing chemical safety training tools for the GHS and guidance for the implementation of national chemical safety programmes.

**12.** The plan of action should be the basis for the ILO's contribution to the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2), May 2009.

### ***Awareness raising and capacity building***

**13.** In order to promote an effective implementation of relevant instruments on the sound management of chemicals, the ILO should, in the context of the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs), mobilize internal and external resources to include chemical safety components in its technical cooperation projects related to the building and strengthening of national OSH systems and programmes. In doing so, the ILO, in collaboration with other members of the IOMC, should cooperate closely with employers, workers and governments with a view to improving the sound management of chemicals at national and global levels, particularly within small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This could include:

- providing capacity building targeted at constituents with a view to promoting awareness and knowledge on sound management of chemicals;
- providing information and training and technical assistance for the implementation of the GHS; and
- assisting countries in developing and maintaining national OSH information centres, such as the CIS national centres.

### ***Good governance and knowledge dissemination***

**14.** As provided by the Dubai Declaration, sound management of hazardous substances requires effective and efficient governance through transparency, public participation, and accountability involving all stakeholders. The application of a systems approach to the sound management of chemicals is essential, both at national and enterprise levels, in particular for SMEs. Thus, the ILO should:

- promote, in collaboration with other members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), and in the implementation of the SAICM, the ratification of Conventions Nos 170, 174 and 187, and the establishment of national OSH systems, programmes and profiles;
- promote the implementation of the OSH management systems approach, based on the *ILO-OSH 2001* as an effective method for the continuous improvement and updating of OSH systems and the building of a preventative safety and health culture; and
- ensure that specific needs of all workers, particularly vulnerable and precarious workers, are taken into account.

### ***Preventative and protective systems aimed at risk reduction***

**15.** Prevention entails implementation of preventative and protective systems. In this context the ILO should focus its action in cooperation with employers, workers and governments, and other IOMC members, on:

- promoting the implementation of preventative and protective measures according to the hierarchy of controls as contained within section 3.10 of *ILO-OSH 2001*;
- ensuring that the needs of all workers, particularly vulnerable and precarious workers, subject to exposure to chemicals that may pose a hazard/risk are taken into account and protected in making decisions on chemicals;
- implementing transparent, comprehensive, efficient and effective risk-management strategies based on appropriate scientific understanding of health effects, hazard/risk elimination, including detailed safety information on chemicals, to prevent unsafe or unnecessary exposures to chemicals at the workplace;
- applying appropriately the precautionary approach, as set out in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, while aiming to achieve that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of adverse effects on the health of workers; and
- enhancing the effectiveness of risk-management systems through social dialogue.”

## 26. Children and chemical safety

Pesticides are a major problem especially as 70% of child labour is in agriculture. The ILO is tackling child labour pesticides exposure in 2 ways:

a. Direct action through project work at national level

More information may be found at: <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/lang--en/index.htm>

b. Legal

An important instrument that policy-makers can use as part of their strategy to tackle hazardous child labour is a legally-binding list of hazardous work activities and sectors that are prohibited for children. Countries that have ratified ILO Convention No.182 are obligated to do this under Article 4.

In drawing up a national list, countries must also identify where such hazardous work is found and devise measures to implement the prohibitions or restrictions included in their list. Because this list is critical to subsequent efforts to eliminate hazardous child labour, the Convention emphasizes the importance of a proper consultative process, especially with workers' and employers' organizations, in drawing up, implementing it, and periodically revising it.

Advice for governments and the social partners on some hazardous child labour activities which should be prohibited is given in the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999 (No 190), which accompanies Convention No. 182:

*“Recommendation 190, Paragraph 3. In determining the types of work referred to under Article 3(d) of the Convention, and in identifying where they exist, consideration should be given, inter alia, to:*

*(a) work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;*

*(b) work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;*

*(c) work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;*

*(d) work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;*

*(e) work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.”*

## 27. Climate Change

### The Green Jobs Initiative

Green Jobs have become an emblem of a more sustainable economy and society that preserves the environment for present and future generations and is more equitable and inclusive of all people and all countries.

Green jobs reduce the environmental impact of enterprises and economic sectors, ultimately to levels that are sustainable. Specifically, but not exclusively, this includes jobs that help to protect ecosystems and biodiversity; reduce energy, materials, and water consumption through high-efficiency strategies; de-carbonize the economy; and minimize or altogether avoid generation of all forms of waste and pollution.

