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**International Conference on Chemicals Management**

**Third session**

Nairobi, 17–21 September 2012

**Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its third session**

**I. Opening of the session**

1. The third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was opened at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 17 September 2012, at the United Nations Office at Nairobi by Mr. Eisaku Toda, Vice-President of the Conference, on behalf of Mr. Tomaž Gantar, Minister of Health of Slovenia and President of the Conference, who was unable to attend.
2. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Chirau Ali Mwakwere, Minister of Environment of Kenya; Mr. Gantar; and Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
3. In his opening statement, Mr. Mwakwere said that the Government of Kenya was privileged to host the third session of the Conference as it attached great importance to the sound management of chemicals. Recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20), he noted that its outcome document, “The future we want”,<sup>1</sup> recognized the sound management of chemicals as critical for sustainable development, health and the environment, and called for the strengthening of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as a robust, coherent, effective and efficient system for achieving that end.
4. Although Africa did not produce the bulk of chemicals it consumed, the majority of African countries were developing their chemicals sector and facing challenges in that area, including transportation of chemicals and their use in the informal sector, which lacked adequate equipment and technology. African countries suffered from ignorance of the control of chemicals and needed to address that and reduce the risks they were facing. Kenya had been working to implement the Strategic Approach in the previous three years and was developing tools for reducing risks and using chemicals in a sustainable manner. Calling on the international community to continue providing the financial means and resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach, he said that money spent on chemicals reduction was well spent in terms of quality of life, health and sustainable development.
5. Mr. Gantar, whose statement was delivered by means of a previously recorded video message, said that the review of work done so far showed that the world was moving towards greater chemical safety but that many challenges remained and some outstanding commitments still needed to be met globally. Those demanding tasks could only be undertaken through intersectoral cooperation and cooperation between stakeholders at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels. The adoption of the Strategic Approach health sector strategy would involve the health sector, and the Conference should also consider closer engagement with other sectors such as agriculture.
6. He expressed the hope that the Conference would adopt the ambitious goals discussed by the Open-ended Working Group at its meeting in Belgrade in November 2011, dealing with, among other

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

issues, nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, chemicals in products, electronic waste, lead in paint and perfluorinated chemicals, and that it would also consider new challenges such as endocrine-disrupting chemicals, issues concerning environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, and the shift in production and use of chemicals from the highly industrialized countries to the developing world. Acknowledging the value of the Quick Start Programme, he called for the continuity of financing to be secured, and he stressed the importance of political support at the international and national levels.

7. In his statement, Mr. Steiner recalled that 2012 marked the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and the establishment of UNEP, both of which had played an important role in the recognition of the linkages between human health and well-being and environmental sustainability as well as of the often unintended consequences of human actions and development. Another notable milestone in 2012 was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, considered by some to be the most successful legally binding multilateral environmental agreement, and the only one with universal membership, whose success was founded on the sound scientific knowledge that underpinned its activities, close cooperation between developed and developing countries, industry involvement, transfer of technologies and robust financing, which resulted in numerous environmental, social and green economy benefits. As a voluntary instrument, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management provided a reminder that different avenues existed for catalysing international action and achieving agreement on issues, elaborating priorities and developing frameworks for action.

8. The current session, he noted, was taking place shortly after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, at which heads of State and Government and high-level representatives had in the outcome document, “The future we want”, expressed strong support for the Strategic Approach and called for its effective implementation. He urged representatives to take stock at the current session of what had been achieved to date and to examine whether, with eight years remaining, the world was on track to meet the goal set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of achieving, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. Determining the priority agenda for the coming eight years was of fundamental importance and, given the imperfect state of knowledge on chemicals, the precautionary principle should be applied alongside effective monitoring, research and management systems to decrease the risks and increase the benefits associated with chemicals. He drew attention to the findings of the Global Chemicals Outlook report, which demonstrated clearly that progress on environmental chemicals goals over recent decades had been insufficient.

9. Over the past five years, the Quick Start Programme had provided evidence of the success of the Strategic Approach as a multi-stakeholder and multisectoral process. The time had come to scale up and accelerate action, engaging across sectors and economies to demonstrate that the Strategic Approach was more than an agreement based on ambitious aspirations. Discussions at the current session would focus on how to fund the implementation of the Strategic Approach over the coming years, including three critical topics, namely, the future of the Quick Start Programme, promoting wider support for implementation of the Strategic Approach in accordance with resolution II/3, on financial and technical resources for implementation, and a draft proposal by the Executive Director on an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals, which had emanated from the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes established in May 2009. In closing, he thanked the Government of Kenya for hosting the meeting and participants for their engagement in the Strategic Approach, acknowledging in particular the presence of representatives of industry and major groups of civil society as key stakeholders in the process.

## **II. Organizational matters**

### **A. Election of officers**

10. Following an introduction by Mr. Toda, the representative of the secretariat and the UNEP Senior Legal Officer explained that rule 14 of the rules of procedure adopted by the Conference at its second session provided that the President and four Vice-Presidents elected by the Conference at that session should serve as the Bureau for the current session. They also explained that as Mr. Gantar was unable to attend the current session, he had, in accordance with paragraph 18 of the rules of procedure, designated the Vice-President from the Western Europe and others group of countries to act as President. They explained further that as Mr. Victor Escobar Paredes (Spain), Vice-President from the Western European and others group of countries had resigned, and his replacement, Ms. Ana Garcia (Spain), designated in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure had also resigned and no one

from their country had been available to serve the balance of their term, the post of the Vice-President from that group had become vacant. They explained also that pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure, each of the five regions of the United Nations had to be represented by one officer in the Bureau and that therefore such vacancy needed to be filled by the Conference by electing a Vice-President from the Western European and others group of countries to serve for the remainder of the term.

11. Following that introduction, the regional coordinator of the Western European and others group of countries, on behalf of that group, nominated Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz (Sweden) for the post of Vice-President from that group. Having received that nomination, the Conference elected by acclamation Ms. Lissinger Peitz as Vice-President from the Western European and others group of countries. In accordance with the designation of Mr. Gantar pursuant to rule 18, she would act as President during the session.

12. Ms. Lissinger Peitz, having assumed the function of the Acting President, then stated that the following changes in the composition of the Bureau elected by the Conference at its second session had occurred pursuant to rule 19 of the rules of procedure: Mr. Carlos Portales (Chile) had been replaced by Mr. Osvaldo Álvarez Pérez (Chile), who had been replaced by Mr. Francisco-Javier Espinoza (Chile); Mr. Cheikh Ndiaye Sylla (Senegal) had been replaced by Ms. Diop Fagamous Sy (Senegal). The Bureau that would serve during the current session was accordingly constituted as follows:

Acting President:	Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz (Sweden)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Francisco-Javier Espinoza (Chile)
	Mr. Eisaku Toda (Japan)
	Ms. Diop Fagamous Sy (Senegal)

Mr. Toda agreed to serve also as Rapporteur.

13. In the absence of Mr. Gantar, who remained in the post of President, Ms. Marta Ciraj (Slovenia) was designated by him to represent him at the Bureau meetings held during the session, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure.

14. Turning to the representatives of non-governmental organizations and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) invited to participate in the meetings of the Bureau,<sup>2</sup> the representative of the secretariat announced that Mr. Yahya Msangi would represent the International Trade Union Confederation in place of Ms. Annabella Rosemberg and that IOMC would be represented by its Chair, Mr. Mark Davis, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

15. Following the establishment of the Bureau for the current session the Conference elected by acclamation in accordance with rule 14 the following members of the Bureau whose terms would run from the closure of the current session to the closure of the next session of the Conference:

President:	Mr. Ali Daud Mohamed (Kenya)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Nassereddin Heidari (Islamic Republic of Iran)
	Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation)
	Mr. Marcus Richards (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
	Ms. Gabi Eigenmann (Switzerland)

16. In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the Conference elected by acclamation the following non-governmental and IOMC representatives to participate in the discussions during the meetings of the Bureau:

Mr. Emmanuel Maria Calonzo (International POPs Elimination Network)
Chair of IOMC (currently Mr. Mark Davis)
Mr. Yahya Khamis Msangi (International Trade Union Confederation – Regional Organization for Africa)

<sup>2</sup> See SAICM/ICCM.2/15, para. 14 and annex I, decision II/1, annex, rule 15, para. 2.

Mr. Peter Orris (World Federation of Public Health Associations)

Mr. Greg Skelton (International Council of Chemical Associations)

## **B. Adoption of the agenda**

17. The Conference adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/ICCM.3/1:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Election of officers;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (c) Appointment of a credentials committee;
  - (d) Organization of work.
3. Report of the credentials committee.
4. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management:
  - (a) Evaluation of and guidance on implementation and review and update of the Strategic Approach;
  - (b) Implementation of and coherence among international instruments and programmes;
  - (c) Strengthening of national chemicals management capacities;
  - (d) Financial and technical resources for implementation;
  - (e) Emerging policy issues;
  - (f) Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation.
5. Health sector strategy.
6. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations.
7. Activities of the secretariat and adoption of the budget.
8. Venue and date of the fourth session of the Conference.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the session.

## **C. Appointment of a credentials committee**

18. In accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure the Bureau serving during the current session served as a credentials committee to examine the credentials of the governmental participants registered for the session. The results of the Bureau's examination of credentials are discussed in section III below.

## **D. Organization of work**

19. In carrying out its work at the current session, the Conference had before it working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the session agenda. A list of those documents may be found in document SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/41.

20. The Conference agreed to meet each day in plenary from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustment as necessary, and to establish such contact or drafting groups as it deemed necessary. It also agreed, as suggested in document SAICM/ICCM.3/1/Add.1, that the current session would include a high-level dialogue to be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, 20 September, followed by additional discussions on the afternoon of the same day, on the theme of strengthening national chemicals management taking into account the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and other important initiatives. The dialogue would be aimed

at providing overall orientation and guidance on areas of focus, including specific elements of efforts to achieve the 2020 goal, which could be captured in a resolution of the Conference.

21. The session was conducted as a paperless meeting, with documents made available in electronic format only except upon request.

## **E. Attendance**

22. The following governmental participants were represented: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia.

23. The following governmental participants were represented as observers: Albania, Armenia, Bahamas, Chile, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

24. Palestine was represented as an observer.

25. The following intergovernmental participants were represented: Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, European Union, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Labour Organization, League of Arab States, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, United Nations Development Programme, UNEP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, World Bank Group, World Health Organization.

26. The following non-governmental participants were represented: Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development, American Chemical Society, American Petroleum Institute, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment, Associação de Proteção ao Meio Ambiente de Cianorte, Association de l'Éducation Environnementale pour les Futures Générations, Baltic Environmental Forum, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Braskem S.A., Brunel University, Centre for International Environmental Law, Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development, Centre of Environmental Solutions, Centre for Community Development, Centre for Environmental Justice, Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research, Centro de Análisis y Acción sobre Tóxicos y sus Alternativas, CHAN, Chulabhorn Research Institute, Climate and Environmental Conservation Kenya, CRDF Global, CropLife International, Eco-Accord, Ecological Restorations, EcoLomics International, Environment and Social Development Organization, Eris Kenya, Green Belt Movement, Greenpeace East Asia, Greenpeace International, GroundWork – Friends of the Earth South Africa, Groupe d'Action pour la Promotion de la Flore et la Faune, Health Care Without Harm, Ilima Organization, Independent Ecological Expertise, Institute of Developing Economies - JETRO, International Council of Chemical Associations, International Council on Mining and Metals, International POPs Elimination Network, International Society of Doctors for the Environment, International Trade Union Confederation - Africa, Island Sustainability Alliance, Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Kooperations-Stelle Hamburg IFE, Kwale Youth Initiative Group, Mabingwa Players Theatre, National Committee of Responsible Care Indonesia, Nick Edwards Consulting Ltd., PAN-Africa, Pesticide Action Network, Pesticide Action Nexus Association, Probiobiodiversity Conservationists in Uganda, Research and Education Centre for Development, Safety and Health Technology Centre, Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Stockholm Environment Institute, Stockholm University, Supreme Board of Drugs and Medical Appliances – Yemen, Sustainlabour, Techo Social, Thanal, The Environment Action

Network, Toxic Watch Network, Toxics Link, Toy Industries of Europe, United States Council for International Business, University of Nairobi, University of Pretoria, Women in Europe for a Common Future, Women Environment Self Group, Worksafe, World Federation of Public Health Associations, Yemen Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control Organization.

### **III. Report of the credentials committee**

27. The UNEP Senior Legal Officer reported that in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau had examined the credentials submitted by governmental participants for the current session. The representatives of 117 governmental participants had been registered for the session and were present. In accordance with rule 10 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of 83 such participants had submitted credentials issued either by a head of State or Government or by a minister for foreign affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. Eight governmental representatives had presented credentials that had been issued by authorities other than those stipulated in rule 10 of the rules of procedure and were therefore considered to be observers for purposes of the current session. Twenty-six governmental representatives had not submitted any credentials and were therefore also considered to be observers.

28. The Conference approved the report of the credentials committee.

### **IV. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

29. Introducing agenda item 4 the President recalled that the Open-ended Working Group had met in November 2011 to prepare for the current session. The Working Group had reviewed progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach and discussed, inter alia, proposals for the addition of two new work areas to the Global Plan of Action, financial and technical resources for implementation of the Strategic Approach, a draft health sector strategy, progress on emerging policy issues adopted by the Conference at its second session and two proposals for the adoption of new emerging policy issues. The Working Group had prepared draft resolutions on those matters for the consideration of the Conference at the current session (SAICM/ICCM.INF/2, annex I).

30. She also noted that item 4 had been divided into six sub-items (discussed in sections A.–F. below) based on the functions of the Conference set out in paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

#### **A. Evaluation of and guidance on implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach**

##### **1. Addition of activities to the Global Plan of Action**

31. The Conference agreed that the addition of activities to the Global Plan of Action would be considered together with emerging policy issues under agenda item 4 (e).

##### **2. Evaluation and progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach**

###### **(a) Reports by regional focal points**

32. Introducing the issue, the President said that the implementation of the Strategic Approach should be evaluated against regional progress made in attaining the 2020 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal, and she invited the regional focal points to report on the outcomes of regional meetings and other regional activities during the intersessional period. The representative of the secretariat subsequently introduced the relevant document (SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/36).

33. The Vice-President for Asia and the Pacific, on behalf of the regional focal point, said that the region was the largest and most populous and that 50 per cent of the world's GDP would be generated there by 2050. It was therefore an extremely significant region for the management of chemical production and consumption. Furthermore, it included a number of industrialized countries, countries with economies in transition and emerging economies, and small island developing States. That regional diversity made it extremely difficult to develop regional plans or activities that suited the requirements of all countries, but through two regional meetings the region had exchanged information and developed a common regional position on sound chemicals management. As a result, SAICM implementation was under way in the region, with the assistance of the Quick Start Programme.

34. The Central and Eastern European regional focal point said that since eight of the countries in the region were members of the European Union, while the rest were not, the countries of the region had dissimilar requirements and faced different challenges. Nevertheless, the capabilities of countries to safely manage chemicals had increased significantly since the last session, although much still needed to be done. The willingness of countries to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals was a great achievement, but the development of effective blanket legislation remained a challenge. The most important objective, however, was the harmonization of laws to protect the environment and facilitate international trade, and progress on that would not have been possible without external financing, especially from the Quick Start Programme.

35. The Latin American and Caribbean regional focal point expressed gratitude to the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Americas (Pan American Health Organization) for its assistance in highlighting the region's health issues and challenges with regard to chemicals management. She added that the region had received the assistance of several stakeholders and that it wanted to develop additional strategies to attract other stakeholders for the effective implementation of the Strategic Approach. Great progress had also been made with regard to raising awareness of Strategic Approach issues, and potential donors had been identified to finance related activities.

36. The regional focal point for Africa reported that there had been significant progress in implementing the Strategic Approach since the last session. The region was currently engaged in efforts to ensure the innocuous nature of chemicals in consumer goods and those released into the environment. The region aimed to generate data on the effects of nanomaterials on health and the environment, phase out long-chain perfluorinated chemicals and reduce the exposure of children to lead. It also wanted to increase access to information on chemicals through chemical access tools, and achieve the enactment of laws on the submission of data related to health and industrial chemicals, with the aim of facilitating the regulation of chemicals that posed a threat to human health or the environment. The region also aimed to reduce illegal international trade in chemicals and build the capacity of Customs officials through various programmes such as the UNEP Green Customs initiative.

37. The representative of the European Union said that the Union was continuing to revise its chemicals management laws, including to ensure the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. He added that in the implementation phase of its legislation over 5,000 substances had been registered and that information on those chemicals was publicly available. The Union had therefore made significant steps towards the implementation of the 2020 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal.

38. The Conference took note of the information presented.

**(b) Reporting and indicators**

39. The representative of the secretariat introduced the documents pertaining to the issue, recalling that at its second session the Conference had adopted modalities for reporting on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. Twenty indicators had been developed, reflecting the subject areas of the Overarching Policy Strategy, on which stakeholders had been invited to report.

40. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives stressed the importance of reporting to allow for the proper evaluation of the work undertaken under the Strategic Approach and the measurement of progress towards achievement of its objectives and attainment of the 2020 goal for sound chemicals management. Reporting of outcomes would also assist the efficient planning of future activities.

41. A number of representatives described the activities that their countries or organizations were undertaking to report on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach using the 20 indicators adopted by the Conference at its second session. The representative of IOMC said that the organization was about to launch a toolbox to assist decision-making on the sound management of chemicals. He said that the focus should be on capacity development and action on the ground, and urged others to follow the example of IOMC in delivering effective action through collaboration between diverse partners with complementary expertise.

42. Several representatives welcomed the baseline estimates report for 2006–2008 (see SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/5) and the report on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach in 2009–2010 (see SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/6) prepared by the secretariat as an important contribution to the evaluation of the progress being made in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. One representative said that the progress report allowed the identification of areas where further progress

was needed, for example capacity-building and technical cooperation. He added that evaluation and reporting of progress needed to become permanent tasks and that arrangements should therefore be agreed for the development of a second progress report and a formal review of the arrangements at the fourth session of the Conference. He stressed that with regard to the reporting procedure, three important points should be kept in mind: reporting arrangements should be efficient and realistic, and not a heavy burden for stakeholders; the secretariat should coordinate and collaborate as much as possible with the reporting and data collection entities of relevant instruments such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention; and the reporting process should contribute to the overall evaluation of the Strategic Approach.

43. One representative said that the reporting tool could be further developed to allow identification of gaps in the implementation of the Strategic Approach in addition to reporting on successful activities. Another representative said that a road map would be helpful in guiding progress towards achievement of the 2020 goal. Another said that reporting mechanisms should be more flexible and easier to implement, taking into account the different situations of countries.

44. On the reporting period, those who spoke supported the recommendation of the Open-ended Working Group that data collection and reporting follow a three-year cycle.

45. Regarding indicators, one representative said that the 20 already identified were sufficient. One representative said that the reporting tool could be further developed by the secretariat after the first round of reporting to direct efforts where they were most needed. Another representative requested further clarity on whether the same indicators would be used throughout the reporting period to 2020, given that some indicators, such as those related to enabling activities, would become less relevant with time, while new indicators might become apparent as global chemicals circumstances changed. The representative of the secretariat said that the intention was to retain all 20 indicators for the entire period, to enable comparisons over time. The indicators were designed to be dynamic, however, and the methodology allowed some flexibility in reporting so that new elements could be accommodated if needed. In addition, stakeholders were encouraged to supply additional, complementary data, where available, in a timely manner that would permit them to be incorporated into Conference documentation.

46. A number of representatives expressed thanks to the secretariat for organizing a technical briefing on evaluating progress towards achievement of the 2020 goal and the opportunity to identify key points in that regard.

47. Following the discussion, the Conference agreed that the secretariat should develop a second progress report for the period 2011–2013 for consideration by the Conference at its fourth session. It also agreed that stakeholders that had not done so previously should be encouraged to supply information for 2009–2010 in order to provide additional data to enable more accurate comparisons to be made in future reporting. The Conference encouraged the full use of the results and information collected using the reporting tool for regional consultation and follow-up.

## **B. Implementation of and coherence among international instruments and programmes**

48. Introducing the item, the President stressed the importance of coherence among and the implementation of international instruments and programmes. The representative of the secretariat subsequently introduced the relevant documentation, drawing attention to the funds that had been earmarked for 10 projects that supported the implementation of chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

49. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives applauded the success that the Strategic Approach had achieved in implementing initial enabling activities in all regions. Its ability to support the implementation of the chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements through the Quick Start Programme further underscored that success.

50. Several representatives expressed support for the 2011 synergies decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, which would assist in making progress towards achieving the 2020 goal. They said that the Strategic Approach should be viewed as the international framework for implementing the synergies decisions, but needed to be further integrated into regional delivery mechanisms through the regional centres of both the Basel and Stockholm conventions, which should be mandated to carry out Strategic Approach activities.

