

PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

Joint statement by the Executive Heads of agencies cooperating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, i.e.:
the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
the International Labour Organization,
the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,
the World Health Organization,
the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,
the United Nations Environment Programme,
the United Nations Development Programme,
the World Bank, and
the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The sound management of chemicals is essential for the protection of human health and the environment and sustainable development. It is consequently important for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) provides a focus for multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder efforts and therefore requires the participation of government, the private sector, organised labour and civil society, and the inclusion of a range of sectors concerned with chemicals management such as agriculture, environment, health, industry and labour.

The SAICM Global Programme of Action includes numerous areas of activity in which our organizations have long-standing track records of work. We, the organizations cooperating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), affirm our commitment to work together to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and to contribute to the achievement of SAICM within our mandates and in accordance with decisions of our governing bodies. Together, we renew our commitment to promote coordination of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately, in order to achieve the sound management of chemicals. We will cooperate to ensure the most effective use of our human, technical and financial resources and will further exploit the synergies between our organizations and other organizations.

We are committed to strengthening the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to participate fully in SAICM. To this end

we, together with other multilateral, regional and bilateral agencies, and within the resources at our disposal, will undertake and support technical assistance and investment activities to assist countries in the establishment and implementation of appropriate programmes for the sound management of chemicals. We will support country efforts at national, regional and international levels as appropriate.

This statement is submitted to inform the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai of our commitment to enhance countries' capacity to participate effectively across sectors in the SAICM, and engage all relevant stakeholders, in order to reach the SAICM and WSSD goals for the sound management of chemicals. With the support and guidance of Member States, the work programmes of our agencies can be informed by, and aligned with, the goals of the Strategic Approach.