Green jobs in emerging economies and developing countries include opportunities for managers, scientists and technicians, but the bulk can benefit a broad cross-section of the population which needs them most: youth, women, farmers, rural populations and slum dwellers.

However, many jobs which are green in principle are not green in practice because of the environmental damage caused by inappropriate practices. The notion of a green job is thus not absolute, but there are 'shades' of green and the notion will evolve over time. Moreover, the evidence shows that green jobs do not automatically constitute decent work. Many of these jobs are “dirty, dangerous and difficult”. Employment in industries such as recycling and waste management, biomass energy and construction

tends to be precarious and incomes low. If green jobs are to be a bridge to a truly sustainable future, this needs to change. Green jobs therefore need to comprise decent work. Decent, green jobs effectively link Millennium Development Goal 1 (poverty reduction) and Millennium Development Goal 7 (protecting the environment) and make them mutually supportive rather than conflicting.

The Green Jobs Initiative is a joint initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Employers Organization (IOE) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which has been launched to assess, analyze and promote the creation of decent jobs as a consequence of the needed environmental policies. It supports a concerted effort by governments, employers and trade unions to promote environmentally sustainable jobs and development in a climate-challenged world.

Work under the Green Jobs Initiative so far has focused on collecting evidence and different examples of green jobs creation, resulting in a major comprehensive study on the impact of an emerging green economy on the world of work.

UNEP, ILO, IOE and ITUC are planning a second phase of the Green Jobs Initiative. The project will move from information gathering and analysis in the green jobs report to assistance in policy formulation and implementation through active macro-economic and sectoral assessment of potential green jobs creation.

More information may be found at: <http://www.ilo.org/integration/greenjobs/lang--en/index.htm>

## **The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**

28. OECD's Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology endorsed a Statement of support for the SAICM objectives in February 2007 ([www.oecd.org/env/ehs](http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs)). In addition, at Resolution of the OECD Council on Implementation of SAICM was adopted by the Council on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008, and welcomed by OECD Environment Ministers at their Meeting in April 2008. This Resolution acknowledges the role of OECD in the implementation of the SAICM objectives and calls for the Organisation to be more explicitly involved in supporting capacity building aspects of chemicals management, primarily by making the outputs of the OECD Chemicals Programme as accessible, relevant and useful as possible to non-members and other stakeholders, distributing them widely and free of charge. It also calls on OECD to assist its member countries in their efforts to implement SAICM and to continue to work toward this goal with its IOMC partners.

29. The recently endorsed 2009- 2012 programme of work for the Chemicals Programme will make the implementation of the SAICM objectives, as set out in the OPS, an integral part of its work, in particular through work on those elements of the GPS for which OECD is an actor. The structure of the work programme also reflects OECD's support of SACIM objectives.

30. Some specific examples of SAICM-related activities in OECD already available are the global portal on hazard data, the eChem Portal, the (Q)SAR application toolbox, the harmonized templates for study reporting, etc. All of the products of the Chemicals Programme, including the OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals, are available for downloading free of charge from [www.oecd.org/env/ehs](http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs).

### Endorsement of SAICM

31. The Governing Council of UNEP adopted at its ninth special session, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 7 – 9 February 2006 decision SS.IX.1 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.
32. The Governing Council did in its decision:
- *Endorse* the Strategic Approach as contained in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action;
  - *Request* the Executive Director of UNEP to convene the future sessions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management provided for in the Overarching Policy Strategy, where appropriate to be held back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations;
  - *Request* the Executive Director to establish and assume overall administrative responsibility for the Strategic Approach secretariat and authorizes the participation of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Strategic Approach secretariat in accordance with relevant decisions of the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;
  - *Authorize* the Executive Director to establish and manage the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to support initial implementation of the Strategic Approach.

### Activities to implement SAICM in UNEP

33. Ongoing activities on sound management of Chemicals in UNEPs divisions and branches are supportive of the SAICM goal and its objectives. However, a number of incremental activities have been initiated as a follow up to the adoption of the Strategic Approach and the above decision.
34. The main incremental activities in UNEP since the adoption of SAICM in 2006 have been:
- Initial activities and development of a work programme for SAICM implementation in UNEP.
  - Establishment of a Medium Term Strategy (2010-2013) for UNEP with 6 thematic areas including a thematic area on “harmful substances and hazardous waste.
35. The establishment by UNEP of the SAICM Secretariat and the trustee function for the Quick Start Programme is described in separate documents and will not be described in the present documents.