51. A few representatives, saying that the Strategic Approach played an extremely important role in chemical waste management, suggested that the secretariat should prepare for consideration at the fourth session of the Conference a report on the Strategic Approach activities undertaken to enhance cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and wastes cluster.

52. Many civil society representatives highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder cooperation in chemicals management. They stressed that occupational health and safety policies needed to be at the centre of prevention policies. Multilateral environmental agreements provided a good opportunity for the management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, and synergies were an effective way to minimize the negative impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment. They added that civil society had a vital role in this process with regard to information-sharing and awareness-raising.

53. One representative said that the international trafficking of chemicals and wastes did not receive sufficient attention and that a lack of information on the issue was hampering efforts to control the trade and therefore to achieve the 2020 goal. Research had shown that value-chain links between manufacturers, consumers and those engaged in waste management were important in reducing illegal trade and boosting sound waste management, including the environmentally sound disposal of hazardous substances.

### **C. Strengthening of national chemicals management capacities**

54. Introducing the high-level dialogue, the President said that the aim of the dialogue was to provide a platform for interaction between all stakeholders on strengthening the Strategic Approach for its more effective implementation towards achievement of the 2020 goal. The dialogue would comprise presentations from panellists representing various stakeholder groups; discussion of the points raised by the panellists; and other interventions from the floor on relevant matters. The expected outcome of the dialogue was that it would provide overall orientation and guidance to Strategic Approach stakeholders on areas of focus, including some concrete elements, leading up to the 2020 goal. Consideration of that guidance would be prospective and retrospective, taking into account accomplishments and lessons learned as well as the importance of the regional dimension and multi-stakeholder nature of the Strategic Approach.

55. The panellists were as follows: Ms. Maria Neira, Director, Public Health and Environment, World Health Organization (WHO); Mr. Lazar Chirica, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Moldova; Mr. Calvin Dooley, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Chemistry Council (International Council of Chemical Associations); Mr. Joe DiGangi, Senior Science and Technical Advisor, International POPs Elimination Network; Mr. Rémi Allah-Kouadio, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Côte d'Ivoire; Ms. Sophia Danenberg, International Policy Leader, Environmental Strategy, United States Council for International Business; Mr. Tiarite George Kwong, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, Kiribati; and Mr. Per Nylykke, International Director, Danish Ministry of Environment, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States and Croatia.

56. Ms. Neira said that WHO estimates showed that more than 25 per cent of the global burden of disease was linked to environmental risk factors, which if addressed would result in a significant reduction in the global burden of disease. The problem was wide-ranging, and included indoor and outdoor air pollution in addition to risk factors arising from chemicals and other substances. The role of the health sector was therefore critical in chemicals management, with scientific evidence crucial as the basis for action in developing effective preventive measures. Where best to invest limited resources remained a challenge, and possible areas of engagement included informing the public, raising awareness and mobilizing action; preventing and managing chemical emergencies; developing safe alternatives, especially for vulnerable populations; and policy development and monitoring. Examples of areas where action could lead to substantial benefits included setting up poison centres, which were particularly lacking in developing countries; raising awareness of and taking action to eliminate hazardous pesticides; effective intervention on chemicals of public health concern, such as lead and asbestos; enhancing local arrangements for public health management, prevention, preparedness, early detection and rapid response; and mainstreaming chemicals-related health issues into national development plans. A robust health sector strategy formed the basis of all these activities and interventions.

57. Mr. Chirica said that his country supported the efforts of the international community to minimize the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment and to support the Strategic Approach in attaining the 2020 goal. Moldova had developed a national profile on chemicals management, on which its national chemicals policy was based, and a government programme aimed at sustainable chemicals management. Measures had been taken to reduce the impact of chemicals,

such as the removal from circulation of out-of-date pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls. Funding from donors and technology support had been of great assistance in those endeavours. The country was developing an institutional and legal framework to support the gradual implementation of European Union policy approaches, including through setting up partnerships to help attract the necessary investment. Rules and regulations covering chemicals management were being developed, for example on proper labelling and packaging, and prominence was being given to the principle of extended producer responsibility for chemicals throughout their life cycle. In conclusion, he said that international mechanisms should be strengthened to enable countries with developing or transitional economies to implement their development goals in a sustainable manner, including through the sound management of chemicals.

58. Mr. Dooley said that all major companies, multinationals and manufacturers, including in the chemicals sector, were committed to attaining the 2020 goal, as they understood that chemicals manufactured and used in a responsible manner bestowed great benefits on the world's citizens. Chemicals had been instrumental in improving human health, well-being and nutrition through the appropriate use of disinfectants, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, pesticides and other formulations, and innovation in the chemical industry had helped achieve sustainable development, productive efficiency and improved living and working conditions. He highlighted the Responsible Care Initiative and the Global Product Strategy as two programmes of the International Council of Chemical Associations designed to support producer responsibility and environmental health and safety. The focus of the Council was at the industry level, assisting producers in developing and transitional economies to adopt best practices and risk reduction strategies, and the Council had held over 50 capacity-building workshops over the previous three years to support that programme. Agreements and memoranda of understanding had been developed with a number of partners, including UNEP, to assist in the appropriate management of chemicals. The industry recognized that more needed to be done and was working closely with the Strategic Approach at all levels to promote sound chemicals management.

59. Mr. DiGangi said that the Strategic Approach was not on track to achieve the 2020 goal and that chemicals production and use were growing faster than the ability to manage them. He drew attention to document SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/29, which proposed eight actions in the eight years to 2020 that provided direction in addressing the challenge of chemicals management. He highlighted three areas of focus where action under the Strategic Approach could be especially effective in combating the harmful effects of chemicals: first, a ban on hazardous pesticides should be progressively implemented, given the susceptibility of many communities of farmers throughout the developing world to poisoning from such chemicals; second, occupational health and safety should be given much greater attention, with many workers, especially young women, exposed to carcinogens and reproductive toxins in their workplaces as they assembled electrical and electronic goods; and third, the Strategic Approach needed to plan more effectively for its future to ensure attainment of the 2020 goal.

60. Mr. Allah-Kouadio outlined the efforts that his Government had made to manage chemicals in a sound manner, and praised the Quick Start Programme and donors for their help in putting in place supportive systems and updating his country's national chemicals profile. He underscored the relevance of sound chemicals management to sustainable development, in line with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Côte d'Ivoire, like other African countries, was exposed to risks due to poor chemicals governance, so initiatives that reduced the exposure of vulnerable populations were particularly valuable. In the wake of the illegal dumping and chemical spillage incident of 2006, much effort had been made to control the movement of transboundary wastes nationally, regionally and internationally, and the country actively supported both the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa. With the help of UNEP, an audit was being carried out of the consequences of the events of 2006 to assess their continuing impact on human health and the environment and to ensure that proper measures were in place to ensure that nothing like the incident would happen again.

61. Ms. Danenberg concentrated her presentation on the downstream element of the life cycle. While some members of the downstream community were well informed, many lacked awareness and their level of engagement with the Strategic Approach was low. The downstream user community was large and varied and covered a wide range of sectors and enterprises of all sizes, and as a consequence it was very difficult to develop a harmonized approach to chemicals management in the community, although some groups, such as the International Council of Chemical Associations, were strongly engaged in outreach efforts. In her industry, the International Aerospace Environmental Group aimed to promote compliance among members with laws and regulations to protect human health and the

environment. In summary, downstream participation in sound chemicals management was increasing, but much still needed to be done and more outreach was required, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. To support that process, participation and cooperation among all stakeholders was essential.

62. Mr. Kwong highlighted the problems facing Kiribati as a small island developing State, which included particular challenges in the sound management of chemicals. Typical of such States, Kiribati did not manufacture chemicals but imported them, leading to problems of end-of-life disposal. The country was grateful for the impetus in dealing with the issue provided by the Quick Start Programme in 2009, which had allowed for an assessment of the national chemicals management infrastructure of Kiribati to be undertaken and for priorities to be identified. In consequence, the sound management of chemicals was now firmly incorporated into national development plans and policies, and mainstreaming was well developed. There was greater awareness of chemicals-related issues and more availability of information on the matter, and legal and institutional systems had been strengthened. Challenges had been turned into opportunities, and much greater cooperation among stakeholders was apparent. Financial support and technical assistance were still needed, however, and the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund therefore needed to be extended until a more long-term funding mechanism was in place.

63. Mr. Nylykke said that the current discussion offered an important opportunity to identify key actions needed to reach the 2020 goal. Chemicals played an important role in people's daily lives, but it was necessary to ensure that in capturing their benefits steps were taken to manage their risks. With the 2020 goal in sight it was essential to maintain political support and commitment to bring about sound chemicals management at the global level; the Strategic Approach was a vital and unique tool in global efforts to meet that challenge, and its multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach was fundamental to the synergies required to achieve the goal. Alongside political will and support, financial and technical assistance was of central importance, but it must be translated into on-the-ground delivery of supportive activities, and the focus of the Strategic Approach must be to support that. The engagement of industry as a major source of knowledge, expertise and financial resources was crucially important, and industry must take further responsibility for the safety of the products that they produced and the management of risks throughout their life cycles. It was disappointing, for example, that industry continued to produce lead-containing paints when viable alternatives were available. Finally, it was vital to continue to build a shared evidence base, and in that regard the work of the Global Chemicals Outlook was noteworthy.

64. Following the presentations, the panellists responded to queries raised.

65. Responding to a question on the promotion of risk reduction, Mr. Allah-Kouadio said that the 2006 incident had been very painful for Côte d'Ivoire, and he highlighted shortcomings in the country's administration and enforcement of rules and regulations. To avoid similar instances in future, it was important to have a strong institutional framework and to ensure that the officials entrusted with its implementation were well informed and of sufficient capacity. Illegal practices needed to be severely sanctioned, both nationally and internationally. Regarding the aforementioned audit, positive outcomes would be to ensure that precautionary measures were in place at the international level and that the national institutional framework was strengthened with trained personnel committed to protecting the country's people.

66. In response to a question about the challenges posed by the shift in chemical production towards the developing world, and the responsibility that went with that, Mr. Dooley said that from an industry perspective the goal was to facilitate adoption of the best practices outlined in the Responsible Care Initiative in order to minimize environmental impact and occupational health risk. Capacity-building and adoption of best practices at the industry level, creating a political environment in which it was easier to put in place supportive regulatory structures were of key importance.

67. In answer to a question about how WHO managed to fulfil its mandate in the environmental sector with a relatively little of its budget allocated to that area, Ms. Neira said that most WHO efforts went into influencing the health and other sectors and into assisting and promoting cross-sectoral action. In the case of Côte d'Ivoire, for example, much of the responsibility for dealing with the problem lay with the health sector, but it could not be solved by that sector alone. The role of WHO was to provide evidence and advice to encourage the mobilization of all sectors to protect human health. Using its core capacities, the scientific evidence available to it and its political influence, WHO could demonstrate the health and financial benefits of a range of interventions, including sound chemicals management, thereby using its limited financial resources to maximize benefits for human health and the environment.

68. Answering a query on the urgency of action and the scale of measures needed to attain the 2020 goal, Mr. DiGangi said that the situation was serious and the pace of improvement slow. The dangers of lead in paint, for example, had been known for some time, but little action had emerged from discussion of the matter. International cooperation on chemical safety would need to continue after 2020, and non-governmental organizations had a major role to play not just working with communities but also in participating in decision-making and planning and collaborating with Governments and others to achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

69. Responding to a question about chemicals management at the regional level, Mr. Chirica said that in the various responses of the panellists the problem of identifying and developing an effective mechanism for managing chemicals constantly came to the fore. Moldova had found considerable benefit in regional cooperation, as its own national resources were not adequate to tackle issues such as the disposal of unwanted pesticides, and financial and technical assistance had been invaluable in that regard.

70. Continuing the theme of dealing with agricultural chemicals, Mr. Kwong said that Kiribati was a very small, low-lying country and that agricultural policy was moving away from pesticides and fertilizers that were difficult to dispose of and presented a danger to groundwater resources through their presence in compost. A multi-stakeholder approach bringing a range of expertise into play had proved invaluable in that transition.

71. Asked how downstream users could contribute to the goals of the Strategic Approach, Ms. Danenberg said that the scope of the downstream community was very wide and complex, and many enterprises could be considered as consumers as well as producers. Of particular relevance to the Strategic Approach was the safe use of chemicals throughout their life cycle and the engagement of the many small and medium-sized enterprises involved in the manufacture of the components used by larger assemblers to make final products. Outreach was essential in order to bring on board all sections of the downstream user community.

72. In conclusion, the President, chairing the dialogue, asked for one key message from each of the panellists in the context of the 2020 goal. Ms. Neira stressed the role of disease prevention, noting that 97 per cent of health-sector expenditure worldwide went into the care and treatment of patients that were already ill. Mr. Chirica said that chemicals should not be viewed as separate from their environment but rather in the context of ecosystems that required synergistic management in cooperation with other sectors. Mr. Dooley said that there was much to be proud of in the progress made so far and that continued success would depend upon cooperation that capitalized on the core expertise of all partners. Mr. DiGangi pointed to the need for a progressive ban of hazardous pesticides, which were the main source of chemical exposure in developing countries. Mr. Allah-Kouadio highlighted the importance of cooperation, commitment and knowledge-sharing centred on the needs of developing countries. Ms. Danenberg said that the engagement of the downstream community should be encouraged by all stakeholders, while continuing to recognize the unique perspectives and needs of different sectors. Mr. Kwong supported the idea that all stakeholders should be included to engender a sense of ownership in caring for the environment, and he stressed the importance of financial and technical assistance. Mr. Nylykke said that it was important to build on successes, narrow the gaps in chemicals management, gather the low-hanging fruit and prioritize mainstreaming.

73. The President then summarized briefly the main themes that had been explored during the discussion and thanked the panellists for their involvement.

74. The president then opened the floor for comment, and in the ensuing discussion many representatives expressed support for the efforts of the Strategic Approach towards achieving the 2020 goal and implementing the various chemicals-related international instruments, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions with the aim of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment. Countries were continually updating their national policies to remain in line with those instruments and implementing development plans that incorporated the principles of sustainable economic and social development and environmental protection. A particular emphasis was placed on the importance of synergies and a multi-stakeholder approach in tackling chemicals management, as it was a global challenge that could be tackled only through multisectoral cooperation at all levels. It was also important to build legal, institutional, technological and economic capacities at the national level to assist countries in fulfilling their obligations under the chemicals related international instruments. An integrated global approach was crucial, combining research, information-sharing and awareness raising initiatives and effective precautionary policies and chemicals legislation, as were regional and subregional initiatives such as training workshops for the

various stakeholders involved in the import, trade and monitoring of chemical products. Access to the Strategic Approach's multi-stakeholder platform was crucial.

75. Many representatives expressed support for extending the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund until a long-term financing mechanism could be put into place to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition to achieve the 2020 goal. Efforts were encouraged to include activities related to nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, electrical and electronic products and hazardous chemicals in the Global Plan of Action, and support was expressed for, among other things, the Green Customs initiative, the elimination of lead in paint and the adoption of a resolution on mercury.

76. Some representatives identified issues that they said had been omitted from the Conference discussions, such as the illegal disposal and smuggling of hazardous wastes and pesticides, which needed to be tackled with effective preventive measures enshrined in international legal instruments and rooted in capacity-building activities at the national level, especially in developing countries. Another issue was the elimination of the highly hazardous pesticides being used in ever-increasing quantities in agriculture. Activities to that end should be included in national Strategic Approach implementation plans, backed by the development of a global list of those pesticides and a replacement strategy promoting the use of non-chemical alternatives or less hazardous chemicals. Other issues requiring greater attention included those of plastics, especially plastic bottles, which contained chemicals harmful to human health and were difficult to dispose of in an environmentally friendly manner; regulation of the chemicals used in seabed mining activities, which polluted the water and contaminated marine life, including fish for human consumption; the development of infrastructure for regional collection and disposal of electrical and electronic waste, especially in small island developing States; and the need to extend corporate stewardship and ensure that chemical companies lived up to their responsibility to protect not only the environment but also workers in developing countries, who should enjoy the same health and safety standards as those in the developed world. Much work remained to be done in the eight years until the 2020 deadline and beyond, as efforts to promote sound chemicals management would be required as long as chemicals remained in use.

77. Following the discussion, and in closing the high-level dialogue, the President said that she would work with a friends of the President group to prepare a summary that captured the essence of the rich exchange of views and ideas that had taken place. To benefit from the dialogue, the Conference agreed to request the secretariat to prepare overall orientation and guidance, based on the views aired, on what needed to be done to achieve the 2020 goal, which would be discussed during the period leading up to the fourth session of the Conference at regional consultations and at the next meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, should its establishment be confirmed.

78. On the final day of the session the President briefly outlined the summary that she had prepared with the friends of the President group (see annex III).

## **D. Financial and technical resources for implementation**

79. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that it encompassed three matters: the Quick Start Programme; financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach; and the outcome of the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes. Introductions to the three elements were made by Mr. Nassereddin Heidari, co-chair, Quick Start Programme Executive Board; Mr. Greg Filyk, co-chair of the contact group on financing at the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group; and Ms. Claudia ten Have, UNEP secretariat.

### **1. Quick Start Programme**

80. Mr. Heidari gave a brief presentation on the conclusions and recommendations of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board on the mid-term evaluation of the Quick Start Programme (SAICM/ICCM.3/8). He said that the findings of the review were based on a number of important inputs, including evidence from 30 completed projects. The review had been conducted in a participatory manner, with the engagement of representatives of Governments, donors and recipients, civil society organizations, industry, executing agencies, the United Nations Environment Programme as trustee of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund and the secretariat. As at April 2012, the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach had been successful in attracting applications leading to 145 approved projects from more than 100 countries and non-governmental organizations, highlighting its success.

81. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives said that the Quick Start Programme, through its trust fund, had been an extremely useful tool for supporting the enabling activities of the first phase of implementation of the Strategic Approach, and they expressed their appreciation for the efforts of

recipient countries and project coordinators with regard to information sharing on activity implementation. The Quick Start Programme was widely recognized among stakeholders as being accessible, flexible and practical. It had succeeded in developing new initiatives and had made significant progress with regard to capacity-building activities and implementation of the Strategic Approach. Some representatives said that the ability of the Quick Start Programme to effectively support the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals in various regions was further confirmation of its achievement.

82. There was general consensus that the deadline for the disbursement of Quick Start Programme project funding, currently set at November 2013, should be extended until all approved projects in its portfolio had been completed, as recommended by the Executive Board. Many representatives stressed the need for strengthening the existing structures and institutions responsible for funding under the Programme to ensure sustained and efficient implementation of Strategic Approach activities until long-term financing structures were in place. Some representatives, however, noted that the Quick Start Programme had been designed specifically to support short-term enabling activities and said that it might prove difficult to realign its governance structure and financing capabilities to accommodate longer-term funding.

83. One representative said that the priority activities to be carried out under the restructured Quick Start Programme would include the mainstreaming of chemicals management into national and bilateral development programmes, involvement of industry in chemicals management throughout product life cycles, development and use of economic instruments and the internalization of costs for the sound management of chemicals.

## **2. Financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach**

84. Mr. Filyk reported that the contact group on finance and technical assistance at the Open-ended Working Group had considered two interrelated subjects: long-term financing options for activities related to implementation of the Strategic Approach from the end of the Quick Start Programme in 2013–2020; and the links to, and elements of, the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes. Among the key issues raised were the mainstreaming of chemicals management into national development plans and policies; the role of industry in contributing to the long-term financing of sound chemicals management and implementation of the Strategic Approach; options for external funding from sources such as the Global Environment Facility and voluntary sources; and a stable funding mechanism to take over from the Quick Start Programme after 2013, which would have similar characteristics in terms of governance structure, eligibility criteria and scope of work, including implementation plans.

85. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives stressed the importance of mobilizing secure and sustainable funding for implementation of the Strategic Approach in order to achieve the 2020 goal. Attention was drawn to the fact that existing sources of funding had proved insufficient for full implementation and appreciation was expressed for the contribution made by the Global Environment Facility, within the framework of its strategy for sound chemicals management for the fifth replenishment period, which had provided significant amounts of funding for pilot projects in a range of areas such as e-waste, lead in paint and chemicals in products. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that every country had a responsibility to promote sound chemicals management but that each had a different capacity to fulfil that responsibility. Financial and technical assistance was therefore crucial, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and the Conference should strive to ensure the implementation of the relevant processes outlined in the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

86. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, urged the Conference to adopt a resolution capable of quickly and efficiently establishing and operationalizing future financial arrangements. He presented a conference-room paper setting forth a draft resolution that called, *inter alia*, for support for activities to facilitate the mainstreaming of chemicals management into national and bilateral development programmes; the meaningful involvement of industry in the management of chemicals throughout their life cycles; and the broadening of the financing base.