### Initial activities and development of a work programme for SAICM implementation in UNEP.

36. In its decision 23/9 II, the Governing Council of UNEP requested the Executive Director, as a matter of high priority to make provision for activities to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the strategic approach to international chemicals management, taking into account the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, the effective implementation of which is a matter of high priority. In response to that request, an interdivisional working group was established to develop a dual approach to supporting Strategic Approach implementation activities involving:

1. A work plan to support implementation of the Strategic Approach during the period 2008–2020. The work plan was noted by the Governing Council of UNEP at its 24<sup>th</sup>

meeting 5-9<sup>th</sup> February 2007 and has been the basis for UNEP's Medium Term Strategy for harmful substances and hazardous waste. Further details can be found below.

2. A series of initial activities, such as an workshop on international illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals, assistance to countries in developing proposals for the Quick Start Programme, development of a UNDP/UNEP partnership for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) Considerations into Development Planning Processes that are being implemented in 7 countries: Belarus, The Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia, , Uganda, Ecuador and Belize based on funding from the SAICM Trust Fund for the Quick Start Programme together with Cambodia and Zambia based on funding from the Swedish Government;
3. Development of Guidance on Legal and Institutional Infrastructures for sound management of chemicals funded by the Swedish Government. There has been organised 4 regional workshops to discuss legal and institutional infrastructures back to back with the SAICM regional meetings and a guidance are under development.
4. Integration of Chemical Safety Concerns into Development Agendas with focus on Poverty Reduction funded by the Norwegian Government. Under this project a number of small regional meeting are being organized to bring together line ministries (Environment and Health ministries) with ministries for finance/planning to discuss barriers for inclusion (mainstreaming) of sound management of chemicals into national development plans.
5. Assistance to countries in development of project proposals for the SAICM Trust Fund for the Quick Start Programme and UNEP is a subcontractor in projects in Moldova and Armenia and an executing agency for projects in Cuba, Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti, Cambodia and Philippines.

Further information can be found on the website: [www.chem.unep.ch](http://www.chem.unep.ch)

#### Medium Term Strategy (2010-2013) for UNEP

37. UNEP has developed the Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013 that sets out the next phase in the evolution of UNEP as it becomes a more effective, efficient and results-focused entity, meeting the expectations of Governments and its stakeholders in responding to global environmental challenges and opportunities. The Medium Term Strategy can be downloaded from <http://www.unep.org/PDF/FinalMTSGCSS-X-8.pdf>

38. The selection of the six cross-cutting thematic priorities was guided by scientific evidence, the areas in which UNEP has a comparative advantage, the UNEP mandate, priorities emerging from global and regional forums and an assessment of where UNEP can make a transformative difference. The means of implementation have been informed by directional shifts affecting the United Nations system.

39. The six cross-cutting thematic priorities are, in alphabetical order:

- (a) Climate change;
- (b) Disasters and conflicts;
- (c) Ecosystem management;
- (d) Environmental governance;
- (e) Harmful substances and hazardous waste;
- (f) Resource efficiency – sustainable consumption and production.

40. UNEP's capacity to identify the environmental threats associated with harmful substances and hazardous waste, to propose concrete solutions and to facilitate their dissemination and implementation will result in the three accomplishments as defined in the Medium Term Strategy for 2010-2013:

1. States and other stakeholders having increased awareness, capacities and financing to assess, manage and reduce risks to human health and the environment posed by harmful substances and hazardous waste;
  2. Coherent international policy and technical advice provided to States and other stakeholders for managing harmful chemicals and hazardous waste in a more environmentally sound manner, including through better technology and best practices;
  3. Appropriate policy and control systems for harmful substances of global concern and transboundary movement of hazardous waste are developed, in place and enforced in line with States' international obligations and effective implementation of policies and regulations to curb illegal movement and indiscriminate dumping of hazardous waste.
38. The Medium Term Strategy has been implemented in the Programme of Work for UNEP, 2010-2011 with concrete outputs.

## The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

### Endorsement of SAICM

41. UNIDO formally recognized SAICM at the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference by adopting Decision GC12/Dec. 17 – Item 15 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2007 upon the recommendation of the Industrial Development Board Decision (IDB.33/Dec. 7) based on an information note by the Secretariat (IDB.33/20).
42. The General Conference document GC.12/INF 4, issued on 21 December 2007, states that:
  - (a) Took note of the information provided in document IDB.33/20;
  - (b) Also took note of Board decision IDB.33/Dec.7;
  - (c) Endorsed the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as contained in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action;
  - (d) Supported the participation of UNIDO in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.
43. The document of the decision and resolution of the General Conference can be found at the Organization site: <http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=o74286>

### Activities to implement SAICM in UNIDO

44. UNIDO's efforts in the area of implementation of the sound management of chemicals are undertaken within the *Green Industries Initiative*, which targets any industry that has committed to reducing the various environmental impacts of its processes and products, and is actually doing so on a continuous basis.
45. The UNIDO Green Industries Initiative focuses on promoting greater efficiency in the use of resources by industries to take advantage of cost reductions, better image, less Technical Barriers to Trade, and which would have as indirect effects:
  - (a) the more efficient use of scarce, expensive natural resources, which would free up capital for more job-creating investments and would ameliorate balances of trade, and
  - (b) the creation of new enterprises (and so new jobs) in the environmental services sector to assist "main-line" industries to be more efficient and clean.
46. More specifically, UNIDO is implementing a number of programmes that promote clean technologies and/or the preventive approach: the National Cleaner Production Centres Programme, the Montreal Protocol Programme, the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST) approach, Chemical Leasing, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) based on the implementation of a Triple-Bottom Line (TBL) approach, Environmental Management Systems (EMS), the elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), sector-specific programmes for the reduction of process wastes and pollution from the leather and textile sectors as well as other sectors, and so on.
47. The *Cleaner Production Programme* is currently active in 40 developing and transition countries where Cleaner Production Centres were established. Its involvement in the field of SAICM implementation mainly addresses capacity building and information dissemination among relevant Cleaner Production stakeholders, implementation in industries (especially SMEs), involving both end-users and suppliers, and advice on environmentally friendly technology transfer. Furthermore, the Cleaner Production Programme has been active in fostering life cycle and zero waste approaches and working with governmental institutions on policy development and regulatory framework improvement. Further information on: [www.unido.org/cp](http://www.unido.org/cp).
48. The strong involvement of the Cleaner Production Programme in the area of Chemicals Management has been reflected in the new strategy for the implementation of the Programme for the Cleaner and Resource Efficient Production in developing and transition countries, jointly developed with UNEP. The Programme strategy focuses on four thematic priorities, one of which is Cleaner

Production and environmental sound management of hazardous substances and waste, including chemical leasing, e-waste, chemicals safety and risk assessment.

49. In cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of the Environment, UNIDO's worldwide Cleaner Production (CP) Programme launched in March 2005 a project to promote Chemical Leasing business models in developing and transition countries. *Chemical Leasing* business models represent an innovative approach to respond to the global changes in international policies of the chemical sector. Its key element is a shift in paradigm away from the focus on increasing sales volume of chemicals towards a more service-oriented and value-added approach. The producer no longer sells the chemical but the associated merit and know-how. This relates to conditions of use, recycling and disposal. In addition, while in the traditional model the responsibility of the producer stops when the chemical is sold, in the current approach, the producer remains responsible throughout the use, treatment, disposal and recycling phases. Experience obtained in developing and transition countries shows that applying these new model contributes to reducing ineffective use and over-consumption of chemicals and helps companies to enhance their economic performance and efficiency.

50. UNIDO has been providing an active contribution in the *Global Mercury Partnership*, where the organization takes a leading role in the areas of artisanal mercury gold mining through the introduction of cleaner artisanal gold mining and extraction technologies that also enhance gold production and the artisanal mining sector, the implementation of training and awareness campaigns, the assistance to national and international mercury and artisanal gold mining policy improvement, the introduction or continuation of health and environmental monitoring.

51. UNIDO's involvement in the implementation of the *Stockholm Convention* has been covering the implementation of three main interventions. Up to date, UNIDO has been assisting more than 40 countries in the preparation of their National Implementation Plans, meeting the requirements of the Convention. UNIDO is developing initiatives that promote capacity-building for Governments, sectoral institutions and wider stakeholders. An important element of UNIDO's work is to promote the uptake of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) in industry through, for example, demonstration projects to test the local feasibility of innovative technologies and methodologies.