87. With regard to mainstreaming, several representatives said that the mainstreaming of chemicals management into national development plans and policies was important to the implementation of the Strategic Approach, with one suggesting that mainstreaming into national budgets and aid programmes should also be considered. It was a major challenge, and developing countries and countries with economies in transition would require guidance in their efforts to identify national priorities. Several representatives also said that industry involvement was key to making

effective use of existing resources and increasing the amount of resources available, in terms not only of financing but also of knowledge and skills.

88. One representative, speaking on behalf of IOMC, stressed that national actions for reinforcing the sound management of chemicals and waste called for the collaboration of all stakeholders, including in the sectors of health, labour, environment, agriculture and industry; that multisectoral interventions and collaboration should be recognized in selecting projects to be supported; and that the financial arrangements for the Strategic Approach should ensure appropriate access for all relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, implementation activities must reflect national situations and take into account existing structures, and funding must be flexible and sustainable.

### 3. Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes

89. Ms. ten Have gave a statement on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, which had culminated in a draft proposal by the Executive Director of UNEP on an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes (SAICM/ICCM.3/12). The approach comprised three complementary components: mainstreaming of sound management of chemicals and wastes into national development plans; industry involvement; and external financing. The external financing component in turn comprised two elements: a proposal to establish national chemicals and wastes units in recipient countries and a proposal to establish an integrated chemicals and wastes focal area under the Global Environment Facility. Following input from various sources, including the current session, the draft proposal would be finalized and submitted to the UNEP Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session, in 2013.

### 4. Discussion

90. During the ensuing discussion, the draft proposal by the Executive Director was welcomed by some representatives and some representatives expressed support for the elements proposed, which they said offered a potential approach to attainment of the 2020 goal for sound chemicals management. Several representatives, however, said that further refinement and clarification were needed before it could be implemented. One representative said that there was a need to recognize the differences between needs and resources required to implement legally binding obligations and non-legally binding obligations. A number of representatives urged the Conference to provide strong and timely input for the process in order to move the proposal forward and send a strong message to the Governing Council of UNEP that urgent action was required to put into place a robust financing mechanism for chemicals and wastes. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the recognition given to the Strategic Approach in the proposal, the elements of which were fully compatible with the multi-stakeholder dimension of the Strategic Approach.

91. There was some support for the mainstreaming and industry involvement components of the proposal as means of mobilizing resources. Some representatives, however, expressed opposition to them. One representative said that mainstreaming, if properly implemented, could enhance the capacity of countries to manage chemicals and wastes, provide incentives for investment and encourage the engagement of a wider range of stakeholders. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that mobilization of domestic resources by countries was a crucial part of mainstreaming. Several representatives highlighted the importance of a life cycle approach to financing the sound management of chemicals.

92. One representative said that the proposed actions that industry, including the chemicals industry, might undertake would help to leverage industry involvement, including through in-kind contributions, capacity-building, public-private partnerships, greening of the production chain, assessing chemicals risk and providing information to stakeholders. The chemicals industry had extensive knowledge of risk management developed over many years and could make a considerable contribution to the management of chemicals and wastes through the processes described in the draft proposal. Another representative said that, as reported in the Global Chemicals Outlook, the negative impacts of chemicals on health and the environment were escalating, and very few of the costs were being borne by chemicals producers. In that regard, the proposal of the Executive Director was not strong enough regarding the need for industry to pay its fair share.

93. Regarding the external financing component, while its importance to attainment of the 2020 goal for sound chemicals management was acknowledged, and there was general support for the proposals presented, there was some diversity of opinion on whether the proposed structure, including establishment of an integrated chemicals and wastes focal area under the Global Environment Facility, would result in the mobilization of sufficient resources to achieve that goal. One representative questioned the feasibility of establishing a new chemicals and wastes focal area under the Global

Environment Facility, given that it already had an existing chemicals focal area that included funding for sound chemicals management.

94. One representative said that within the proposed external financing component, funds should be specifically dedicated to actions that supported efforts towards the 2020 goal. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed disappointment that the option of a new trust fund similar to the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol had been omitted from the draft proposal, as that option had received wide support during the consultative process. One representative said that it was important to put in place a system for the replenishment of the fund and to ensure that such replenishment did not jeopardize the replenishment of other existing funds.

95. Some representatives said that the provision, under the external financing element of the proposal, for the establishment of national chemicals and wastes units would be of great assistance in mobilizing funding for developing countries and economies in transition. One representative said that if such units were to be established, care should be taken to ensure that national situations were taken into account and that a wide range of sectoral institutions participated. Another representative said that while the proposal was intriguing, further analysis needed to be undertaken of its potential costs and benefits.

96. As explained in section X of the present report, on the adoption of the report of the current session, the statements on financial matters read by the representatives speaking on behalf of the European Union and the group of Latin American and Caribbean countries, as they pertain to the draft proposal by the Executive Director, are summarized separately in the following two paragraphs.

97. The representative speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States said that the Union and its member States broadly welcomed the Executive Director's proposal and intended to submit additional comments on it, taking into account the discussions at both the current session and the most recent meeting in the consultative process, which had taken place in Mexico City on 5 and 6 September 2012. The Union and its member States strongly supported the Executive Director's inclusion of mainstreaming, a crucial part of which was domestic resources mobilized by countries, and industry involvement as critical components of financing for the sound management of chemicals and wastes. Those components, together with external financing, should be integrated in a parallel, complementary and mutually reinforcing manner. They also welcomed the notion that the Strategic Approach should be a full beneficiary of the integrated approach, saying that the three components of the approach were all relevant to the long-term financing of the Strategic Approach and compatible with its multi-stakeholder nature. The Union and its member States also supported the notion that the financial mechanism for dedicated external financing should be provided within existing structures and should be hosted by GEF. As revealed by the discussions in Mexico, however, certain aspects of the external financing component needed clarification and development. The Conference, he said, should provide input to UNEP to allow finalization of the draft proposal and its adoption by the Governing Council of UNEP at its twenty-seventh session. That input should include endorsement of mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external financing as the components of an integrated approach and support for a synergistic framework covering the chemicals-related conventions and the Strategic Approach.

98. The representative speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean group of countries said that the Executive Director's draft proposal contained positive elements such as the inclusion of chemicals and wastes units and the further engagement of industry as a complementary component of the long-term financing solution, saying in regard to the latter that the global chemicals industry should be further encouraged to undertake activities in all regions in partnership with Governments and civil society. The proposal did not, however, reflect all the options for the long-term financing of chemicals and wastes management that had been articulated to date. In particular it made no reference to an independent fund with governance arrangements similar to those of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, which his region had advocated repeatedly. It also neglected the regional dimension and the key role that the regional networks established under the Basel and Stockholm conventions could play in the delivery of Strategic Approach activities at the subregional and regional levels. While the region believed that the Strategic Approach should be one of the beneficiaries of an integrated approach to financing, it was of the view that the current session was not the appropriate forum to decide on the issue. Instead, stakeholders should review the draft proposal and submit their views, which should be conveyed, together with the ideas and recommendations articulated during the current session, to the Executive Director, who should take them into account in finalizing proposal for presentation at the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, in February 2013.

## 5. Establishment of a contact group and adoption of a resolution on financial matters

99. Following the discussion, the Conference agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Ms. Elsa Miranda (Indonesia) and Mr. Daniel Ziegerer (Switzerland), to discuss further the issue of financial and technical resources for implementation. In its work, the contact group would consider the relevant documents, in particular documents SAICM/ICCM.3/8, SAICM/ICCM.3/11 and SAICM/ICCM.3/12, the draft resolution by the representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, and the statements made by participants during the discussion of the item. The mandate of the contact group would be to discuss the potential future of the Quick Start Programme and its role in the implementation of the Strategic Approach; it would also discuss the draft proposal of the Executive Director and its relevance to the financial considerations outlined in paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach, with the aim of providing input for the further development of the draft proposal and the deliberations of the Governing Council on the matter.

100. As also explained in section X of the present report, during the adoption of the report the co-chair of the contact group reported on the group's work. He said that the matters discussed by the group could be divided into three categories: matters on which there was a high degree of convergence among the views expressed; positions put forth by participants that were not the subject of consensus; and elements of the Executive Director's proposal that one or more participant had said required further development or revision. He then proceeded to list the matters in each group.

101. In the first group, there was a high degree of convergence in the views expressed:

- (a) That there was a need for long-term financing for the Strategic Approach that was sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible;
- (b) That overall resources for implementation of the Strategic Approach should increase;
- (c) That it was important to recognize the call in the Rio+20 outcome document for achievement of the 2020 chemicals management goal;
- (d) That the Strategic Approach should be strengthened as part of a robust, coherent, effective and efficient system for sound chemicals management;
- (e) That it was necessary to include the Strategic Approach in any solution to the problem of long-term financing for chemicals management;
- (f) That the current draft of the Executive Director's proposal needed further development and revision and should be the subject of broad consultation and input by stakeholders;
- (g) That it was necessary in an integrated long-term approach to financing to address the question of how to allocate resources between legally binding obligations and voluntary commitments to ensure sufficient funding for the latter.

102. Positions put forth by participants that were not the subject of consensus included the following:

- (a) That an integrated long-term approach to financing constituted an opportunity to broaden the donor base;
- (b) That funding under the Quick Start Programme could be used to leverage additional funding;
- (c) That an integrated approach such as that in the Executive Director's proposal could require an oversight body or anchor, a role that could perhaps be played by the Conference;
- (d) That aspects of the Executive Director's proposal could be read as endorsing conditionality, and thus linking access to external financing to mainstreaming;
- (e) That the term external financing should be understood to refer to dedicated external financing;
- (f) That funding under the Quick Start Programme offered advantages over GEF funding: GEF funding, unlike Quick Start funding, required co-funding and was based more on GEF Council decisions and donor priorities than on recipient priorities or guidance from the conferences of the parties to the agreements under which it was provided;
- (g) That national Strategic Approach units had utility as delivery mechanisms but should be complemented by regional mechanisms.

103. Elements of the Executive Director's proposal identified as requiring further development or revision included:

(a) The section on mainstreaming, which it was said needed further development to include more specific descriptions of the activities that it entailed; to better reflect roles and responsibilities at the national and regional levels and in developed versus developing countries; and to expand the scope of mainstreaming to include national budget processes;

(b) The section on industry involvement, which some said should describe that involvement in greater detail;

(c) The section on the governance structure.

104. The Conference agreed that the oral report by the co-chair accurately described the discussions that had taken place in the contact group. A written report on the work of the contact group prepared by the co-chairs of the group is set out in annex IV to the present report, where it is presented as submitted by the co-chairs, without formal editing.

105. Following the work of the contact group, the Conference adopted resolution III/1, on financial and technical resources for implementation (see annex I).

## **E. Emerging policy issues**

### **1. Emerging policy issues considered in detail at the second session of the Conference**

106. The representative of the secretariat introduced the documents pertaining to the sub-item, recalling that the emerging policy issues under consideration were lead in paint; chemicals in products; hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products; and nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials. Progress on each issue had been reported by its lead organization to the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting, which had prepared an omnibus draft resolution on emerging policy issues for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference at the current session. In addition, the issue of managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives would be considered at the current session.

#### **(a) Lead in paint**

107. Regarding lead in paint, several representatives stressed the continuing danger that it posed to human health and the environment. Representatives welcomed the establishment of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint under UNEP and WHO, and its business plan was viewed as an important tool in addressing the issue. One representative proposed that the Global Alliance report to the Conference at its fourth session on progress made in implementing the business plan. Several representatives expressed support for the proposal to hold an international lead poisoning prevention day of action, with an initial focus on the elimination of lead paint, as part of efforts to raise national awareness of the dangers posed by lead.

108. Some representatives, including one representing a group of countries, proposed changes to the draft omnibus resolution that had been prepared by the Open-ended Working Group in order to make the text more comprehensive and facilitate use of the resolution as an advocacy tool to present to decision makers. Other representatives questioned the need to reopen debate on text that had been agreed upon by the Open-ended Working Group. One representative said that at the time of the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group the Global Alliance had not yet held its second meeting and had not developed its business plan; revisiting the draft resolution would therefore allow the Conference to incorporate elements reflecting those events.

109. The Conference agreed to establish a contact group, chaired by Ms. Cheryl Beillard (Canada) and Mr. Marcus Richards (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), to discuss the matter further and develop a final draft resolution based on that submitted by the Open-ended Working Group and the further suggestions put forward at the current session.

#### **(b) Chemicals in products**

110. The President recalled that the section of the draft omnibus resolution prepared by the Open-ended Working Group pertaining to chemicals in products remained in square brackets to indicate that the Working Group had not achieved consensus on it. The task of the Conference was therefore to achieve consensus on the text if possible.

111. In the ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that there were significant information gaps on chemicals throughout the life cycles of products and that such information was key to enabling all stakeholders to contribute to the fulfilment of the

Strategic Approach objectives. He expressed support for the continuation of the chemicals in products project as proposed in the draft resolution, saying that progress on the issue would be of benefit to every other emerging policy issue and would contribute to the production of safer and greener products and waste prevention. The draft resolution nevertheless required some refinement, however, which there had not been time to achieve at the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, and he accordingly introduced a conference-room paper containing a revised, much shorter, version of the relevant text in the omnibus draft resolution, which he said took into account the views expressed by over 80 stakeholders at an international workshop held in Geneva in March 2011.

112. Several representatives stressed the importance of the chemicals in products project, applauding the revised text in the draft resolution and welcoming it as a basis for further discussion on the matter. One representative said that it improved the focus of the original text, adding that the products in question should be considered throughout the supply chain and that synergies should be sought with, among others, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

113. The representative of a non-governmental organization said that there was a need for cooperation between all stakeholders to ensure that consumers, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, had clear and credible information to help them to decide on the safety of the products on offer. Their decision-making should be driven by knowledge of the issue rather than strictly by product prices, and Governments and industry should not be allowed to withhold relevant information on the grounds of confidentiality. Another issue to consider was that of dumping.

114. The representative of another non-governmental organization suggested the establishment of an information-sharing system backed by international and national legal frameworks; the development of a comprehensive catalogue of chemicals in products, with coordinated information-gathering and standardized names; and the introduction of more programmes capable of reducing the risks posed by chemicals in products.

115. The Conference decided that the contact group established to consider lead in paints would also take up the revised version of the draft resolution text on chemicals in products.

**(c) Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products**

116. With regard to the emerging issue of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the draft resolution text submitted by the Open-ended Working Group. It was a serious issue, of critical importance to human health and the environment. The focus on the upstream, midstream and downstream recommendations emanating from the international workshop convened in 2011 in Vienna pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution II/4 D was a positive development, and cooperation between stakeholders, such as industry, Governments, civil society and relevant intergovernmental organizations, would be crucial to tackling the issue and ensuring the effectiveness of the life-cycle approach. Furthermore, it was important to devote attention to capacity-building to promote sound waste management and to prevent transboundary movements of the products in question from creating problems in developing countries. One representative said that the onus in efforts to avoid such problems should be placed on manufacturers, suggesting that they should be engaged in discussions on the possibility of take-back arrangements. Another emphasized the importance of developing appropriate standards.

117. The representative of one non-governmental organization said that the Vienna workshop's recommendations should form the basis of activities on the issue in the next intersessional period. Its key messages could serve as guidelines for those activities and should be included in an annex to the draft resolution, and a government and/or United Nations agency should be invited to consider assuming the role of an institutional mechanism to coordinate and facilitate the work.

118. The Conference decided that the contact group working on lead in paints and chemicals in products would also take up the draft resolution text on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products in an effort to agree on final text.

119. Regarding the proposal by the African group of countries to add a new work area and activities on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products to the Global Plan of Action (see SAICM/ICCM.3/3), one representative, speaking on behalf of African countries, urged the Conference to approve the proposal. It was a complex, cross-cutting, issue that exemplified synergy among the various multilateral environmental agreements on wastes and chemicals without duplicating activities under their respective mandates. Furthermore, support for the proposal had been expressed in

all but two of the comments received by the secretariat pursuant to the recommendation of the Open-ended Working Group in its decision OEWG.1/1.

120. One representative said that there was indeed scope for adding the issue as a new work area to the Global Plan of Action. Work under the Strategic Approach needed to be coordinated with relevant partners and such a move could serve to complement the actions of other relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the Basel Convention. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that there was a critical link between the issue and sound chemicals and waste management, suggesting that its addition to the Global Plan of Action could lead to increased opportunities in the area of recycling. At the same time, it was important to take into account other processes, such as those under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, and to avoid any possible duplication. His delegation had some suggestions as to how to streamline some activities, which it would be ready to discuss in a contact group.

121. One representative stated that some of the proposed activities duplicated work being done in other forums. Another expressed the concern that adding new work areas to the Global Plan of Action might affect the future effectiveness of activities in existing areas, such as support for developing countries with capacity-building and sharing risk data. His delegation preferred to concentrate on ways to improve the Plan of Action before seeking to expand it.

122. One representative said that the table in annex III to document SAICM/ICCM.3/3, on work areas addressing risk reduction, did not reflect his country's suggestion to include activities aimed at harmonizing policies and recommendations to control trade in e-products and seeking information from recycling companies on how they dealt with e-waste.

123. The Conference decided to refer the proposal for discussion in the contact group established above to consider other emerging policy issues.

**(d) Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials**

124. The President opened the floor for interventions on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials and their proposed addition to the Global Plan of Action.

125. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives drew attention to the lack of available information on the benefits and risks posed by manufactured nanomaterials and the ethical and social issues they raised. They therefore supported technical, institutional and legal information sharing, technology transfer and capacity-building activities, especially in relation to health and environmental protection, so as to develop effective precautionary national and international regulations for the use and disposal of such products. One representative said that nanotechnology was important for sustainable development and economic competitiveness, given that it was used in industries, such as textiles, plastics and paint.

126. A few representatives thanked the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research for initiating three pilot projects on nanosafety in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. They also underlined the important role that the Strategic Approach played in research and dissemination of information on nanomaterials and said that they regarded it as the main platform for debate on effective policy recommendations.

127. Several representatives highlighted the importance of global collaboration in the areas of nanosafety, risk management and public awareness, including workshops on nanosafety and risk management, nanostandardization and regulations, and nanosafety guidelines for factory workers, laboratory personnel and consumers, in line with international best practices.

128. A few representatives supported the development of a register for gathering data on the manufacture and import of nanomaterials, which could be made publicly available. They also said that nanomaterials should be covered by the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

129. Several representatives expressed support for the inclusion of a new work area and activities on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials in the Global Plan of Action, but suggested that the 23 proposed activities needed to be streamlined and clarified.

130. Following its discussion the Conference decided that the contact group on emerging policy issues should work to finalize the draft resolution text on the subject (decision OEWG.1/3 D) and discuss the matter of adding related activities to the Global Plan of Action.

**(e) Managing perfluorinated chemicals**

131. Introducing the item, the President said that there were two matters under consideration: the draft resolution on managing perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) and the transition to safer alternatives prepared by the Open-ended Working Group (decision OEWG.1/3 E); and the progress report on managing PFCs and the transition to safer alternatives (SAICM/ICCM.3/18), along with the draft 2012–2015 programme of work for the Global PFC Group set out in annex I to the progress report.

132. In the ensuing discussion, there was broad support for the management of PFCs under the Strategic Approach and the establishment of the Global PFC Group. A number of representatives expressed support for the Group's draft work programme and for the progress report on managing PFCs and the transition to safer alternatives for the period 2009–2012 submitted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and UNEP to the Open-ended Working Group.

133. A number of representatives voiced concern that developing countries suffered from a lack of sound management of PFCs, poor research, insufficient knowledge on the effects of PFCs on the environment and a lack of financial and technical resources. One suggested that the Global PFC Group should emphasize awareness raising and capacity-building in its future work, particularly for developing countries, many of which lacked the capacity to carry out environmental monitoring.

134. One representative said that, like many countries in his region, his country did not produce or process PFCs but did import products containing them; owing to a lack of appreciation of what those products contained, they were often treated like any other products. It was therefore imperative that more information be made available on PFCs. He expressed appreciation for the draft resolution and the work done to date, but said that the activities proposed by the Global Group were inadequate and proposed that two regional workshops for Africa and at least two pilot projects in Africa on the lifecycle of products containing PFCs be added to the programme of work under activity 5, on information on the uses of PFCs.

135. One representative suggested that it was necessary to prioritize some of the proposed activities under the Group's programme of work and identified the most important as activity 4, preparing and conducting a PFC survey; activity 5, improving information on the uses of PFCs; and activity 2, the development of synthesis papers. A number of representatives said that they supported the inclusion of non-OECD countries in Global Group activities and the PFC survey to facilitate broader participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

136. Another representative said that the scope of PFC compounds addressed under the proposed work programme of the Global Group was unnecessarily restrictive and that there were many others that posed health and environmental threats. The Global Group should expand its mandate and not focus only on substances that industry had already undertaken to phase out. He also proposed that companies listed in the PFC survey should be identified to give more credibility to the Group.