#### **Activities under the SAICM Quick Start Programme**

52. UNIDO has been strengthening its support to developing and transition countries in the formulation and implementation of projects submitted to the Trust Fund Implementation Committee of the SAICM Quick Start Programme, as executing agency and in partnership with other executing agencies.

53. Up to date, four projects, targeting country specific priorities, have been approved for the organization's implementation. The majority of the projects have been benefiting from the role of facilitators and technical assistance of the Cleaner Production Centres.

54. The projects target the implementation of life cycle analysis for priority chemical product and substances in El Salvador, the establishment of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms in the area of sound chemicals management in Peru, the formulation of an integrated approach to national chemicals management in Sudan, and the safe handling of mercury containing products (such as mercury lamps) in Uruguay. UNIDO is also providing a supporting role in two regional projects in the area of artisanal gold mining, respectively in Cambodia and Philippines and in Bolivia and Peru.

## The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

55. UNITAR's Chemicals and Waste Management Programme supports capacity building in developing and transition countries in a wide range of SAICM-related areas to protect human health and the environment from toxic chemicals and wastes. This includes:

- National Chemical Management Profiles—providing guidance, training and technical support to assist countries in assessing their existing legal, institutional, administrative and technical infrastructures for sound chemicals management;
- National SAICM Pilot Projects/Integrated National Programmes for Chemicals and Waste Management—assisting countries to establish and strengthen a collaborative framework at the national level which can provide a foundation for effective and coordinated action to address both national chemicals and waste management priorities as well as the implementation of international chemicals and wastes-related agreements and initiatives; and
- Specialised training and capacity building addressing, for example, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), Risk Management Decision Making, and Stockholm Convention implementation.

56. UNITAR is the international executing agency for projects with 50 countries/entities under the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund (QSPTF) and continues to assist with QSPTF proposal development and implementation. Many of the projects comprise developing/updating of a National Profile, development of a National SAICM Capacity Assessment, and holding of a National SAICM Priority-Setting Workshop. Other activities, *inter alia*, include: development of National Chemicals Management Databases, national policies for SAICM implementation, PRTRs, and enabling activities for implementation of the GHS. In addition, UNITAR has participated at all SAICM regional meetings to date and is willing to examine further, additional support for future regional meetings.

57. UNITAR is executing five in-depth country pilot projects—Belarus, Mongolia, Pakistan, Panama, and Tanzania—over a 3-year period (2006-2009) related to SAICM implementation with financial assistance from the Government of Switzerland, as a contribution to the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP). Progress made will be reported to ICCM-2.

58. To support engagement of civil society in SAICM implementation, UNITAR is supporting the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) to develop and disseminate SAICM guidance materials for NGOs. And as part of its QSPTF support, UNITAR is also serving as the international executing agency for a civil society project in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Georgia.

59. To support national SAICM implementation and enabling activities, UNITAR is developing/ revising or already pilot testing a number of key guidance materials, including: Developing a Capacity Assessment for the Sound Management of Chemicals and National SAICM Implementation (available in English, French, Spanish, and Russian); Preparing a National Profile to Assess the National Infrastructure for Management of Chemicals; and Developing and Sustaining an Integrated National Programme for Sound Chemicals Management (which could also form the basis for the development of further guidance for SAICM implementation). Other guidance materials on relevant topics may also be developed, including a guidance document to assist with the development of SAICM implementation plans (planned for 2009). With the input of all other IOMC organizations, UNITAR developed the document on “National Implementation of SAICM: A Guide to Resource, Guidance and Training Materials of IOMC Participating Organizations” (currently available in English, French, and Spanish).

60. UNITAR also executes a number of supporting services for capacity building, including the provision of ‘virtual libraries’ on CD-Rom on a variety of topics (National Profiles, GHS, PRTR) and the organization of global thematic workshops to facilitate an exchange of experience and to identify

practical steps which countries can take to systematically address certain topics of national chemicals management.

61. The Thematic Workshop on Governance, Civil Society Participation and Strengthening Partnerships for Chemicals and Waste Management and SAICM Implementation was held from 10-21 June 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland, addressed issues related to SAICM, and also served as a major preparatory event for the National SAICM Pilot Projects (see above). Over 100 persons from a wide and diverse range of governments, NGOs, industry groups, IGOs, labour organizations, and academia participated in the workshop. Sponsors and partners for the event included the Government of Switzerland, OPCW, and organizations collaborating in IOMC. For more information: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm/tw/tw10.html>.

62. In April 2006, UNITAR's Board of Trustees officially endorsed SAICM. This will assist with ensuring UNITAR's continued involvement as a partner in the implementation phase of SAICM. For a copy of the endorsement as it appears in the record of the meeting, please see: <http://www.unitar.org/cwm>.

## **World Health Organization (WHO)**

### **Endorsement of SAICM**

63. The World Health Organization (WHO) coordinated the active participation of its global health partners in the development of SAICM encouraging Member States to take full account of chemical safety. This led to a series of WHO contributions to regional discussions and SAICM preparatory meetings including a set of health-sector priorities.

64. The completed SAICM was considered by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2006. The Resolution of the Assembly (WHA59.15) welcomed SAICM and urged Member States to: take full account of the health aspects of chemical safety in national implementation of SAICM; to participate in national, regional and international efforts to implement SAICM; and to nominate a national Strategic Approach focal point from the health sector, where appropriate, in order to maintain contact with WHO. The Resolution included a request to the Director-General of WHO to facilitate implementation by the health sector of the Strategic Approach, focusing on human health-related elements.

### **Health-sector priorities**

65. The detailed health sector priorities advocated by WHO during the SAICM negotiations and reflected in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy and Global Plan of Action, can be summarized under the following headings:

- Actions to improve ability to access, interpret and apply scientific knowledge.
- Filling of gaps in scientific knowledge.
- Development of globally-harmonized methods for chemical risk assessment.
- Development of better methods to determine impacts of chemicals on health, to set priorities for action and to monitor progress of SAICM.
- Building capacities of countries to deal with poisonings and chemical incidents.
- Strategies directed specifically at the health of children and workers.
- Work to promote alternatives to highly-toxic and persistent chemicals.
- Strategies aimed at prevention of ill-health and disease caused by chemicals.

66. WHO provides regular reports to the SAICM secretariat on its planned and recent activities in each of these chemicals-related health-sector priority areas. These reports reflect the status of the work programmes coordinated by WHO Headquarters and Regional Offices and identify a range of opportunities for collaboration.

### **Provision of the SAICM Secretariat**

67. In September 2007, WHO assumed its lead role in the SAICM secretariat in its respective area of expertise in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 29 of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, and resolution I/1f of the ICCM.

### **Health sector engagement in SAICM**

68. Following endorsement of SAICM, WHO has disseminated WHA Resolution 59.15 on SAICM to its Regional Offices for distribution to health-sector contacts in Member States, drawing attention to the need to ensure multisectoral participation, to encourage engagement in processes for implementing SAICM, to disseminate guidance and application materials for the SAICM Quick Start Programme and to help identify initial capacity-building activities that reflect identified health-sector priorities.

69. WHO is also working with the health sector through non-governmental organizations to promote health sector involvement in the implementation of SAICM including: those active in its global health-sector networks of poisons centres, emergency alert and response operations for incidents of public health concern, risk assessors; scientific bodies such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, (IUPAC) and the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX), and other organizations which are in official relations with WHO.

70. WHO and its Regional Offices have contributed to SAICM regional and sub-regional meetings in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean and to meetings of EU-JUSSCANNZ countries. WHO has worked with its regional counterparts in South East Asia and the Western Pacific in the development of the Asia-Pacific Health and Environment Ministers Forum and its Technical Working Group on chemicals, informing this initiative of developments in the implementation of SAICM. Similarly, WHO Headquarters worked jointly with UNEP and the WHO Regional Office for Africa in the convening of the first Inter-Ministerial Conference for Health and Environment in Africa, held in Libreville, Gabon, 26 -29 August 2008. The Conference adopted the Libreville Declaration which commits governments in the African region to take measures to stimulate the necessary policy, institutional and investment changes that should be effected to optimize synergies between health, environment and other relevant sectors. This will include the establishment of a new African network for surveillance of communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular those with environmental determinants.

71. WHO is working with the SAICM secretariat in preparing for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and in particular a round table on public health, the environment and chemicals management to contribute to the high-level segment of the Conference.