137. A number of representatives proposed that the annex to the draft resolution, setting out the terms of reference for the Global PFC Group, should be removed since the Group was not a subsidiary body of the Conference and the responsibility for the terms of reference lay with the Group itself. Others said that some adjustment to the wording of the resolution was required to reflect the legal relationship between the Conference and the Global Group and to clarify that the Group was not a subsidiary body of the Conference.

138. Following its discussion, the Conference agreed to omit the terms of reference from the draft resolution prepared by the Open-ended Working Group and the secretariat was requested to make the necessary revisions. After discussion of the revised draft resolution in respect of the participation in the Global PFC Group by non-members of OECD, one representative introduced a version of the draft resolution further revised to address that issue.

139. Following consideration of the draft resolution as further revised, the Conference adopted resolution III/3, on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives (see annex I).

**2. New nominations for emerging policy issues**

140. The representative of the secretariat introduced the relevant documentation, including a summary of the two nominations for emerging policy issues on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. She said that the Open-ended Working Group at its first session had decided that environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants did not meet the criteria for consideration as an emerging policy issue but merited further consideration by the Conference and had asked the proponent to develop the proposal further following its third session.

The Working Group had forwarded a draft resolution on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, including text in square brackets to indicate lack of consensus, to the Conference for its consideration and decision.

**(a) Endocrine-disrupting chemicals**

141. The Conference was asked to assess whether the criteria for eligibility as an emerging policy issue of the Strategic Approach had been met in respect of endocrine-disrupting chemicals and, if so, to decide on the proposed collaborative actions. In the ensuing discussion, most of the representatives who spoke welcomed the proposal to include endocrine-disrupting chemicals as an emerging policy issue. Several representatives drew attention to potential and known adverse effects on human health and the environment of exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals. The latency of effects from such chemicals was cited by one representative as a serious challenge. Many representatives stressed the need to protect the most vulnerable groups in society, including women and children. One representative said that the protection of such groups was mentioned repeatedly in the core texts of the Strategic Approach, including its Overarching Policy Strategy. A number of representatives drew attention to the deleterious effects of such chemicals on unborn and newborn babies and children which, said one, constituted preventable harm to one of humankind's most precious resources. Other representatives drew attention to the particular vulnerability of workers.

142. A number of representatives drew attention to the rapid increase in the production and exports of endocrine-disrupting chemicals. Several stressed the importance of activities on such chemicals for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. One drew attention to the particular vulnerability of small island developing States.

143. Several representatives said that it was necessary to apply one or more of the preventive approach, the precautionary principle, the right-to-know principle and the no-harm principle in dealing with endocrine-disrupting chemicals. One representative said that global action must have at its core producer responsibility and the principle of substitution to ensure that the chemicals were progressively replaced with safer alternatives. Representatives highlighted the importance of a number of activities, including capacity-building, awareness-raising, information exchange and networking, bridging knowledge gaps between stakeholders, disseminating existing knowledge and extending that knowledge, elaborating a dynamic list of endocrine-disrupting chemicals for priority action based on existing authoritative lists, introducing labelling requirements and increasing political will to address the issue. A number of representatives underscored the need for indicators to measure the impact and define the scope of endocrine disruption. Several representatives stressed the importance of reducing exposure to known endocrine-disrupting chemicals. One called for case studies to be undertaken on the use of endocrine-disrupting chemicals, including pesticides, with particular attention to effects in utero. Another requested the inclusion in the proposed cooperative actions contained in the nomination document for endocrine-disrupting chemicals (see SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/23) of the development of a report on the chemicals targeted at workers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. One representative called for a two-pronged approach with the improvement of assessment of new and lesser-known endocrine-disrupting chemicals and protection by means of preventive and substitution measures.

144. One representative said that work to determine the potential environmental and human health impacts of endocrine-disrupting chemicals had been continuing in other forums, including OECD, the European Union and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. OECD had published more than 20 guidance documents on the issue. Stressing the importance of the Strategic Approach as a forum for information exchange, he cautioned against the duplication of efforts and failing to add value to existing work. In the light of the continuing work and the limited resources of the Strategic Approach, he did not support the creation, for instance, of an international network of scientists, risk managers and others concerned with endocrine-disrupting chemicals issues.

145. Another representative said that it was important to tackle endocrine-disrupting chemicals but suggested that WHO should finalize its continuing work on the issue before additional activities were undertaken by the Conference. A number of representatives, however, said that a global approach was required to deal with endocrine-disrupting chemicals and that the Strategic Approach, with its inclusive and participatory nature, represented the most appropriate forum for developing such an approach. One representative said that the Strategic Approach was the global framework for dealing with chemicals and had the potential to assess such chemicals across sectors and tackle consequent health and environmental problems in an integrated manner. It was crucial that the potential of the Strategic Approach was fully exploited in that regard. Another representative said that the work of the Strategic Approach was complementary to work on chemicals undertaken in other forums.

146. Two representatives opposed the inclusion of endocrine-disrupting chemicals as an emerging policy issue. One said that knowledge on measuring endocrine disruption was not sufficiently well developed and that near-term work should be focused on the mechanisms of endocrine disruption and how to test for potential effects. Efforts in the context of the Strategic Approach to reflect the outcome of existing activities and exchange experiences with regulatory mechanisms on endocrine-disrupting chemicals were premature. He drew attention to the scientific and technical challenges to testing, screening for and establishing regulations on such chemicals, in the light of which work should focus on disseminating information and awareness-raising at the local and global levels.

147. One representative said that the suggestion that there was a lack of scientific evidence on the harmful effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals was misleading. Ample evidence existed of the need for urgent action on such chemicals, including on the cost of health care in treating diseases in which they were implicated.

148. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, introduced a conference room paper setting out a draft resolution on the adoption of endocrine-disrupting chemicals as an emerging policy issue of the Strategic Approach and setting out means to tackle the issue.

149. Responding to the reference by a number of representatives to a recently concluded report by WHO on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and their calls for its rapid publication, the representative of WHO, welcoming continuing international cooperation on the chemicals, said that the report by UNEP and WHO on the state of the science on endocrine disruptors was undergoing the normal publication clearance process in WHO which, given the importance of the report and its extensive nature, would take some time.

150. Following that discussion, the Conference agreed that the contact group on emerging policy issues would consider the matter further, including the draft resolution referred to above and the possible addition of related activities to the Global Plan of Action.

**(b) Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants**

151. One representative said that the proposal to include environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as an emerging issue required further development, especially with regard to the efficacy and availability of scientific evidence and the varying availability of data at the national level. Resources and sound data collection were needed to ensure a reliable assessment of the issue, especially in developing countries.

152. One of the proponents of the proposal said that significant work had been undertaken on it following the first session of the Open-ended Working Group and that it would be further developed for submission to the Working Group at its second session.

**3. Outcome of the work of the contact group on emerging policy issues**

153. Following the work of the contact group on emerging policy issues the co-chair of the group reported that it had agreed on draft resolution text on emerging policy issues. In addition, the group had agreed to endorse the addition to the Global Plan of Action of new activities in respect of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products.

154. On the basis of the contact group's agreement on new activities, the Conference endorsed the addition to the Global Plan of Action, in two new appendices to table B of the Plan, of the table of activities pertaining to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and the table of activities pertaining to hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (see annex II). The Conference also agreed that the new tables of activities would be preceded in the appendix by a chapeau consisting of previously agreed language in paragraph 3 of the executive summary of the Global Plan of Action, slightly modified as necessary. That chapeau would read as follows:

The tables of activities in the appendices below lists work areas, together with the possible activities associated with them and suggested actors, targets and timeframes, indicators of progress and implementation aspects, in five separate sections corresponding to the five categories of objectives listed in paragraph 2 of the executive summary of the Global Programme of Action. Although each work area is listed under a single principal category in the summary table A of the Global Programme of Action, it may appear under several objectives in the detailed tables below. The columns dealing with suggested actors, targets and timeframes, indicators of progress and implementation aspects were not fully discussed and sufficient time was not

available to achieve agreement on them during the third session of the Conference. Stakeholders, however, might find them useful in their implementation of the relevant activities. A table listing acronyms and abbreviations used in the tables is appended as well.

155. The Conference further agreed that the tables of activities would feature a footnote, also consisting of previously agreed text from paragraph 2 of the executive summary of the Global Programme of Action, slightly modified as necessary. That footnote would read as follows:

The columns in the above table dealing with suggested actors, targets and timeframes, indicators of progress and implementation aspects were not fully discussed and sufficient time was not available to achieve agreement on them during the third session of the Conference.

#### **4. Omnibus resolution**

156. Following the discussions in plenary and the work of the contact group on emerging policy issues, the Conference agreed to treat the issues of lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials and the newly nominated issue of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in a single omnibus resolution. Accordingly, it adopted resolution III/2, on emerging policy issues, as orally amended (see annex I).

### **F. Information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation**

157. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to the relevant documentation for the item and provided an overview of the information clearing-house function of the Strategic Approach.

158. All of the representatives who spoke said that information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation were important to the sound management of chemicals, and many noted the value of the information clearing-house function of the Strategic Approach. A number of representatives, including representatives of regional centres, drew attention to continuing activities related to information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation.

159. One representative expressed his appreciation to the secretariat for its efforts to promote the exchange of information and best practices through the clearing-house function of the Strategic Approach. He encouraged stakeholders to make full use of that function to enhance capacities for the sound management of chemicals. Another representative said that the clearing-house function should be used to collect information from institutions working on chemicals management, research and information generation and to assist countries, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to use and act on such information to reduce human exposures to chemicals and environmental contamination.

160. One representative, saying that access to information was fundamental to preserving human health and the environment, said that information should be easily accessible, available from a wide variety of stakeholders, including Governments, industry, non-governmental organizations and vulnerable populations, and include user-friendly data on the chemical composition of products. Greater transparency was required to ensure that data was readily available. She stressed the importance of more tangible indicators to clarify the hazards of chemicals to which people were exposed. Adequate information exchange between industries and research institutions should support economic development.

161. One representative underlined the need to make accurate information available in a timely manner and to communities in their local languages. He urged Governments to reach out to their citizens, in particular to vulnerable groups such as women, children and indigenous peoples, in accordance with principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. He underscored the importance of capacity-building, technical support and clear accurate information on domestic treaty-related activities and progress to eliminate chemical impacts on human health and the environment.

162. Expressing his appreciation for the clearing-house function of the Strategic Approach, one representative underscored the importance of exploiting synergies with similar mechanisms of other entities, including multilateral environmental agreements and, in particular, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN). Another representative said that non-governmental organizations should be valued as important sources of information.

163. Other issues raised by individual representatives included the need to avoid duplication of efforts in the provision of information; a lack of information on methodologies, analyses and quality control for end-of-life products; the critical challenge for developing countries posed by the illegal traffic of chemicals and their lack of analytical capacity to monitor chemicals in the environment; the need for capacity-building to streamline regulatory procedures; and the need for technical and financial support for the implementation of control measures, including the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

164. The representative of UNEP drew attention to work by UNEP to assess the risks of a number of heavy metals, in particular lead and cadmium, including in the context of partnerships such as the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints and the Global Partnership on Waste Management. He recalled that the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session had invited the Conference at its third session to take account of the information contained in its scientific reviews on lead and cadmium and to consider how the risks from lead and cadmium could be reduced at the local, national, regional and international levels. It had been hoped that a further meeting of the working group on lead and cadmium would be held prior to the third session but UNEP had been unable to convene such a meeting owing to a lack of resources. He said that UNEP would continue to solicit funding to promote information exchange and activities in cooperation with existing mechanisms.

165. The Conference took note of the information provided.

## V. Health sector strategy

166. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that the proposed strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach had been developed for consideration by the Conference at the current session by the secretariat, in consultation with WHO, at the invitation of the Conference in its resolution II/8. The draft strategy (SAICM/ICCM.3/20) had been amended to take account of a number of minor clarifications received by the Open-ended Working Group. It took account of, among other things, the outcomes of consultations held in Ljubljana in February 2010, submissions received through the Strategic Approach website and the outcomes of regional meetings that had taken place since the second session of the Conference.

167. In the ensuing debate, unanimous support was expressed by those who took the floor for the strategy and for greater involvement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach. The strategy was widely welcomed as an essential component in achieving the 2020 goal and many voiced support for the six specific objectives of the strategy and its priorities for action. Sound management of chemicals was important for the protection of human health, and the health sector had a vital role to play in implementation of the Strategic Approach. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that engagement of the health sector was crucial to reducing the use of chemicals and that the capacity of the sector had to be strengthened to tackle chemicals management. Another representative cautioned that implementation of the strategy would require stronger commitment on the part of Governments and proposed that a resolution be drafted inviting WHO to strengthen its cooperation with the Strategic Approach. Others emphasized the importance of private sector involvement in implementation of the strategy and as a mechanism for cooperation with other organizations. One representative said that the challenge was to address the issue at several levels, from policy makers in Governments to doctors and medical workers in cities and villages. Stronger interrelationship between environmental and health agencies was also called for, rather than separate structures. One representative suggested that health issues were more compelling than chemicals management issues and could therefore play an important part in raising awareness and changing behaviour.

168. Many representatives said that the involvement of WHO was vital to implementation of the health sector strategy and called for an enhanced role for the organization, and several voiced concern that the contribution of WHO staff to the secretariat appeared to be at risk. The organization was well placed to stimulate and guide the health sector strategy and several representatives urged that sufficient resources be found to assure its involvement and full support. One representative called for the presence of Strategic Approach focal points in WHO regional offices, with adequate technical and financial resources, given that WHO worked closely with national health ministries. A number of representatives supported the request in the draft strategy for the secretariat, in collaboration with WHO, to report on implementation of the strategy at future sessions of the Conference, beginning with the fourth session.

169. Several representatives drew attention to the issue of financing. One representative recalled that the Open-ended Working Group had emphasized the need for strong financial support and urged a long-term solution for the health sector strategy; there were also calls for more support to WHO. One representative noted that his country had developed national action plans but had been unable to fund them due to budget constraints. Another voiced concern about the lack of budgetary provision for programmes in the regions.

170. One representative proposed three specific measures for strengthening the involvement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach: first, the designation of Strategic Approach national focal points for the health sector, in consultation with WHO, to coordinate activities of the Strategic Approach related to health at the national level, with the aim of achieving a higher and more consistent level of engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach process, including through the development of action plans and activities related to emerging policy issues, and establishing an effective partnership for the achievement of the 2020 goals; second, the creation of a practical, action-oriented approach for the communication, coordination and organization of activities among health, environmental and other related sectors to achieve implementation of the Strategic Approach at the national, regional and global levels, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, for example through better integration of research into health and environmental aspects of chemicals and exposure to them to facilitate informed decision making; third, encouraging WHO to set up a network of Strategic Approach focal points for the health sector to facilitate communication and coordination among them and to reach a wider audience; in this context WHO should also play an advisory role in assisting health-related agencies in developing countries to apply for technical and financial assistance from the Quick Start Programme and other available sources. Those proposals were widely supported by others.

171. One representative, while expressing support for the health sector strategy, argued that since there were differences in the composition of the health systems of different countries, the strategy should not be too prescriptive with regard to responsibilities under the strategy. Work on the implementation of the strategy should be organized by the relevant authorities at the national level, which should be reflected in the guiding principles and the text of the strategy. Other representatives noted that the same applied to the indicators of progress. One representative called for clarity with regard to the Overarching Policy Strategy and assurance that the health sector strategy would support its implementation, asking that the wording of the strategy clearly reflect that position.

172. One representative called for the inclusion of chemical safety in medical school curricula and in hospital infrastructure. He further urged that all human settlements should, as far as possible, be made free of toxic chemicals and that chemicals should be considered as emerging issues in all public health deliberations.

173. Following its discussion the Conference requested the secretariat to prepare a draft resolution on the matter to reflect the views expressed by participants. The Conference then adopted resolution III/4, on a strategy to strengthen the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, as orally amended (see annex I). The health sector strategy as adopted is set out in annex V to the present report.

## **VI. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations**

174. The representative of the secretariat introduced the relevant documentation and outlined the mandates for cooperation between the Strategic Approach and intergovernmental organizations, specifically resolution I/1 of the Conference on implementation arrangements and the 2006 Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations then made presentations on the activities of their organizations relating to the Strategic Approach.

175. The representative of IOMC said that the Programme had nine participating organizations, all of whose governing bodies had endorsed the Strategic Approach and made a commitment to support its effective implementation. IOMC was a member of the Implementation Committee for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund and supported the implementation of many Quick Start projects. As summarized in document SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/9, the range of contributions made by IOMC participating organizations to implementation of the Strategic Approach was as diverse as the organizations themselves, and IOMC had carried out a mapping exercise showing how those organizations had contributed to implementation, including the development of management capacity in the chemicals sphere. Implementation of the Global Plan of Action and the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach was built on the baseline of activities that the IOMC participating

organizations already supported. IOMC recognized that there was a sense of urgency regarding meeting the 2020 targets, and stressed that the focus should be on capacity development and action on the ground among those most directly affected by exposure to chemicals. Finally, he drew attention to the launch of the IOMC toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management.

176. The representative of the Chemical Dialogue of the Committee on Trade and Industry of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) explained that APEC was a forum that promoted regional cooperation among its 21 member economies. As described in document SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/32, the Strategic Framework of the Chemical Dialogue had three main goals: to expand and support cooperation and mutual recognition among chemical regulators in the Asia-Pacific region; to enhance understanding of the chemical industry's role as an innovative solutions industry; and to encourage chemical product stewardship, safe use and sustainability. Three main events had been held during 2012 to promote the activities of the Chemical Dialogue. The work of the Chemical Dialogue made a major regional contribution to implementation of the Strategic Approach, and the projects and initiatives under its action plan were closely aligned with the five core objectives of the Strategic Approach. In conclusion, he said that the Chemical Dialogue would continue to develop new initiatives to address current and emerging challenges faced by the APEC economies.

177. The representative of the Pesticide Action Network urged the Strategic Approach to give greater prominence to agriculture in its activities. Chemicals in agriculture were estimated to have harmful health effects for 41 million people annually, particularly among vulnerable members of the population including peasant farmers and rural women and children. Those groups had limited access to health care, and health practitioners often failed to recognize the symptoms of chemical poisoning. In addition, many official fact sheets on the effects of agricultural chemicals were out of date. The potential of the Strategic Approach could not be realized without more focus on agriculture, and a multi-stakeholder programme should be developed to address the issue of pesticides and the promotion of alternatives, on which a considerable body of knowledge existed.

178. The representative of UNEP reported on the contribution of the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre to implementation of the Strategic Approach, as described in document SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/34. Harmful substances and hazardous waste was one of the six priority thematic areas of UNEP, and the Programme worked through donors, strategic alliances, multi-stakeholder partnerships and other United Nations entities to tackle the issue. The work spanned all the policy objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach.

179. Following the presentations, one representative encouraged all relevant organizations to report on their chemicals-related work to the Conference. In addition, given the potential for educational opportunities highlighted in the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the International Year of Chemistry, 2011, the Conference might consider dedicating a day at its fourth session to technology information exchange, possibly featuring a roundtable of stakeholders.

180. The Conference took note of the information presented.

## **VII. Activities of the secretariat and adoption of the budget**

181. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat said that while the indicative budget for the period 2013–2015 (SAICM/ICCM.3/21/Rev.1, annex) allowed for a 4 per cent increase to cover inflation the actual increase would be larger to meet the costs of meetings and the need to recruit a P-4 level staff member following the decision by the World Health Organization (WHO) to withdraw its staffing contribution. A further revision might be required should the Conference decide to confirm the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group and request the secretariat to convene a second meeting. The secretariat also indicated that the contributions table contained in document SAICM/ICCM.3/21/Rev.1 did not reflect recent pledges of SEK1.5 million from Sweden and \$13,000 from Switzerland, or the receipt of \$68,000 from Norway or the pledge of \$33,647 from Denmark. Total contributions for the period 2010–2012 had fallen between 29 and 46 per cent short of the amounts pledged, in the light of which the Conference might wish to consider whether to revise the secretariat's proposed activities for 2013–2015; a P-3 salary would have to be factored in should it decide to extend the Quick Start Programme.

182. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern that the indicative budget for the period 2013–2015 called for a 36 per cent increase in contributions, saying that that was unaffordable. Given that the secretariat had received just 50 per cent of the total amount pledged for the current budget, the indicative budget should be based on a zero-growth scenario. Options for budget reductions should be discussed in a small group. Another

representative said that any reductions must not affect preparations for a second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, if the Conference decided to confirm its establishment; while there might be room for improvement, the Working Group's value should not be judged solely on the basis of the first meeting.