72. WHO continues to work with countries and civil society partners in developing applications for SAICM QSP Trust Fund support and is ready to participate in projects in areas of work consistent with its work programmes and expertise

73. In the first five rounds of the SAICM QSP, four projects have been approved for which WHO is the Executing Agency. There are two projects on technical support to strengthen national capacities for sound management of priority industrial carcinogens, to take place in Indonesia and Thailand and in Sri Lanka, a project on recycling and disposal of insecticide-treated nets used for vector control, to take place in Madagascar, and a project to strengthen national capacity for the safe management of public health pesticides, to take place in Morocco, WHO is also supporting a project being executed by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to strengthen the capacity of Côte d'Ivoire to control the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and chemicals in the context of the Basel Convention,

the International Health Regulations (WHO, 2005) and other relevant multi-lateral environment agreements.

## V. Specific support from IOMC observer organizations

### The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

74. UNDP promotes the sound management of chemicals as an important component of the global poverty reduction effort. In line with its role as the UN's development network, UNDP advocates the importance of addressing issues related to chemicals management and chemically linked pollution in developing countries by encouraging integration of rigorous chemicals management schemes into MDG-based national development policies and plans. UNDP also works with countries to identify necessary resources and sources of funding to improve their chemicals management regimes to achieve desired results.

75. UNDP has been supporting SAICM development process through participation and contributions to preparatory meetings as well as the ICCM. UNDP together with IOMC is a member of the SAICM Quick Start Programme Implementation Committee and the Executive Board.

76. Furthermore, with SAICM adoption, UNDP realigned its chemicals' programming to enhance its support to countries with SAICM implementation in order to adequately reflect SAICM priorities in its technical assistance strategy. Responding to priorities outlined in the OPS and activities set forth in the GPA, its SAICM implementation support programme consists in provision of assistance in the following areas:

77. **Support countries efforts with mainstreaming SAICM implementation and SMC priorities into MDG-based national development planning processes.**

(<http://www.undp.org/chemicals/mainstreamingsmc>)

- Pilot projects that aim to provide assistance and guidance to countries with their efforts to mainstream SAICM implementation in their national development plans. Projects are currently being implemented in partnership with UNEP: Cambodia, Ecuador, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and Zambia. In addition, funding has been approved for implementing similar mainstreaming projects in Belarus, Belize, Honduras and Liberia.
- **Technical Guide for Mainstreaming the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) in MDG-based Policies and Plans.** The guide aims to help national governments and UN Country Teams to recognize and assess opportunities for mainstreaming the Sound Management of Chemicals in Millennium Development Goal-based national development policies and plans, as well as in projects. (<http://www.undp.org/chemicals/>)
- **UNDP- UNEP Partnership Initiative that seeks helping countries to improve their chemicals management** while drawing on the experience and capacities of both agencies (<http://www.undp.org/chemicals/initiatives/UNDPUNEPpartnershipinitiative>).

78. **Support countries in their efforts to meet targets under other chemicals related MEAs**

• **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**

(<http://www.undp.org/chemicals/montrealprotocol.htm>)

UNDP works with public and private partners in developing countries to assist them in eliminating ozone depleting chemicals and complying with the targets of the Montreal Protocol. With cumulative approvals of US\$ 516 million, UNDP is one of the implementing agencies of both the Multilateral Fund and the GEF, and assists through the following means:

- developing more effective national policies and programmes to meet compliance targets for eliminating ozone depleting substances (ODS),
- Institutional strengthening projects; and development of country programmes,

- Preparation of HCFC Phaseout Management Plans (HPMP) and associated HCFC elimination activities in the different sectors, as well as preparation of national and sector plans,
  - Provision of technical support and dissemination of information regarding ozone friendly alternatives through practical, hands-on training sessions and in-field demonstrations; and in validating new emerging technologies through pilot projects,
  - Provision of services, including financial and technical assistance to allow enterprises and governments to adopt alternative production processes and environment friendly technologies, aiming at protecting both ozone and climate,
  - Assistance in identifying cross-cutting initiatives building on cross-convention synergies
  - Assistance in identifying finance opportunities and finance partners to cover for non-eligible project costs.
- **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, POPs**  
(<http://www.undp.org/chemicals/pops.htm>)  
UNDP, as one of the GEF Implementing Agencies, assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition to reduce and eliminate POPs, under the Stockholm Convention. UNDP manages over US \$80 million in POPs projects already approved, and another US\$20 million to be submitted, in more than 40 countries, that support activities such as:
    - National Implementation Plan (NIP) programme development and dissemination of best practices;
    - Strengthening capacity for NIP implementation; enhancing capacities to develop and enforce regulations; and assisting in project development and implementation to reduce and eliminate POPs.
    - Technical and financial assistance for introducing alternatives to POPs, sound management and final disposal of PCBs and pesticides dioxins and furans emission control and contamination clean-up;
    - Sharing lessons learnt and demonstrating innovative technologies and practices for POPs reduction, such as non-combustion technologies.
    - SAICM related activities