183. A number of representatives requested more detailed information on the expenditure of funds made available over the previous two years to see how the secretariat had adjusted its priorities in line with the lower than expected income. One suggested that, in view of the magnitude of the shortfall, it might be more realistic to explore other fundraising opportunities and ways to expand the donor base. In response, the representative of the secretariat said that the Conference would be provided with a table detailing expenditures over the previous three years. In the meantime, it was important to note the significant amount of work that the secretariat had undertaken to fulfil both its core mandate under the Overall Policy Strategy and the additional mandates conferred on it at previous sessions of the Conference, as indicated in section III of document SAICM/ICCM.3/21/Rev.1.

184. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and supported by another representative, said that the secretariat should attach to the budget decision a table indicating each country's contribution based on an indicative scale of assessments, rather than on pledges, as it would allow delegations to show their finance ministers that the burden was being shared. Another representative, however, said that her country was not in favour of that option.

185. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they were concerned about understaffing of the secretariat, with five of the eight indicative posts factored into the current budget yet to be filled. It was noted that the secretariat was about to recruit a Quick Start Programme officer, whose duties to date had been assigned to consultants. The use of consultants could affect the quality of the work done on projects owing to a lack of continuity and, in view of the fact that the Conference was currently discussing whether to extend the Programme, it was important to know that staff would be in place to ensure its implementation. Furthermore, a recruitment procedure had been initiated to staff the information clearing-house mechanism but the contract on offer was only for one year. Given that the mechanism was a key part of the Strategic Approach structure, the post in question should be filled on a long-term basis. It was also noted that the Conference was considering, among other things, the progress on four emerging issues, the addition of a new issue and the addition of new activities to the Global Plan of Action but had no clear indication of how adequate staffing would be provided to support those initiatives.

186. Many representatives expressed serious concern over the decision by WHO to discontinue its contribution to the staffing of the secretariat owing to financial constraints. The Organization had played a major part in the establishment and functioning of the secretariat and in developing and carrying forward the health sector strategy. One representative said that that decision went against the spirit of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development's decision to strengthen the Strategic Approach. The representative of a non-governmental organization noted that it would leave UNEP alone in organizing alliances and leading efforts on matters such as the elimination of lead in paint and combating lead poisoning, which was a public health issue in the province of WHO. One representative said that WHO expertise in compiling and disseminating information on exposure to chemicals as a contributory cause of non-communicable diseases was vital to activities to promote sound chemicals management and requested clarification as to whether WHO had withdrawn permanently or temporarily.

187. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the Executive Director of UNEP should be requested to take the matter up with the Director-General of WHO. If he failed to persuade her to reverse the decision, the secretariat should drop its proposal to seek a P-4 level replacement for the seconded WHO staff member, to be funded through cash contributions, and should delegate the work on the health sector strategy to existing staff members. Another representative said that it was the Conference that should request WHO to reconsider its position. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, invited relevant stakeholders to help to mobilize voluntary contributions to encourage WHO to remain in the Strategic Approach. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it had prepared a conference-room paper on the matter.

188. The representative of WHO confirmed that her Organization, owing to financial constraints, was no longer in a position to provide a staff member for the UNEP-administered secretariat. She assured the Conference, however, that WHO was not pulling out of the Strategic Approach, that it would continue to facilitate its implementation by the health-sector, including through its regional and country offices, and that it looked forward to implementation of the health sector strategy, if adopted.

189. The Conference agreed to set up a small group, co-chaired by Mr. Jozef Buys (Belgium) and Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica), to discuss the budget for 2013–2015 and the question of whether to confirm the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group. The group would also discuss the decision by WHO to withdraw its staffing contribution, including the conference room paper on that subject.

190. Following the work of the small group the Conference adopted resolution III/5, on the indicative budget and staffing table for the period 2013–2015 (see annex I).

## **VIII. Venue and date of the fourth session of the Conference**

191. The representative of the secretariat, introducing the relevant documentation, noted that paragraph 26 of the Overarching Policy Strategy provided for the fourth session of the Conference to be held in 2015 unless otherwise decided by the Conference. She also noted that the Overarching Policy Strategy and resolution I/1 of the Conference called for sessions of the Conference, where appropriate, to be held back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations to enhance synergies and cost-effectiveness and to promote the multisectoral nature of the Strategic Approach.

192. One representative said that to date the Conference had not considered or identified a process or criteria to inform its decision-making on the venue and date of sessions of the Conference. He proposed that henceforth the Conference should entrust the Bureau with such decisions and that Bureau members should strive to keep their regions informed. He proposed further that in the interest of transparency and efficiency the secretariat should collect all offers to host Conference sessions and that the Bureau should consider four broad criteria in deciding on venues and dates: the widest possible participation of stakeholders from all relevant sectors and, to the extent possible, the ability to schedule sessions of the Conference back to back with other relevant meetings; the availability of support for the secretariat in the preparation and conduct of Conference sessions; costs (which, using an appropriate exchange rate, should be reasonable and ideally should not exceed the cost of previous meetings or a realistic resource mobilization target) and the extent to which countries offering to host sessions are willing to contribute to defraying them; and the existence of appropriate conference facilities and a secure and safe environment.

193. The Conference agreed that the Bureau, in consultation with the secretariat, would decide on behalf of the Conference on the date and venue of the fourth session, taking into account the criteria outlined in the by the representative in the preceding paragraph.

## **IX. Other matters**

### **A. Highly hazardous pesticides**

194. One representative introduced a conference room paper setting out a draft resolution calling for wider action on highly hazardous pesticides, including greater involvement on the part of United Nations bodies such as UNEP, FAO and WHO.

195. There was general agreement in the ensuing discussion that the issue was an important one, given the severe threat that highly hazardous pesticides posed to the environment and to the health of wildlife, livestock and human beings. Many representatives expressed support for the adoption of the draft resolution. Several representatives, however, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they needed time to study the issue and the draft resolution. Several of the latter group also suggested that work on the issue should be undertaken in preparation for the fourth session of the Conference. Several representatives said that the importance of the issue should be highlighted in the present report, and one suggested that the Bureau should consider how intersessional work on the matter might be undertaken. The representative of FAO said that his organization was working extensively on highly hazardous pesticides and would address them in the forthcoming revision of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. He also said that the organization was willing, subject to available financing, to assist countries in their efforts to reduce the risks and hazards posed by the substances, called on donor countries to facilitate such efforts and urged all countries not to wait until the fourth session of the Conference to act.

### **B. Election of members of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board**

196. In accordance with resolution I/4 of the Conference, the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme consists of representatives of two governmental participants from each of the five United

Nations regional groups. Following their nomination by the regional focal points, the Conference elected the following representatives of governmental participants to serve on the Executive Board:

Africa

Mr. Kouame Georges Kouadio (Côte d'Ivoire)

Mr. Adel Shafei Othman (Egypt)

Asia and the Pacific

Ms. Jing Ye (China)

Mr. Rasio Ridho Sani (Indonesia)

Central and Eastern Europe

Ms. Lindita Tafaj (Albania)

Ms. Tatiana Tugui (Republic of Moldova)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Mr. Lionel Michael (Antigua and Barbuda)

Mr. Francisco Espinosa (Chile)

Western Europe and other States

Mr. Gordo Jain (Germany)

Ms. Ana Corado (United States of America)

### **C. Designation of regional focal points**

197. The Conference was informed that that the regional groups had designated the following new regional focal points, who would begin their terms upon the conclusion of the current session:

Africa

Mr. Jamidu Katima (United Republic of Tanzania)

Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Luay Sadio Almokhtar (Iraq)

Central and Eastern Europe

Ms. Valentina Mart (Serbia)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Ms. Vilma Morales Quillama (Peru)

Western Europe and others

Ms. Elizabeth Williams (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

### **X. Adoption of the report**

198. The Conference adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report set out in documents SAICM/ICCM.3/L.1 and Add.1, as orally amended as described in the following paragraphs.

199. During discussion of the report there was considerable disagreement regarding the accuracy of paragraphs 60–63 in document SAICM/ICCM.3/L.1, which appeared in the section on financial and technical resources for implementation and described the debate among the participants on the subject of the draft proposal of the Executive Director on an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes (SAICM/ICCM.3/12). Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the paragraphs were accurate. Several others, however, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they were unbalanced and overstated the extent of support that had been expressed by representatives for the Executive Director's proposal.

200. In resolving the disagreement the Conference decided:

- (a) That in the final report of the session paragraphs 60 and 61 in document SAICM/ICCM.3/L.1 would be revised to read as they appear in paragraphs 90 and 91 of the present report;
- (b) That the co-chair of the contact group on financial matters would report orally on the discussions in that group and that his report would be summarized in section IV. D. of the final report of the session;
- (c) That a written report on the work of the contact group on financial matters would be prepared by the co-chairs of that group and would be annexed to the final report of the session;
- (d) That, in addition to the changes to paragraphs 60 and 61 in document SAICM/ICCM.3/L.1 referred to above, the statements read by the representatives speaking on behalf of the group of Latin American and Caribbean countries and the European Union would be "accurately reflected" in the final report of the session, in the section on financial and technical resources for implementation.

201. In accordance with the decision of the Conference:

- (a) Paragraphs 60 and 61 in document SAICM/ICCM.3/L.1 were revised to read as they appear in paragraphs 90 and 91 of the present report;
- (b) A summary of the oral report by the co-chair of the contact group on financial matters is set out in paragraphs 100–105 of the present report;
- (c) The written report by the co-chairs of the contact group on financial matters is set out in annex IV to the present report;
- (d) Summaries of the statements read by the representatives of the European Union and the group of Latin American and Caribbean countries on the subject of the Executive Director's proposal are set out, in the order in which they were made, in paragraphs 97 and 98 of the present report.

## **XI. Closure of the session**

202. During the closure of the session, Mr. Kasten gave a statement on behalf of the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, thanking the participants for their hard work and congratulating them on the successful outcome of the session. Following that and other statements in the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the session closed at 10.05 p.m. on Friday, 21 September 2012.

## Annex I

### Resolutions

#### III/I: Financial and technical resources for implementation of the Strategic Approach

*The Conference,*

*Reaffirming* the aim of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to achieve by 2020 the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and reaffirmed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

*Recalling* that the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”,<sup>1</sup> called for the effective implementation and strengthening of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as part of a robust, coherent, effective and efficient system for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle, including to respond to emerging challenges,

*Recalling* paragraph 5 of its resolution II/3, in which it recognized the need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible funding for activities in support of the sound management of chemicals and the achievement of the objectives set forth in the Strategic Approach, taking into account the priorities identified by developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

*Recalling also* its resolution I/4 establishing the Quick Start Programme and resolution II/3 establishing the time limit for contributions to the Trust Fund as the end of its third session,

*Recognizing* the successes to date of the Quick Start Programme, including its trust fund, in providing support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in facilitating the achievement of the 2020 goal of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

*Taking into consideration* that the demand for funding from the Quick Start Programme trust fund remains high and given that there are some Strategic Approach stakeholders requesting support for the first time and some approved projects that have not yet been financed from the trust fund,

*Taking into account* the Quick Start Programme mid-term review and the conclusions and recommendations of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board,

*Welcoming* that the proposal on an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes currently being developed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme covers the Strategic Approach,

*Expressing appreciation* to all donors, implementers and all other partners that have contributed to the success of the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund,

1. *Decides* to extend the term for contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund until its fourth session;
2. *Also decides* that funds committed to projects before the closure of the Quick Start Programme trust fund may be disbursed until all approved projects in the Programme’s portfolio are completed;
3. *Further decides* that the Quick Start Programme will continue to support activities to enable initial capacity-building and implementation consistent with its objectives as set out in section IV of the Overarching Policy Strategy and its strategic priorities unless the Executive Board provides additional operational guidance on the Programme’s strategic priorities;
4. *Acknowledges* that long-term financing of the Strategic Approach should be based on the concept of an integrated approach that, as reflected in the outcome document of the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, includes mainstreaming, industry involvement and external financing, all of which need further clarification in order to become operational;
5. *Requests* that the Strategic Approach be part of any integrated approach for long-term financing of the chemicals and waste cluster;

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

6. *Invites* the Executive Director in the finalization of his proposal on an integrated approach to the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in its deliberations on the proposal to take into consideration the need to strengthen the implementation of the financial consideration as discussed out in paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy in the context of the existing chemicals and waste cluster, taking into account the rich debate held during the third session of the Conference as reflected in the report of that session;

7. *Calls upon* all Strategic Approach stakeholders to provide their views to the Executive Director on his proposal by 10 October 2012;

8. *Invites*, without prejudice to the ongoing process on the Executive Director's draft proposal on an integrated approach to the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, the Global Environment Facility in the process of the sixth replenishment of its trust fund to consider the priorities and activities identified in the Strategic Approach in support of the achievement of its objectives.

## III/2: Emerging policy issues

### A

#### Introduction

*The Conference,*

*Recognizing* the need to take account of current and ever-changing social needs in relation to the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the importance of having procedures that allow due attention to be given to issues that may not have been generally recognized or sufficiently addressed,

*Committed* to implementing the open, transparent procedures for dealing with emerging policy issues, which include effective dialogue with all Strategic Approach stakeholders,

*Expressing appreciation* for the cooperative actions undertaken by relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals on the emerging policy issues of lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials,

*Recalling* its request that the secretariat report on the progress made on the work on emerging policy issues at its third session,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports on progress made on the work on the emerging policy issues of lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;<sup>2</sup>
2. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference at its fourth session on further progress made on the work on emerging policy issues;

### B

#### Lead in paint

*Noting* that lead is a toxic metal whose widespread use has caused environmental contamination and extensive public health problems in many parts of the world, that it can have profound and permanent adverse health effects on children, that while its greatest impacts are on children, it also causes harm in adults, including workers, that there is no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe, and that lead paints have been identified as a significant source of childhood lead exposure,

*Noting also* that good and affordable substitutes for lead pigments and other lead compounds that are used in decorative paints have been widely available for decades,

*Noting further* that paints containing lead, including decorative paints used in homes and schools, are widely available for sale and use in many countries, especially in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

<sup>2</sup> SAICM/ICCM.3/13, SAICM/ICCM.3/14, SAICM/ICCM.3/15, SAICM/ICCM.3/16 and SAICM/ICCM.3/17.

*Recalling* the decision taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to protect children's health from exposure to lead as set out in paragraph 57 of the Summit's Plan of Implementation,<sup>3</sup>

*Having reviewed* the implementation of its resolution II/4 B and its endorsement in that resolution of a global partnership to promote the phase-out of the use of lead in paint,

*Noting* the establishment by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint as the global partnership referred to in resolution II/4 B,

*Welcoming* section I of decision 26/3, on lead and cadmium, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, among other things, to continue to promote and facilitate work in relation to the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization and the report on its progress to date;<sup>4</sup>
2. *Also welcomes* the completion of the business plan for the Global Alliance, which includes specific goals, clear milestones and indicators of progress in achieving a global phase-out of lead in paint;
3. *Recognizes* that national initiatives to eliminate lead paint serve also as examples of a practical enabling demonstration of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
4. *Welcomes* the support for the Global Alliance expressed by participants at Strategic Approach regional meetings in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific;
5. *Also welcomes* the support provided to the Global Alliance by the Global Environment Facility as part of its strategy on sound chemicals management;
6. *Encourages* all Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to contribute to the Global Alliance's work and to provide technical and financial assistance wherever possible, including in the following areas:
  - (a) Raising awareness of toxicity to human health and the environment and alternatives, including filling information gaps on the presence or absence of lead paint on the consumer market of those countries where little or no data are now available and expanding information on lead exposure pathways for vulnerable populations (e.g., children under 6 years of age, paint users and workers in paint production facilities) associated with various paint categories;
  - (b) Guidance and assistance to identify potential lead exposure, including building capacities to conduct blood lead testing and surveillance programmes, to assess residential and occupational risks and to implement public and professional education on the mitigation of lead poisoning;
  - (c) Promotion of international third-party certification of new paint products to help consumers to recognize paint and coatings without added lead, consistent with international obligations;
  - (d) Prevention programmes to reduce exposure, in particular in and around housing, childcare facilities, schools and other buildings where lead paint has been used in the past and in industrial facilities producing or using paint that contain added lead compounds;
  - (e) Promotion of national regulatory frameworks, as appropriate, to stop the manufacture, import, export, sale and use of lead paints and products coated with lead paints;
  - (f) Encouraging companies to substitute lead compounds added to paint with safer alternatives;

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>4</sup> See SAICM/ICCM.3/14.

7. *Expresses support* for the Global Alliance's proposal to establish an international lead poisoning prevention day of action, with an initial focus on the elimination of lead in paints, and encourages all Governments, industry and civil society organizations in all regions to organize related activities in cooperation with the Global Alliance;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, as the secretariat of the Global Alliance, to report on progress in the implementation of the business plan of the Global Alliance to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session;

## C

### Chemicals in products

*Recalling* its resolution II/4 C, in which it decided to implement a project with the overall objective of promoting the implementation of paragraph 15 (b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach that would, among other things, include the development of specific recommendations for further international cooperative action for consideration by the Conference at its third session,

*Acknowledging with appreciation* the progress made in implementing the specific tasks set out in resolution II/4 C, including the survey on priority product sectors and types of information needed, the study on existing information systems and stakeholder needs, the sector case studies, the synthesis report and the results and conclusions of the meetings held since the second session of the Conference,

*Acknowledging* the existing information system initiatives and standards with a view to learning from them and sharing best practices,

*Having considered* the results of the project activities, and especially the suggested elements for further international cooperative action as identified by the international workshop on the chemicals in products project held in March 2011,

1. *Agrees* to continue the multi-stakeholder project established under resolution II/4 C (hereinafter "CiP") to undertake cooperative actions to address the need to improve the availability of and access to relevant information on chemicals in products in the supply chain and throughout their life cycles to facilitate the efforts of all stakeholders to contribute to the overall objective of the Strategic Approach that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, taking into account in particular paragraphs 15 (a)–(c) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach;

2. *Decides* that under the CiP a proposal will be developed for a voluntary international programme for information on chemicals in products along the supply chain and throughout their life cycles (hereinafter the "CiP programme") with the aim of facilitating and guiding the provision and availability of, and access to, relevant information on chemicals in products among all stakeholder groups by building on CiP activities, results and recommendations to date, taking into account the elements identified during the March 2011 workshop on the CiP;

3. *Agrees* that in the development of the proposal for an international CiP programme the following tasks shall be undertaken:

(a) Identification of the roles and suggestions for responsibilities of the major stakeholder groups while providing for flexible and differentiated approaches to meeting the needs of individual sectors and individual stakeholder groups throughout product life cycles, with special attention paid to the needs of vulnerable populations, developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(b) Development of guidance on what information could be transferred and how information access and exchange could take place to meet the needs of various stakeholder groups throughout product life cycles; considering best practices and successful experiences and taking into account paragraph 15 (c) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach;

(c) Implementation of pilot projects to demonstrate the applicability of the guidance developed under the proposed CiP programme in one or more priority sectors,<sup>5</sup> subject to stakeholder participation and available resources;

(d) Implementation of activities aimed at raising consumer awareness and gaining broader support from business, industry and other stakeholders;

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<sup>5</sup> Building materials, electronics, textiles and toys.

4. *Recognizes* the importance of the involvement of chemicals management experts from various sectors, including sectors relating to the various phases of the life cycles of products, in the development of the CiP programme, and in particular recommends the inclusion of chemicals management experts representing final product manufacturers and the waste sector in the current steering group established under resolution II/4 C;
5. *Requests* that the CiP programme take into account the Globally Harmonized System of the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and avoid duplication of efforts with that system;
6. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare relevant documents and to facilitate a multi-stakeholder workshop to consider the outcomes of paragraph 3;
7. *Encourages* the private sector, Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the development of the proposal for the CiP programme, including associated pilot demonstration projects, and urges all stakeholders to provide adequate human, financial and in-kind resources on a voluntary basis;
8. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to lead the CiP in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, and to submit the proposal for a voluntary international programme for information on chemicals in products to the International Conference on Chemicals Management for consideration at its fourth session;

## D

### **Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products**

*Recalling* its resolution II/4 D on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products,

*Recognizing* that hazardous chemicals within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products can pose severe risks to the health of workers and communities and the environment where such products are made, recycled and disposed of if not managed in a safe and environmentally sound manner,

*Recognizing also* that actions to address the risks posed by such chemicals can be taken at various points in their life cycle, whether upstream, midstream or downstream,

*Recognizing further* the work at regional meetings held under the auspices of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management from 2009 to 2011,

*Recognizing* the synergistic role that the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal play when addressing hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products,

*Recognizing also* the efforts of industry and other stakeholders in addressing hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products,

*Noting with appreciation* the successful conduct of the international workshop on hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products held in Vienna from 29 to 31 March 2011, as proposed in resolution II/4 D,

1. *Encourages* all stakeholders to consider the recommendations made and the key messages delivered on hazardous chemicals within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products by the participants in the above-mentioned workshop when deciding on further actions to take in respect of such chemicals;
2. *Invites* the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the World Customs Organization, Governments, the health sector, industry, civil society and other stakeholders to consider taking further action and taking the lead in relevant activities;
3. *Decides* to continue to work to identify, compile and create an international set of best practice resources on topics in this area, drawing on existing initiatives and opportunities for collaboration within the Strategic Approach and with other international forums, which may include, inter alia:
  - (a) Tools that lead to progress in the development of designs that reduce and eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals in the production of electrical and electronic products;

- (b) Business standards and practices for tracking and disclosing the presence of hazardous chemicals in the manufacturing, use and end-of-life stages of electrical and electronic products;
  - (c) Tools and information on potential safer substitutes for chemicals of concern in electrical and electronic product applications;<sup>6</sup>
  - (d) Green purchasing strategies of businesses and Governments;
  - (e) Extended producer responsibility policies of businesses and Governments;
  - (f) Provisional strategies and actions in design and manufacturing that should be implemented until elimination is possible or safer substitutes are available;
4. *Invites* participating organizations and other stakeholders to report on progress made to the Conference at its fourth session;
  5. *Invites* donors, including Governments and public and private organizations, to provide, as appropriate, financial and in-kind resources for further work in this area;

## E

### Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

*Mindful* of the overarching goal articulated in paragraph 23 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to ensure that by 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health,<sup>7</sup>

*Recalling* the Dakar Statement on Manufactured Nanomaterials adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its sixth session,

*Recalling also* its resolution II/4 E on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials,

*Considering* the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

*Considering also* the resolutions on nanotechnologies adopted by the group of African countries and the group of Latin American and Caribbean countries at their regional meetings held during the period 2009–2011,

*Taking into account* the continuing work of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, its participating organizations and the International Organization for Standardization, including lessons learned on effective mechanisms for information exchange,

*Welcoming* the report on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials prepared by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management for the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session, in particular its conclusions recommending further actions to be taken under the Strategic Approach,<sup>8</sup>

*Encouraging* Strategic Approach stakeholders to consider the need to address the environmentally sound management of manufactured nanomaterials in relevant international instruments, taking into consideration enhancing coordination and cooperation in the chemicals and waste cluster,

1. *Underlines* that the Strategic Approach provides a suitable framework for addressing nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;
2. *Encourages* all Strategic Approach stakeholders to facilitate the exchange of information on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials in order to improve global transparency and allow better decision-making processes, noting that examples of such information

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<sup>6</sup> From the Overarching Policy Strategy, paragraph 14. d. i.: “Groups of chemicals that might be prioritized for assessment and related studies include: persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances (PBTs); very persistent and very bioaccumulative substances; chemicals that are carcinogens or mutagens or that adversely affect, inter alia, the reproductive, endocrine, immune, or nervous systems; persistent organic pollutants (POPs); mercury and other chemicals of global concern; chemicals produced or used in high volumes; those subject to wide dispersive uses; and other chemicals of concern at the national level.”

<sup>7</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>8</sup> SAICM/OEWG.1/12.

might include information on risk assessments, risk reduction measures and environmental, health and safety research;

3. *Recommends* the development of international technical and regulatory guidance and training materials for the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials;
4. *Requests* all Strategic Approach stakeholders to continue to support public dialogue on all aspects of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, including on the benefits and risks of manufactured nanomaterials throughout their life cycles;
5. *Invites* relevant international organizations, including the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, to continue to support efforts to facilitate capacity-building information exchange, develop guidance and training materials and support public dialogue regarding nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;
6. *Calls for* members of industry to continue and enhance their stewardship role and responsibilities as manufacturers and suppliers of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and to participate in and support awareness-raising, information exchange, training activities, public dialogue and risk research;
7. *Invites* the United Nations committees of experts on the transport of dangerous goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals to take into account the progress on international scientific work to review the applicability of the Globally Harmonized System criteria to manufactured nanomaterials and, if necessary, to prepare a workplan for adapting those criteria;
8. *Invites* all stakeholders, in particular manufacturers and suppliers of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, to generate information on manufactured nanomaterials to facilitate their safe handling and use throughout their life cycles and to make that information available;
9. *Recommends* that further pilot projects be developed at the national level to enhance stakeholder capacity for the sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;
10. *Also recommends* that, where appropriate, intersessional activities identified in previous paragraphs related to manufactured nanomaterials include consideration of their full life cycles and occupational exposure;
11. *Invites* the secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the Conference at its fourth session;

## F

### Endocrine-disrupting chemicals

*Mindful* of the overarching goal of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as set out in paragraph 23, of ensuring that by 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health,<sup>9</sup>

*Mindful also* of the non-binding, voluntary and multi-stakeholder nature of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which is aimed at achieving the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycles,

*Recognizing* the potential adverse effects of endocrine disruptors on human health and the environment,

*Recognizing also* the need to protect humans, and ecosystems and their constituent parts that are especially vulnerable, as set forth in, inter alia, paragraph 14 (b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach,

*Considering* the particular needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

*Recognizing* the continuing efforts by Strategic Approach stakeholders, including

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<sup>9</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society, the scientific community, public interest non-governmental organizations, trade unions and the health sector,

1. *Agrees* that international cooperation to build awareness and understanding and promote actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals is an emerging policy issue;
2. *Considers* that information dissemination and awareness-raising on endocrine-disrupting chemicals are particularly relevant and that improving the availability of and access to information on such chemicals is a priority;
3. *Recognizes* the current knowledge gaps on exposure to and the effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals;
4. *Also recognizes* the current difficulties faced by some countries in mobilizing the resources required to tackle endocrine-disrupting chemicals as an emerging policy issue;
5. *Decides* to implement cooperative actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders;
6. *Invites* the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, within their respective mandates as part of their programmes of work, to lead and facilitate the cooperative actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals in an open, transparent and inclusive manner by building on existing activities of all participants in the Strategic Approach that will:
  - (a) Provide up-to-date information and scientific expert advice to relevant stakeholders for the purpose of identifying or recommending potential measures that could contribute to reductions in exposures to or the effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals, in particular among vulnerable populations, through, inter alia, timely updates to the 2012 report on the state of the science of endocrine-disrupting chemicals, published jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, with particular attention to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
  - (b) Raise awareness and facilitate science-based information exchange, dissemination and networking on endocrine-disrupting chemicals through, inter alia, activities at all levels and the use of the Strategic Approach clearing house;
  - (c) Provide international support for activities to build capacities in countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, for generating information and for assessing issues related to endocrine-disrupting chemicals in order to support decision-making, including the prioritization of actions to reduce risks;
  - (d) Facilitate mutual support in research, the development of case studies and advice on translation of research results into control actions;
7. *Also invites* the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to develop a plan of work for the cooperative actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and in consultation with participants of the Bureau of the Conference, in its development and to publish the plan on the Strategic Approach clearing-house website;
8. *Requests* all interested stakeholders and organizations to provide support, including expertise and financial and in-kind resources, on a voluntary basis, for the cooperative actions, including by participating in developing and making available relevant information and guidance;
9. *Invites* the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to report on the cooperative actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and its achievements and recommendations for further possible cooperative actions for the consideration of the Conference at its fourth session.

### **III/3: Managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives**

*The Conference,*

*Recalling* its resolution II/5 on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made to gather and exchange information on perfluorinated chemicals to support the implementation of resolution II/5 and the transition to safer alternatives;

2. *Notes* that a significant need remains for additional work to support the implementation of resolution II/5;
3. *Takes note* of the establishment of the Global PFC Group by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme;
4. *Invites* the Global PFC Group to broaden participation in the work on perfluorinated chemicals beyond the member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development as an important mechanism for achieving further progress in this area and to report on progress to the Conference at its fourth session;
5. *Also invites* the Global PFC Group to collaborate closely with the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on activities related to perfluorinated chemicals.

#### **III/4: Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach**

*The Conference,*

*Mindful* of the importance of the health sector and its roles and responsibilities in helping to achieve the sound management of chemicals,

*Recalling* its resolution II/8, in which it invited the Strategic Approach secretariat to develop, in consultation with the World Health Organization, a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach,

*Recognizing* the broad support of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the health strategy,

*Recognizing also* the diverse nature of the health sector in different countries and that at the national level a number of Government ministries and health-related organizations have responsibilities for health matters, as well as the key role of the World Health Organization in this area,

1. *Agrees* to adopt the strategy on strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach set out in annex V to the report of its third session;<sup>10</sup>
2. *Requests* the World Health Organization to report, in collaboration with the secretariat, on the implementation of the strategy at sessions of the Conference, commencing with the fourth session.

#### **III/5: Indicative budget and staffing table for the period 2013–2015**

*The Conference, Taking into account* the call made at United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to strengthen the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

*Recalling* that funding for the Strategic Approach secretariat is provided on a voluntary basis,

*Noting* with concern that there is currently a shortfall in the resources received for the work of the secretariat compared with the revenue foreseen in the 2010–2012 indicative budget and that currently only a limited number of contributors have provided financial support to the secretariat,

*Recalling* its resolution I/1 and decision SS.IX/1 of 9 February 2006 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which assigns to the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization lead roles in the secretariat in their respective areas of expertise,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work undertaken by the secretariat since the adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
2. *Approves* the staffing structure and indicative budget for the secretariat for the period 2013–2015 set out in tables 1 and 2 of the present resolution;

<sup>10</sup> SAICM/ICCM.3/24, annex V.

3. *Welcomes* the contribution made by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization in providing the secretariat with staff posts at the P-5 and P-4 levels, respectively;
4. *Draws the attention* of all Governments to the financial needs of the secretariat reflected in the indicative budget, invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to make information on those needs available to the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme and, in that context, urges all Governments in a position to do so to contribute;
5. *Welcomes* the financial contribution by the International Council of Chemical Associations in 2011 to the indicative budget of the secretariat and encourages all stakeholders and organizations other than Governments to consider making such contributions in the future;
6. *Notes with concern* the withdrawal of support by the World Health Organization owing to its financial constraints and calls upon the Organization to continue supporting the work of the secretariat in its areas of expertise by reassigning a staff member to the secretariat at the earliest date possible;
7. *Invites* the Coordinator of the Strategic Approach secretariat and the Joint Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to further increase synergies in the implementation of their respective information clearing houses;
8. *Confirms* the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group, in accordance with resolution II/6, to prepare for the fourth session of the Conference in 2015 and requests the secretariat to organize the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in 2014, bearing in mind the need to keep the length of the meeting as short as possible;
9. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a budget for the period 2016–2018 for consideration by the Conference at its fourth session.

Table 1

**Indicative staffing table and standard salary cost for Geneva 2013–2015**

(United States dollars)

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>2013–2015</i>
A. Professional category	
P-5	1
P-4 (formerly provided by the World Health Organization)	1
P-4	1
P-3	2
P-2	2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7</b>
B. General Service category	1
<b>Total (A + B)</b>	<b>8</b>

<i>Standard staff costs (revised) (per post)<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
A. Professional category			
P-5	288 000	299 728	311 717
P-4	242 200	251 888	261 964
P-3	202 000	210 080	218 483
P-2	158 600	164 944	171 542
B. General Service category			
G-4	139 400	144 976	150 775

<sup>a</sup> United Nations standard salary costs for Geneva (2013).

Table 2

**Indicative budget for the Strategic Approach secretariat for the period 2013-2015**

(United States dollars)

			2013	2014	2015	Total
<b>10</b>	<b>Project personnel component</b>					
	<b>1100</b>					
	1101	Senior Programme Officer, Strategic Approach Coordinator, P-5 <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0	0
	1102	Programme Officer P-4 (Formerly provided by the World Health Organization)	0	0	0	0
	1103	Programme Officer P-4	242 200	251 888	261 964	756 052
	1104	Programme Officer P-3	0	0	0	0
	1105	Associate Programme Officer P-2	158 600	164 944	171 542	495 086
	1106	Programme Officer P-3 Quick Start Programme trust fund	202 000	210 080	218 483	630 563
	1107	Associate Programme Officer P-2 Quick Start Programme trust fund	158 600	164 944	171 542	495 086
	<b>1199</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>761 400</b>	<b>791 856</b>	<b>823 531</b>	<b>2 376 787</b>
	<b>1200 Consultants</b>					
	1201	<b>Consultants Strategic Approach</b>	165 000	165 000	165 000	495 000
	<b>1299</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>165 000</b>	<b>165 000</b>	<b>165 000</b>	<b>495 000</b>
	<b>1300 Administrative support</b>					
	1301	Secretary (Strategic Approach) G-4/5	139 400	144 976	150 775	435 151
	1303	Conference services (OEWG.2)	0	400 000	0	400 000
	1304	Conference services (ICCM.4)	0	0	600 000	600 000
	1320	Overtime/temporary assistance	0	0	12 000	12 000
	<b>1399</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>139 400</b>	<b>544 976</b>	<b>762 775</b>	<b>1 447 151</b>
	<b>1600 Travel on official business</b>					
	1601	Staff travel on official business	60 000	60 000	60 000	180 000
	<b>1699</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>60 000</b>	<b>60 000</b>	<b>60 000</b>	<b>180 000</b>
	<b>1999</b>	<b>Component total</b>	<b>1 125 800</b>	<b>1 561 832</b>	<b>1 811 306</b>	<b>4 498 938</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Subcontract component</b>					
	<b>2100 Subcontracts (letters of agreement for cooperating agencies)</b>					
	2101	ICCM.4 hosting	0	0	0	0
	<b>2199</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

		2013	2014	2015	Total
<b>2200</b>	<b>Subcontracts (letters of agreement for supporting organizations)</b>				
2201	Regional meetings hosting	0	0	0	0
<b>2299</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2999</b>	<b>Component total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Training component</b>				
<b>3100</b>	<b>Meetings/conferences</b>				
3101	Quick Start Programme Executive Board participant travel	25 000	25 875	26 780	77 655
3102	Regional meetings participant travel	174 000	182 700	0	356 700
3103	OEWG2 participant travel	0	280 000	0	280 000
3104	Bureau meetings participant travel	25 000	25 875	26 780	77 655
3105	ICCM4 participant travel	0	0	800 000	800 000
<b>3399</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>224 000</b>	<b>514 450</b>	<b>853 560</b>	<b>1 592 010</b>
<b>3999</b>	<b>Component total</b>	<b>224 000</b>	<b>514 450</b>	<b>853 560</b>	<b>1 592 010</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>Equipment and premises component</b>				
<b>4100</b>	<b>Expendable equipment (items under \$1,500)</b>				
4101	Office supplies	0	1 200	1 200	2 400
4102	Computer software	0	2 000	2 000	4 000
<b>4199</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3 200</b>	<b>3 200</b>	<b>6 400</b>
<b>4200</b>	<b>Non-expendable equipment (see items listed on budget worksheet)</b>				
4201	Computer hardware	0	4 000	4 000	8 000
<b>4299</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4 000</b>	<b>4 000</b>	<b>8 000</b>
<b>4300</b>	<b>Premises (rent)</b>				
4301	Office rental and premises	0	16 377	16 868	33 245
<b>4399</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16 377</b>	<b>16 868</b>	<b>33 245</b>
<b>4999</b>	<b>Component total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23 577</b>	<b>24 068</b>	<b>47 645</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>Miscellaneous component</b>				
<b>5200</b>	<b>Reporting costs</b>				
5201	Printing and translation costs	7 000	7 245	7 500	21 745
5202	Publication of Strategic Approach texts	20 000	0	0	20 000

		2013	2014	2015	Total
<b>5299</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>27 000</b>	<b>7 245</b>	<b>7 500</b>	<b>41 745</b>
<b>5300</b>	<b>Sundry</b>				
5301	Communications (telex, telephone, fax, internet)	0	25 750	26 523	52 273
<b>5399</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25 750</b>	<b>26 523</b>	<b>52 273</b>
<b>5500</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>				
5501	Evaluation consultant	0	0	15,000	15 000
<b>5499</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15 000</b>	<b>15 000</b>
<b>5999</b>	<b>Component total</b>	<b>27 000</b>	<b>32 995</b>	<b>49 023</b>	<b>109 018</b>
<b>Direct project cost</b>		<b>1 376 800</b>	<b>2 132 854</b>	<b>2 737 957</b>	<b>6 247 611</b>
<b>Programme support cost (13 per cent)</b>		<b>178 984</b>	<b>277 271</b>	<b>355 934</b>	<b>812 189</b>
<b>99</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1 555 784</b>	<b>2 410 125</b>	<b>3 093 891</b>	<b>7 059 800</b>

<sup>a</sup>The SAICM Coordinator P-5 post is funded through the UNEP Environment Fund.

## Annex II

### **Inclusion of new activities relating to the environmentally sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach**

In accordance with the agreed procedure<sup>a</sup> for the addition of new activities to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach, the following activities relating to environmentally sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products are included in the Global Plan of Action.

Appendix 1 below provides a summary of new work areas and activities relating to environmentally sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. Appendix 2 below provides a summary of new work areas and activities relating to hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products. The two appendices will be included as appendix 1 and appendix 2 to table B of the Global Plan of Action.

The tables in appendices 1 and 2 list the work areas together with possible activities, indicators of progress and implementation aspects, in separate sections corresponding to the relevant categories of objectives listed in paragraph 2 of the executive summary of the Global Programme of Action. Although each work area is listed under a single principal category in the summary table A of the Global Programme of Action, it may appear under several objectives in the detailed tables below. The columns dealing with suggested actors, targets and timeframes, indicators of progress and implementation aspects were not fully discussed and sufficient time was not available to achieve agreement on them during the third session of the Conference. Stakeholders, however, might find them useful in their implementation of the relevant activities. A table listing acronyms and abbreviations used in the tables is set out in appendix 3 below.

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<sup>a</sup> SAICM/ICCM.2/15, annex II.

## Appendix 1

### Appendix 1 to table B of the Global Plan of Action

#### Work activities relating to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials<sup>a</sup>

<b>WORK AREAS ADDRESSING RISK REDUCTION (OBJECTIVE 1)</b>					
<b>Work areas</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Actors</b>	<b>Targets/Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators of progress</b>	<b>Implementation aspects</b>
Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials	1. Contribute to the development, promotion and adoption of internationally recognized technical guidelines and harmonized standards relating to manufactured nanomaterials.	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs, IOMC, OECD, ISO	2012–2017	Development of internationally recognized guidelines and standards  Increased awareness and use of these guidelines and standards	
	2. Develop approaches to protect workers, the public and the environment from potential harm related to manufactured nanomaterials.	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs, workers organizations	2012–2018	Development of relevant policy, law and regulatory frameworks  Development of best working practices	
	3. Increase the active involvement of the health sector in order to enhance understanding of possible short-term to long-term occupational health impacts of manufactured nanomaterials.	IOMC (WHO, ILO, OECD), national Governments, industry NGOs and other interested stakeholders	2012–2020	WHO/ILO project to identify, treat and track diseases potentially caused by occupational exposure to manufactured nanomaterials  Number of work-related diseases	Biomonitoring and health surveillance of workers  Collaboration of the health sector with worker protection authorities and industry  Implementation of preventive interventions, when necessary

<b>WORK AREAS ADDRESSING KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION (OBJECTIVE 2)</b>					
<b>Work areas</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Actors</b>	<b>Targets/Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators of progress</b>	<b>Implementation aspects</b>
Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials	4. Increase understanding of the environmental, public and occupational health and safety implications, including risk assessment, of manufactured nanomaterials through coordination, support and/or funding for scientifically sound research.	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, academia, NGOs and other interested groups	2012–	Number of publicly available peer reviewed research papers on hazards and risks  Funding for public research on nanomaterials  Number of funding opportunities available to promote nanomaterial research	Funding  Publications
	5. Enhance information and knowledge sharing on manufactured nanomaterials regarding international, national and regional policy and regulatory initiatives.	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs, academia	2012–	Stakeholder access to information on hazards and risks of nanomaterials  Number of national and regional workshops on nanomaterials	Awareness raising  Capacity-building
	6. Highlighting possible synergies with activities undertaken under activity 210 of the Global Plan of Action, explore the development of registers/inventories and/or market assessment activities relating to manufactured nanomaterials.	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs, academia, other interested groups	2012–2018	Number of national or regional inventories developed	Establishment of inventories or registries  Legislation
	7. Promote the availability of information on the presence of manufactured nanomaterials within the product supply and use chain and throughout product life cycles, which could include possible labelling, consistent with relevant international obligations, and/or other forms of guidance relating to consumer products containing manufactured nanomaterials.	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012–2018	Number of products labelled	Legislation  Voluntary schemes

<b>WORK AREAS ADDRESSING GOVERNANCE (OBJECTIVE 3)</b>					
<b>Work areas</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Actors</b>	<b>Targets/Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators of progress</b>	<b>Implementation aspects</b>
	8. Review the applicability of the GHS criteria for manufactured nanomaterials as well as how information on safe use should be included in MSDS.	Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System on Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	2012–2015	Incorporation of criteria for manufactured nanomaterials into GHS  Relevant information about nanomaterials included in MSDS	Revision of “Purple Book”
	9. Promote public awareness-raising activities on manufactured nanomaterials in all regions.	National Governments, international organizations, NGOs, industry, trade unions, chambers of commerce	2012–2015		
Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials	10. Promote the development of country-specific approaches, incorporating life cycle thinking, to nanomaterials in existing national frameworks, policies, regulatory provisions, best practice guidelines and chemical management programmes.	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012–2018	Number of chemicals management programmes covering nanomaterials  Reports on regulatory and institutional gaps  Regulatory provisions covering nanomaterials	
	11. Promote producer responsibility for providing appropriate guidance on safe use of manufactured nanomaterials throughout the supply chain, including the waste stage.	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012–	Relevant legislation or/and best practices  Number of countries that have extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes in place (voluntary or mandatory)  Number of manufacturers applying EPR schemes	Development of pilot projects for the sustainable management of waste containing nanomaterials
	12. Promote coordinated international, regional and national policy strategies regarding the opportunities and risks of nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials.	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs	2012–	Number of national policy and institutional coordination plans in place	Involvement of all stakeholders and use of internationally developed and accepted guidelines

<b>WORK AREAS COVERING CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION (OBJECTIVE 4)</b>					
<b>Work areas</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Actors</b>	<b>Targets/Time frames</b>	<b>Indicators of progress</b>	<b>Implementation aspects</b>
Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials	13. Promote public and private sectors partnerships for the environmentally sound management of manufactured nanomaterials to assist countries, in particular developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, to build scientific, technical, and legal capacity.	National Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, industry, NGOs, academia	2012–2015	Number of public/private partnerships signed	

<sup>a</sup>The columns dealing with suggested actors, targets and time frames, indicators of progress and implementation aspects were not fully discussed and sufficient time was not available to achieve agreement on them during the third session of the Conference.