**79. Reduce and prevent chemical pollution of lakes, rivers, groundwater, coasts and oceans**  
(<http://www.undp.org/gef/05/portfolio/iw.html>)

A sizeable portion (50%) of UNDP's large (~\$450 million) GEF International Waters portfolio has a strong focus on reducing chemical pollution of shared river basins, lakes and marine ecosystems. Projects address a wide range of chemical pollution threats, from nutrient pollution in the Danube/Black Sea basin to mercury pollution from artisanal gold mining to industrial pollution from small scale industries in the Dnipro River basin. Capacity building support is provided in areas such as problem analysis and priority setting; legal, policy and institutional reforms; demonstrations of innovative pollution reduction technologies and practices; and establishing monitoring and indicator systems ([http://www.undp.org/gef/undpgef\\_focal\\_areas\\_of\\_action/sub\\_international\\_water.html](http://www.undp.org/gef/undpgef_focal_areas_of_action/sub_international_water.html))

## The World Bank

80. The World Bank's work focuses on achieving the MDGs, which aim for poverty elimination and sustainable development. Ensuring sound chemicals management is an important element of this agenda given the critical linkages between chemical production, use, and emissions and the major sectors of developing economies including agriculture, energy, and industry. The Bank's ongoing support to its developing country partners through project lending, analytical and advisory services, and global partnerships frequently includes chemical-based initiatives. To promote an overall understanding of the need for integrated chemicals management at the country level and to create the enabling environment for sustained results, it is vital that the development-chemicals link continues to be recognized in the work of the IOMC and the SAICM, and the rest of the international chemicals management community.

### **Project Activities Related to Chemicals Management**

81. World Bank project work often coincides with the chemicals agenda in normal infrastructure, rural development, and agriculture lending. The Bank has instituted safeguard policies that ensure environmental and social impact assessments are done and appropriate measures are taken. Two important policies relate to pesticides and adherence to a country's international obligations under environmental treaties including the major chemicals-based conventions. There are also projects working directly to mainstream chemicals management into country assistance strategies, programs, and projects, e.g., mitigation of mercury exposure from artisanal gold mining in Ghana and Tanzania, and arsenic mitigation of the water supply in Bangladesh and India.

### **Analytical and Advisory Services: Building Capacity for Mainstreaming**

82. The process of mainstreaming environmental and health issues into country poverty reduction strategies (PRSPs) or national development planning relies heavily on knowledge. A significant portion of the Bank's assistance to countries starts with analytical and advisory work to provide a foundation for defining strategic environmental and health priorities and informing policy dialogue and decisions on projects and programs. These also feed into the Bank's country assistance strategies, which are the basis for Bank development assistance. Examples of more broad-based chemicals-related analytical and advisory activities of the World Bank Group include publication of the *Toxics and Poverty* and *Phasing Out Lead in Gasoline* reports and of the *Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook*, and the *Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines* for industrial pollution management performance in projects.

### **Global Partnerships on Chemicals-Related Issues**

83. The World Bank fosters important partnerships through its own Development Grant Facility which has provided funding for SAICM development, and through high-profile initiatives such as Roll Back Malaria in which chemicals management plays a role. The Bank has also acquired significant experience in chemicals-related projects and activities as an implementing agency under the GEF and the MLF for more than fifteen years. The nature of the World Bank's work puts it in a unique position to leverage funds, develop cross-cutting programs, and multiply the scope and effectiveness of investments for crucial but typically underfunded initiatives. It is therefore now concentrating on building upon synergies among chemicals-based multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to develop innovative projects that maximize overall environmental benefits through the mobilization of multiple sources of funds. An example is the Global Chiller Replacement Project that targets emission reductions of both ozone depleting substances and CO<sub>2</sub> using GEF, MLF, CDM, and private sector financing.

84. For more information and links to chemicals-related sites of the World Bank, see: [www.worldbank.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.worldbank.org/sustainabledevelopment)