## Appendix 2

### Appendix 2 to table B of the Global Plan of Action

#### Work activities relating to hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products<sup>a</sup>

Work areas	Activities	Actors	Targets/Time frames	Indicators of progress	Implementation aspects
E-products green design	1. Compile and communicate lists of chemicals of concern to human health and/or the environment in e-products.	National and regional authorities, Stockholm Convention, Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres, SAICM secretariat, industry, NGOs, PACE, StEP, UNIDO, academic and research institutions	2012–2015	Database and information freely available on hazards and risks of hazardous chemicals in e-products	IOMC coordination  Creation of coordination committees at the national level and networks (global, regional and national) involving all key stakeholders
	2. Promote public and private partnerships, including on product stewardship approaches and extended producer responsibility, for the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances in e-products during production, use and at the end of life.	National and regional authorities, industry, NGOs, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, SAICM secretariat, Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres, PACE, StEP, UNIDO, academic and research institutions	2012–2015	Number of partnerships established  Number of partnership projects undertaken	Establishment or use of existing private-public partnership initiatives and global, regional and national networks involving all key stakeholders

Work areas	Activities	Actors	Targets/Time frames	Indicators of progress	Implementation aspects
	3. Assess and fill gaps in existing policies and legal and institutional frameworks addressing design of e products as applicable.	National and regional authorities, NGOs, Basel Convention regional centres, Stockholm Convention, UNIDO, academic and research institutions	2012–2015	Reports on regulatory and institutional gaps in green e-product design  Number of countries and regional authorities with relevant policies, laws, regulations and guidelines  Relative reduction in toxic chemicals in e-products	Inter-agency and multi-stakeholder committees created
	4. Encourage approaches to green design of e-products by quantifying materials that they could recover and identifying the tools and best practices that advance design for hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution.  Work with retailers to raise the range of sustainable products available for consumers.	National and regional authorities, industry, NGOs, StEP, UNIDO, UNEP/IETC, Stockholm Convention, academic and research institutions	2012–2015	Number of green design tools identified  Best practices guidance developed	National, regional and global coordination  Partnerships in cooperation with industry
	5. Adopt policy instruments taking into account the need to ensure that they addresses the hazard and actions that support hazardous chemical reduction, elimination and substitution in electrical and electronic products.  When doing so, consider the work of standardization bodies on the definition of threshold values for the maximum content of hazardous substances in products and measurement methods.	National and regional authorities, industry, NGOs, academic and research institutions	2012–2015	Number of instruments and policy actions adopted and implemented  Hazardous chemicals in electrical and electronic products regulated  Disclosure of hazardous chemical ingredients across supply chain  Green electrical and electronic product procurement initiatives undertaken	Global, regional and national coordination
Environmentally sound manufacturing of e-products	6. Promote sustainable production and pollution prevention and encourage sustainable consumption of e-products.	National and regional authorities, industry, NGOs, UNIDO, UNEP/DTIE, UNITAR, Stockholm	2012–2015	Pollution prevention tools in place  Level of compliance with international best practices achieved	Infrastructure Technical capacity

Work areas	Activities	Actors	Targets/Time frames	Indicators of progress	Implementation aspects
		Convention, Basel Convention regional centres, cleaner production centres		Awareness-raising materials available  Pollution monitoring schemes in place	
	7. Prioritize the reduction of exposure; eliminate or substitute hazardous substances of concern <sup>b</sup> in e-products and their production processes; and promote procurement processes that include this objective.	National and regional authorities, industry, NGOs, UNIDO, WHO, ILO, UNITAR, StEP, UNEP/DTIE, Stockholm Convention	2012–2015	Number of effective substitutes and alternatives produced  Improvement of the health status of workers and local communities through the use of alternatives and substitutes	
	8. Conduct research and development on safer chemicals substitutes, alternatives and safer production processes for e-products.	National and regional authorities, industry, NGOs, UNIDO, UNITAR, Basel Convention regional centres, UNEP/DTIE, Stockholm Convention, World Bank, academic and research institutions	2012–2015	Number of research outputs  Number of research successes achieved  Development of safer substitutes and safer production processes	Provision of research and capacity-building assistance, including training and methodologies
	9. Formulate, promote and implement health-based exposure limits for workers handling e-products that provide equal protection in the workplace and the community.	National and regional authorities, industry, NGOs, ILO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR, ISO, academic and research institutions, and the World Bank	2012–2015	Number of policies, laws and regulations developed and enforced  Number of illegal traffic shipments returned to their countries of origin	Multi-stakeholder participation  Coordination of existing initiatives on the control of transboundary movement of e-waste and illegal shipment
	10. Identify opportunities to support the work of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention in developing policies on the environmentally sound management of e-waste and the control of transboundary movements of hazardous waste.				

Work areas	Activities	Actors	Targets/Time frames	Indicators of progress	Implementation aspects
	11. Establish voluntary approaches and use of economic instruments, other incentives and extended producer responsibility, as appropriate, and e-products take-back schemes building on existing national and international activities.	National and regional authorities, industry, NGOs, consumer associations	2012–2015	Number of take-back schemes implemented  Extent of infrastructure development promoting the use of economic instruments	
	12. Conduct pilot projects that lead to financially self-sustaining initiatives on socially, economically and environmentally sound management of e-waste without duplicating activities, including activities under the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention.	National and regional authorities, UNIDO, SAICM secretariat, Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention, PACE, StEP, Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres, industry, academic and research institutions	2012–2015	Number of informal sector persons successfully trained in environmentally sound management of waste, sustainable collection and dismantling of end-of-life e-products and control of illegal traffic  Number of pilot projects undertaken  Number of project reports completed	
Awareness-raising for e-products	13. Promote awareness, information, education and communication for all relevant stakeholders along the supply chain of hazardous chemicals within the life-cycle of e-products.	National and regional authorities, UNIDO, UNEP, SAICM Secretariat, UNITAR, UNESCO, Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention, PACE, StEP, Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres, industry, academic institutions, NGOs	2012-2015	Level of awareness among stakeholders increased. Amount of information, education and communication materials produced.	

<sup>a</sup> The columns dealing with suggested actors, targets and timeframes, indicators of progress and implementation aspects were not fully discussed and sufficient time was not available to achieve agreement on them during the third session of the Conference.

<sup>b</sup> Substances of concern include those that are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances (PBTs); very persistent and very bioaccumulative substances; chemicals that are carcinogens or mutagens or that adversely affect, among other things, the reproductive, endocrine, immune or nervous systems; persistent organic pollutants (POPs); mercury and other chemicals of global concern; chemicals produced or used in high volumes; those subject to wide dispersive uses; and other chemicals of concern at the national level.

## Appendix 3

### List of abbreviations

Basel Convention	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheets
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PACE	Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment
Rotterdam Convention	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
StEP	Solving the e-Waste Problem
Stockholm Convention	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/IETC	United Nations Environment Programme/International Environmental Technology Centre
UNEP/DTIE	United Nations Environment Programme / Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	World Health Organization

## Annex III

### President's summary of the high-level dialogue

1. The sound management of chemicals was once again recognized as crucial for the protection of human health and the environment by Heads of State and Governments and high-level representatives meeting at Rio de Janeiro for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held from 20 to 22 June 2012. The Conference outcome document, entitled "The future we want", recognizes the growing global production and use of chemicals and their prevalence in the environment and calls for effective implementation and strengthening of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as part of a robust, coherent, effective and efficient system for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, including to respond to emerging challenges.
2. With only eight years remaining to reach the goal, articulated in paragraph 23 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, that by 2020 chemicals are used and produce in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, there is an increased sense of urgency of the need for concrete collaborative actions to turn aspirations into practical delivery on the ground without delay. This was also highlighted by other events in the run up to Rio+20, such as at the dialogue on sound chemicals management convened during the celebrations of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which took place in Stockholm in 1972.
3. The third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was convened from 17 to 21 September 2012 in Nairobi. The Conference provides a high-level international forum for multi-stakeholder and multisectoral discussion and exchange of experience on chemicals management issues. In line with this function, an interactive high-level dialogue was held during the third session of the Conference under agenda item 4 (c), Strengthening of national chemicals management capacities, on Thursday, 20 September 2012.
4. The objective of the high-level dialogue was to provide a platform for high-level interaction between Strategic Approach stakeholders on strengthening the Strategic Approach for its more effective implementation in aid of achieving the 2020 goal and to identify further guidance for its achievement.
5. The high-level dialogue began with a panel discussion moderated by the President. The panel included eight high-level Strategic Approach stakeholders. In opening the session, panel members were asked by the Chair to make short statements to reflect on the status of Strategic Approach implementation both retrospectively and prospectively, with the latter specifically focusing on advancing the 2020 goal. Following the opening statements, the panellists were asked to respond to a number of questions during the Conference's plenary discussions and the moderator. In addition, twenty-one representatives took the floor during the high-level dialogue.
6. A rich and constructive discussion took place during the high-level dialogue. There were both a retrospective look at the status of implementation of the Strategic Approach, including lessons learned and gaps to be filled, and the expression of views regarding the future. A number of on-the-ground experiences were shared by countries who had undertaken projects through the Quick Start Programme.
7. Overall, there was a very strong shared willingness and commitment to continue to work towards the 2020 goal. A number of successful initiatives under the Strategic Approach were shared and all agreed to build on Strategic Approach successes already achieved.
8. In line with the desires of the Conference, the present President's summary describes some of the main challenges and opportunities that were highlighted during the high-level dialogue with regard to advancing the objectives of the Strategic Approach. While this description is not comprehensive, it touches on the breadth of issues discussed during the high-level dialogue. The summary is intended to provide overall orientation and guidance, in line with the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach, to all stakeholders to facilitate their efforts to implement the Strategic Approach effectively in the coming eight years.

## **A. Framing the future**

9. The work recently completed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the Global Chemicals Outlook stresses the increase of chemicals production and consumption, the shift in that production from highly industrialized to developing countries, and the economic implications of this increase in a context of unsound chemicals management. The Global Chemicals Outlook also identifies a number of approaches to mitigating the risks of unsound chemicals management while still enjoying the benefits that chemicals bring to our daily lives.

10. The Global Chemicals Outlook presents evidence demonstrating that the costs of inaction to a country due to the negative consequences of chemicals for human health and the environment often is significantly higher than the costs of taking action to prevent those consequences. Furthermore, the World Health Organization has estimated that chemical-induced disease contributes up to 25 per cent of the global burden of disease.

11. The high-level dialogue allowed for an opportunity to share examples of how different stakeholders saw the current implementation of the Strategic Approach, highlighting successes but also identifying challenges, thereby setting the direction for how the Strategic Approach should move forward to meet the challenge of the 2020 goal.

## **B. Challenges and opportunities**

### **Risk reduction**

12. The Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme has provided a boost to many countries in their efforts to prepare national chemicals management profiles. National chemicals management profiles have been shown to be effective tools in national efforts to set the agenda and determine priorities for sound chemicals management. Lessons learned in projects to date should be broadly shared, both at the global and regional levels, to support sound chemicals management at the national level.

13. The sound management of chemicals needs to be supported by all stakeholders in a region or country and in particular needs to be a priority for industry and Governments. Capacity is often lacking, however, in both industry and regulating authorities, rendering chemicals management fragmented and ineffective.

14. One area often highlighted for action is the use of the most highly hazardous agricultural pesticides, some of which are still registered for use in some countries. Noting that in developing countries pesticides are the most widely used chemicals, some call for the most hazardous pesticides to be progressively banned. By taking concrete action on a small number of highly hazardous pesticides from use, a massive positive change in health and environmental impacts can be achieved very quickly.

## **C. Knowledge and information**

15. Information sharing and awareness-raising regarding chemicals (including pesticide use) is critical at all levels among all stakeholders, including the general public, , be it for capacity-building purposes, for identifying problems, for risk management or for raising awareness of possible risks.

16. In particular, consumers look to industry to play a proactive role in promoting alternative products and providing information on chemicals in products. There is a need improve the flow of information about chemicals in products in key sectors to drive better product design, minimize waste and facilitate environmentally sound chemicals management.

## **D. Governance**

17. Effective implementation of the Strategic Approach requires the management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and the engagement of all relevant stakeholders. The need to enhance the engagement of downstream chemical users in the Strategic Approach process was emphasized.

18. While there is agreement by all that the multi-stakeholder approach of the Strategic Approach supports chemicals management governance by enhancing capacity and outreach, we need to go further in supporting and promoting national cooperation in particular but must also support and promote regional, interregional and international cooperation. To that end, full multisectoral engagement should be supported.

19. In particular, there is a call to use the Strategic Approach to engage health, agriculture and labour stakeholders in chemicals management more effectively.

20. To build further synergies in chemicals management, it would be helpful to enhance cooperation and coordination within the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals in its efforts to provide coherent and comprehensive support to countries as they address their needs for sound management of chemicals.

## **E. Capacity-building and technical cooperation**

21. National chemicals management can only be achieved with a functioning governance structure and a national legal infrastructure with sufficient capacities of both authorities and industry. Chemicals manufacturing and use in developing countries, however, are increasing significantly and notably faster than the ability of countries' chemicals management systems to keep up.

22. Obtaining the technical and financial resources adequate to implement the Strategic Approach is therefore a significant challenge for many countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

23. Mainstreaming sound chemicals management into national development plans can help to overcome funding challenges by leveraging and facilitating access to support for capacity-building at the national level. Mainstreaming can also help chemical safety become a higher priority at the national level.

24. Building on the successful mainstreaming approaches undertaken to date, further capacity-building at the national level for mainstreaming sound chemicals management into national development plans and processes is seen to be critical.

25. Another important aspect of this issue is industries' broadening role outreach and capacity-building.

### **Illegal international traffic**

26. Illegal disposal and smuggling of hazardous wastes and pesticides remain a great concern for many countries, especially developing countries. This issue needs to be tackled with effective preventive measures enshrined in enforced international legal instruments and rooted in capacity-building activities at the national level.

## **F. Concluding remarks**

27. To utilize the rich discussion during the high-level dialogue, the secretariat has, in the report of the meeting, been requested to develop an overall orientation and guidance including some concrete elements, to facilitate achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management. Such overall orientation and guidance needs to be both retrospective and prospective. It should be developed under the guidance of the Bureau, to be further discussed at regional meetings and by the Open-Ended Working Group and for possible consideration at the fourth session of the Conference.

28. Commitment, cooperation, awareness and ownership among all stakeholders will be a key to achieving the future we want for the sound management of chemicals.

## Annex IV

### Report on the work of the contact group on financial matters

#### Prepared by the co-chairs of the contact group

The summary reflects the various views expressed by participants during the discussion on the long-term financing of SAICM and on the relevance of the draft proposal by the UNEP Executive Director on an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes for SAICM, in the contact group on financial and technical assistance for implementation. The contact group, co-chaired by Elsa Miranda (Indonesia) and Daniel Ziegerer (Switzerland) met several times during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management from 17-21 September 2012.

#### 1. Areas of common understanding

*The following represent areas of common understanding among participants in the contact group:*

- (a) There was agreement on the need for long-term financing for SAICM that is sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible;
- (b) There was agreement that the overall resources for SAICM implementation had to be increased;
- (c) There was a shared sense of urgency for the continuity in funding;
- (d) The group concurred with the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development's call to achieve the 2020 goal on sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;
- (e) The group further concurred with the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development's call for the effective implementation and strengthening of the Strategic Approach, as part of a robust, coherent, effective and efficient system for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle;
- (f) There was agreement on the inclusion of SAICM in a long-term financing solution;
- (g) There was a common understanding that the draft proposal needs further development in parts, and revision in parts, and further that it requires wide consultation for input;
- (h) A common concern was expressed on to how to allocate resources to the funding of legally-binding obligations as opposed to voluntary commitment from within an integrated long-term approach, so as to ensure that voluntary commitments under SAICM receive sufficient funding;
- (i) It was expressed by many that more detail is necessary on the governance aspects of the proposed Integrated Focal Area in the Executive Director's draft proposal.

#### 2. Other views and ideas expressed

*The following views and ideas were also expressed:*

- (a) It was pointed out by some that the integrated approach is an opportunity to broaden the donor base;
- (b) It was further pointed out that QSP funding can leverage greater GEF funding;
- (c) It was also pointed out that the integrated approach as presented in the Executive Director's draft proposal may need an oversight body or anchor, and that the SAICM could be considered to take on this role;
- (d) Many pointed out that aspects of the Executive Director's draft proposal could be read to imply conditionality of linking access to external finance on mainstreaming;
- (e) Specific reference was made to clarify that external finance specifically refers to *dedicated* external finance;
- (f) Recipient countries detailed specific advantages of the QSP model, in relation to GEF practices, including that GEF funding requires co-funding, while QSP does not, and that GEF funding depends less on recipient prioritization or even COP guidance, than on GEF Council decision and donor prioritization;
- (g) Many recognized the potential utility of the national units as delivery mechanisms;

(h) It was further pointed out that national delivery mechanisms should be complemented by regional delivery mechanisms.

**3. Specific issues and areas for further development and/or revision in the Executive Director's proposal**

*The following views and ideas were also expressed on specific issues and areas for further development/and or revision in the Executive Director's proposal:*

(a) The need for the further development of the functioning, funding, and terms of reference of the national units was mentioned by many;

(b) The need for further development on mainstreaming was mentioned by many, including specific description of what activities it entails, to better reflect the roles and responsibilities at the national and international levels, and to better balance the roles and responsibilities of developed and developing countries, and further to expand the scope beyond development planning to also include mainstreaming into budget processes;

(c) Many mentioned the need to revise areas that imply conditionality;

(d) Many indicated that the descriptions on the roles and responsibility of industry involvement need to be expanded and in places raised in terms of ambition to go beyond the status quo;

(e) There was a general recognition that more development is required on aspects of governance.

## Annex V

# Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

## I. Introduction

1. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management is a global policy framework to guide efforts to attain the goal set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development that, by 2020, chemicals will be produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. The involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders is central to achieving the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach.
2. The sound management of chemicals and human health are key issues in achieving sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development. The health sector is concerned with the impacts of all chemicals on human health irrespective of the economic sector involved (such as industry, agriculture or mining) and the point in the life cycle at which exposure takes place (production, use or disposal). The health sector can also contribute to sound chemicals management in its own health-care activities in order to prevent environmental, occupational and public health problems arising as a result of such activities.
3. In its resolution II/8, the International Conference on Chemicals Management requested the Strategic Approach secretariat to develop, in consultation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and within available resources, a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. The present strategy represents the first time that the Conference has considered sector-specific approaches to attaining its objectives.

## II. Setting the scene

4. Chemicals and the chemical industry contribute significantly to the global economy, living standards and health. The global chemical industry is currently projected to continue to grow steadily until 2030 with a continuation of the trend for increased use and production of chemicals in developing countries and associated potential for greater impacts of those chemicals on human health. Strengthened engagement by the health sector is critical to the prevention of such impacts.

### A. Impacts of chemicals on human health

5. The progress made in improving the sound management of chemicals over recent years notwithstanding, the health impacts of unsound chemicals management remain of concern in most countries. WHO estimates that more than 25 per cent of the global burden of human disease can be attributed to preventable environmental factors, including exposure to chemicals.<sup>1</sup> A recent systematic review of the burden of disease attributable to chemicals estimated that, in 2004, 8.3 per cent of the total or 4.9 million deaths and 86 million disability-adjusted life years (5.7 per cent of the total), were attributable to environmental and occupational exposures resulting from the unsound management of selected chemicals.<sup>2</sup> Unintentional poisonings kill an estimated 355,000 people every year and, in

<sup>1</sup> Annette Prüss-Ustün and Carlos Corvalán, *Preventing Disease through Healthy Environments: towards an estimate of the environmental burden of disease*, World Health Organization, 2006. Available from <http://apps.who.int/bookorders/anglais/detart1.jsp?sesslan=1&codlan=1&codcol=15&codcch=680>.

<sup>2</sup> Annette Prüss-Ustün and others, "Knowns and unknowns on burden of disease due to chemicals: a systematic review", *Environmental Health*, vol. 10, No. 9 (2011). Available from [www.ehjournal.net/content/10/1/9](http://www.ehjournal.net/content/10/1/9) Estimates of the burden of disease attributable to chemicals included estimates from the following sources: chemicals involved in unintentional acute poisonings; chemicals involved in unintentional occupational poisonings; pesticides involved in self-inflicted injuries; asbestos; occupational lung carcinogens; occupational leukaemogens; occupational particulates; outdoor air pollutants; indoor air pollutants from solid fuel combustion; second-hand smoke; lead; and arsenic in drinking water. This document is available to the Conference as SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/13.

developing countries where two thirds of those deaths occur, such poisonings are strongly associated with excessive exposure to, and inappropriate use of, toxic chemicals, including pesticides.<sup>3</sup>

6. The existing body of knowledge about chemicals of major public health concern notwithstanding,<sup>4</sup> the health risks posed by such chemicals (including mercury and lead) have not yet been eliminated. It is estimated, for example, that exposure to lead results in 600,000 new cases of intellectual disability in children every year.<sup>5</sup> Chemical-related incidents with potential international public health impacts continue to be reported regularly, including, in recent years, the dumping of toxic waste in Côte d'Ivoire, mass sodium bromide poisoning in Angola and significant lead poisoning of local populations from battery recycling operations in Senegal and from artisanal gold mining in Nigeria. In developing countries with fragile health-care systems such incidents can be overwhelming and have an impact on the functioning of the health sector itself.

## B. Composition of the health sector

7. The health sector is the part of the economy dealing with health-related issues in society. It includes both preventive and curative medicine, regulation of health service provision, standard-setting, including for public, occupational, and environmental health, and the production and control of distribution of drugs. The sector comprises organizations with public, private, voluntary, traditional and informal components.

8. The health-sector workforce can be defined as all those engaged in activities whose primary intent is to enhance health.<sup>6</sup> Occupations related to health include medical doctors, nursing and midwifery professionals, traditional and complementary medicine professionals, paramedical practitioners, dentists, pharmacists, environmental and occupational health and hygiene professionals, audiologists and speech therapists, social and community agents (or workers) and medical and pathology laboratory technicians. The health-sector workforce can also be found outside the traditional health-care industry in the form of, for example, physicians working for private companies or as university lecturers and researchers.

9. Professional associations are an important part of the non-governmental sector, representing the interests of health-sector employees such as nurses, midwives, occupational hygienists, general practitioners and medical specialists. Academic and teaching professionals are also significant, as they carry out research related to toxicology and occupational and public health in addition to training the future health-care workforce.

10. Ministries of health have a directing role and are key to policy formulation and setting standards for service delivery and the protection of public health. Specialized institutions and agencies for public and occupational health exist in many countries, carrying out research, laboratory monitoring and food, drug and chemical safety advisory functions, including risk assessment, as well as functions related to public and occupational health surveillance and the sound management of chemicals in the workplace and the surrounding environment.

11. WHO is the lead agency for health in the United Nations system. Several other international organizations have health-related portfolios and interests, including the International Labour Organization, for labour-related issues; FAO, for food security; the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, for health system performance; the United Nations Development Programme, for health and development; the United Nations Environment Programme, for health and environment linkages; the United Nations Children's Fund, for development and humanitarian issues relating to children; and the World Bank, for health-related development assistance. The World Health Assembly, which governs the operations of WHO, has considered chemicals-related issues and the Strategic Approach at a number of its annual sessions, adopting resolutions in 2010 relating to environmentally sound waste management and to obsolete pesticides and chemicals.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization, *The Global Burden of Disease: 2004 Update*. 2008. Available from [www.who.int/healthinfo/global\\_burden\\_disease/GBD\\_report\\_2004update\\_full.pdf](http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/GBD_report_2004update_full.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> World Health Organization, *Preventing disease through healthy environments: action is needed on chemicals of major public health concern*, 2010. Available from [www.who.int/ipcs/features/10chemicals\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/ipcs/features/10chemicals_en.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Annette Prüss-Ustün and others, "Knowns and unknowns on burden of disease due to chemicals: a systematic review", *Environmental Health*, vol. 10, No. 9 (2011).

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organization, *World Health Statistics 2010*. Available from [www.who.int/whosis/whostat/2010/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat/2010/en/index.html).

<sup>7</sup> Resolutions WHA.63.26 on improvement of health through sound management of obsolete pesticides and other obsolete chemicals, and WHA.63.25 on improvement of health through safe and environmentally sound waste management. Available from [http://apps.who.int/gb/or/e/e\\_wha63r1.html](http://apps.who.int/gb/or/e/e_wha63r1.html).

## C. Roles and responsibilities of the health sector in sound chemicals management

12. The key roles and responsibilities for the health sector in sound chemicals management can be summarized as:

- (a) Preventing and managing chemical emergencies, including by providing medical treatment for those affected;
- (b) Gathering clinical and research evidence about chemical risks and informing decision makers and the public;
- (c) Working with other sectors to advocate action on chemicals and safer alternatives;
- (d) Raising awareness of chemicals safety with special emphasis on protecting vulnerable populations;
- (e) Assessing the impact of chemicals management policies through monitoring and evaluation, including biomonitoring and health surveillance;
- (f) Sharing knowledge and participating in international mechanisms to solve chemicals-related problems.

13. In some of the above-mentioned roles, such as those relating to emergencies and poisonings, the preparedness and response of the health sector represents a highly visible component of national chemicals management arrangements. Less visible but equally important is the role of the health sector in preventing, diagnosing and treating diseases and using existing knowledge better to understand and deal with the impacts of exposure to chemicals. This is of particular importance as the consequences of exposure to chemicals may not immediately be apparent, e.g., in chronic exposures to some chemicals when a causal effect can often only be determined after epidemiological, clinical, toxicological or analytical investigations have been undertaken. Obsolete pesticides and other chemicals no longer in use pose a permanent and lingering threat of pollution. Assessing the health impacts of such situations through monitoring and evaluation, including biomonitoring and health surveillance, plays an important part in protecting vulnerable populations and future generations. The health sector also participates in observational and experimental research.

14. Knowledge alone does not suffice, however, and there is room for the sector to play a stronger role in advocating action on chemicals and safer alternatives, including through implementation of and compliance with legal instruments, standards and policies. In many countries, the effect of chemicals on health is a priority environmental concern for the general public. Given the position of trust held by doctors, nurses and other community health workers, the health-sector workforce is central to credible communications with the public.

15. In addition to dealing with the adverse impacts of chemicals arising from the activities of other economic sectors, the health sector is a substantial user of chemicals in health care and health-care facility management. Such chemicals may include biocides and other disinfectants and sterilizers, pesticides for controlling pests on site, cleaning agents, chemicals found in medical devices (e.g., thermometers and electronic devices), pharmaceuticals and pesticides used for controlling disease vectors such as malaria. Recent research has shown that health-sector employees may be more at risk than the general public from chemicals used in their own workplaces. For example, health-sector workers have been reported to have the highest rate of adult asthma among all major occupational groups and to be at a greater risk of developing chronic respiratory illnesses.<sup>8</sup> By tackling chemical exposure in health-care settings the health sector can actively demonstrate sound chemicals management practices and take advantage of an important opportunity to be better engaged and lead by example.

## III. Challenges and opportunities

16. Many factors that affect the level of engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach appear to stem from a lack of a common language, appreciation of mutual gains and shared ownership of priority issues in sound chemicals management. While many positive examples of engagement do exist, a higher and more consistent level of engagement is possible. The Strategic Approach is predominantly felt by the health sector to be an environmental policy

<sup>8</sup> Pia Markkanen and others, *Cleaning in healthcare facilities: reducing human health effects and environmental impacts*. April 2009. Health Care Research Collaborative. Available from [www.noharm.org/us\\_canada/reports/2009/apr/rep2009-04-20.php](http://www.noharm.org/us_canada/reports/2009/apr/rep2009-04-20.php).

framework, as substantiated by the fact that the environment sector is most strongly represented in the institutional arrangements for the Strategic Approach. To provide the context for the present strategy, the main challenges and opportunities faced by the health sector in this regard are set out below.

### **A. Current level of engagement in chemicals issues**

17. While there is some engagement by a growing number of health-sector organizations in sound chemicals management, a much higher and more consistent level is both desirable and possible. Successful examples of engagement include: advocacy for the elimination of mercury from medical devices, the role of the health-care sector in improving health-care waste management and the involvement of paediatricians, general practitioners, nurses, midwives and health-related institutions in initiatives to tackle the potential adverse effects of environmental factors on children's health.

18. The health sector is primarily engaged in chemicals issues through traditional programmatic activities such as those related to food safety, occupational health, drinking water quality and air pollution. These are not, however, strongly perceived as being part of the international chemicals agenda, often having their own specialized frameworks for action. Most legislation controlling chemicals lies beyond the sector's purview. Furthermore, the numerous national, regional and international chemicals management frameworks and agreements have been implemented on a piecemeal basis, making it difficult for the sector to keep abreast of requirements and opportunities to contribute and creating the possibility of important issues being duplicated or overlooked.

19. Some influential parts of the sector have the potential to greatly improve their engagement. For example, professional groups such as doctors, nurses, occupational health professionals and industrial hygienists have prominent professional associations, carry considerable authority and are held in high esteem by the public, offering significant opportunities for promotion and understanding of the Strategic Approach.

### **B. Benefits of engagement**

20. The International Conference on Chemicals Management is a credible international forum focusing on attaining the 2020 goal on chemicals set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Attaining this goal remains a challenge for all countries. The breadth and complexity of chemicals issues, the potential for fragmentation of efforts at the national, regional and global levels and the identified need for capacity-building provide a strong argument for the full use of the Conference to build and reinforce a stronger level of intersectoral cooperation.

21. The potential benefits of such cooperation include enhanced awareness of the issues facing different sectors, improved dialogue, shared expertise and information, and the development of joint action and capacity. Improving joint access to available financial resources is central to promoting and strengthening cooperation. There is concern generally that the benefits of intersectoral cooperation need to be better documented and/or communicated to ensure that there is wider recognition, engagement and support. This is likely to be particularly relevant to sectors that are largely under-represented, such as the governmental health sector. Engagement is often constrained by a lack of awareness and understanding of the Strategic Approach as a voluntary framework for action. Several existing Strategic Approach initiatives, such as those aimed at mainstreaming chemicals into national development agendas and contributing to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the Strategic Approach's Quick Start Programme, are yet to be fully exploited, their significant potential benefits for the health sector notwithstanding.

### **C. Strategic Approach institutions**

22. The government-related environment sector is the most strongly represented sector in the institutional framework for the Strategic Approach. It has been estimated by the secretariat that over 80 per cent of Strategic Approach national focal points are located in environment ministries and participants in Conference negotiations and regional meetings are also primarily from this sector.<sup>9</sup> Effective national coordination arrangements, as envisaged in paragraph 23 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, are therefore of critical importance in enabling the participation of all relevant sectors, including the health sector; in obtaining a greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities of different sectors; in making use of their comparative strengths; and in facilitating the role of national focal points. In some countries, difficulties in identifying relevant contacts in the health sector have hindered the establishment of cross-sectoral linkages. In addition, there remain a number of key health-sector organizations, principally non-governmental and professional bodies, that have not yet nominated a Strategic Approach focal point.

<sup>9</sup> SAICM/Health.1/INF/4. Available from [www.saicm.org](http://www.saicm.org).

## D. Health-related Strategic Approach priorities

23. As part of the development of the Strategic Approach, the WHO secretariat coordinated the identification of relevant health-sector priorities, including actions to: improve abilities to gain access to, interpret and apply scientific knowledge; fill gaps in scientific knowledge; develop and use harmonized methods for chemicals risk assessment; develop better methods for determining the impacts of chemicals on human health, setting priorities for action, detecting chemicals and for monitoring progress of the Strategic Approach; build capacities of countries to deal with poisonings and chemical incidents; develop strategies directed specifically at the health of children and workers; and promote alternatives to highly toxic and persistent chemicals. These priorities are among those included in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach in its work areas on human health protection, children and chemical safety and occupational health and safety.<sup>10</sup> It is not known to what extent these priorities and others of interest to the health sector are being incorporated in Strategic Approach implementation plans.

## E. Reform and development of the health sector

24. Health ministries are strongly committed to primary health care as a basis for sectoral reform and to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals with their emphasis on the eradication of poverty and other health-related inequities. Health security and, in particular, a growing appreciation of the need for an effective response to international threats to public health, have underpinned efforts to implement the revised International Health Regulations.<sup>11</sup> The Regulations, which came into force in 2007 after the adoption of the Strategic Approach, are a legally binding international instrument of relevance to the sound management of chemicals. They deal not only with existing and emerging disease outbreaks but also with chemical events that cross national borders. Capacity-building activities are being undertaken by health ministries in the context of implementing the revised Regulations and ensuring that competencies exist in a number of core areas, including improving emergency preparedness, alert and response; strengthening laboratory capacities; better coordinating inspections at designated airports, ports and ground crossings; and enhancing national capacities for epidemiological surveillance, risk assessment and communication. Such activities offer the potential to strengthen coordination between the health sector and others engaged in the sound management of chemicals.

## F. Regional health and environment initiatives

25. Many health and environment ministries are already committed to tackling jointly the environmental impacts on health. Actions to intensify collaboration between health and environment ministries, including to identify joint priority areas, implement national environment and health action plans, and agree on mutually supportive and specific activities, are a feature of a number of regional health and environment initiatives.

26. The Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, adopted in 2008 at the first Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, has provided an impetus for a renewed political commitment to the process for catalysing the policy, institutional and investment changes necessary to reduce environmental threats to health. In Europe and the Americas, regional health and environment initiatives have long been at the heart of the movement to tackle the negative effects of environmental factors on children's health. In South-East and East Asia, the relevant regional health and environment ministerial processes have focused on sharing information and data on chemical impacts and enhancing technical knowledge and skill among member countries to improve chemicals risk assessment and management. During the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, European ministers and representatives adopted the Parma Declaration on Environment and Health,<sup>12</sup> reiterating their commitment to tackling the key environment and health challenges and bringing new priorities to the fore. Linkages between the Strategic Approach and these regional health and environment initiatives have yet to be fully exploited.

## G. Capacity in the health sector

27. WHO advocates the strengthening of health systems globally, particularly in response to health inequalities around the world. Chronic shortages of health-sector workers in many countries mean that

<sup>10</sup> Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach: work areas on human health protection (activities 2–6), children and chemical safety (activities 7–10) and occupation health and safety (activities 11–21).

<sup>11</sup> World Health Organization, *International Health Regulations (2005)*. Available from [www.who.int/ihr/9789241596664/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/ihr/9789241596664/en/index.html).

<sup>12</sup> Available from [www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/78608/E93618.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/78608/E93618.pdf).

capacity for work on chemicals management is not optimal. At the national level, ministries and other sectors outside the health sector can play an important part in calling for the strengthening of health-sector capacities in accordance with defined roles and responsibilities for chemicals safety. The capacity-building needs of the health sector in terms of taking on its designated roles and responsibilities relating to the sound management of chemicals could be further assessed. It is often assumed that the skills to take on such roles already exist, but evidence suggests otherwise. For example, although nurses make up the largest group of health professionals and the first and often only point of contact for many individuals with the health sector, most nurses have received no formal training in occupational or environmental health.<sup>13</sup> The trust accorded by the public to the medical profession in answering questions concerning their health may also contrast with the paucity of training in occupational and environmental health included in the curricula of many medical schools. The well-documented lack of basic poison information centres and analytical laboratories in many regions are further indications that health-sector capacity in relation to chemicals management needs strengthening.

#### IV. Aims and objectives of the strategy

28. The principal aim of the strategy is to provide an agreed intergovernmental approach to strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the sound management of chemicals and thereby increase the likelihood that, by 2020, chemicals will be used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

29. The strategy supports the Overarching Policy Strategy, in particular section VII on implementation and taking stock of progress, by increasing awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing the health sector in relation to sound chemicals management and by focusing on a number of actions that would serve to facilitate the greater engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

30. The strategy has six specific objectives:

(a) To foster a deeper interest in and awareness of sound chemicals management among stakeholders in the health sector and to build their capacity to undertake preventive actions, especially by increasing the amount, quality and relevance of information disseminated to the sector on the human health aspects of chemicals management;

(b) To actively involve the health sector in increasing the amount and improving the quality and relevance of information available on the impacts of chemicals on human health, including through risk assessment;

(c) To strengthen the capacity of the health sector to fulfil its roles and responsibilities in chemicals management;

(d) To improve consultation, communication and coordination with other sectors and increase the number of joint actions at the national, regional and international levels;

(e) To ensure the effective use of existing resources, including organizations and funds, and to leverage additional resources where needed;

(f) To strengthen coordination, leadership and coherent action by international agencies, including United Nations agencies, relevant convention secretariats, multilateral funding agencies and regional development banks, with regard to the implementation by the health sector of the Strategic Approach.

#### V. Guiding principles

31. The term “engagement” is used in the strategy to convey a sense of the level of participation, ownership and involvement. Thus, engagement may be seen as a continuum along which individuals or groups move from a basic awareness to personal, professional and institutional involvement and actions. The highest level of multisectoral engagement may be characterized as joint action and decision-making with other Strategic Approach stakeholders. In general terms, partnerships, alliances and joint plans of action often emanate from such a level of engagement.

32. A number of guiding principles and considerations have assisted in the development of the strategy. Among the most important of these were the need to focus on preventing the human health

<sup>13</sup> Leyla Erk McCurdy and others, “Incorporating environmental health into paediatric medical and nursing education”, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, vol. 112, No. 17 (2004), pp. 1755–1760.

impacts of existing or future chemicals use, the requirement for strategic actions to be firmly based on available evidence, using and contributing to the scientific understanding of the links between environmental exposure and human health impacts, and the need to ensure the participation and protection of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, older persons, indigenous populations and socially and economically disadvantaged groups, including through the equitable provision of comprehensible information.

33. Other guiding principles and considerations of importance in developing the strategy include the promotion of consistency and coherence, building upon and leveraging existing policies, commitments and processes and encouraging the ever-closer coordination and cooperation between stakeholders in a shared framework of action, and the need for the strategy to respect the experience, capacity, priorities and diversity of each implementing country, recognizing that stakeholders may have different missions, experiences, perspectives and capacities.

34. Given that the Strategic Approach includes provisions to protect human health and the Global Plan of Action includes all the health sector priorities identified during the development of the Strategic Approach, it is not the purpose of the present strategy to set out additional measures in that regard but rather to focus on actions that, if promoted, would bring about the greater involvement and participation of the health sector. To that end, the strategy builds on an understanding of the key roles and responsibilities of the health sector, the identification of underrepresented stakeholders, finding ways to enhance the natural strengths of the health sector and developing a common understanding of the benefits of the Strategic Approach.

35. The strategy's intended audience comprises the Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that collectively have a responsibility for the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

## **VI. Activities**

36. Possible activities to be undertaken voluntarily to fulfil the objectives of the strategy are described below. They have been grouped around six themes of relevance to the Overarching Policy Strategy: awareness-raising; building on existing health sector networks; empowering Strategic Approach focal points; creating healthy health-care settings; strengthening professional training and development; and increasing joint actions between sectors.

### **A. Awareness-raising**

37. Activities in this section emphasize the importance of the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy relating to knowledge and information, in particular paragraph 15 (b) (i), which aims to ensure that information on chemicals is available, accessible, user-friendly, adequate and appropriate. The diverse nature of the health sector is such that a number of specific activities would be of benefit in this regard.

#### **1. Typology of the health sector**

38. Given the diverse nature of potential health sector participants, further characterization of the typology of stakeholders in the health sector would enable information products to be tailored to different audiences. Those with little awareness of the Strategic Approach could be targeted more systematically and those with a high potential for engagement prioritized. Priority groups for awareness-raising emanating from the development of the present strategy include ministries of health and underrepresented professional groups such as nurses, midwives, doctors and occupational health professionals who have the potential to be important advocates of the Strategic Approach. A glossary of basic terms defining different health sector stakeholders could be compiled, drawing on existing WHO terminology, to further assist communication and outreach activities.

#### **2. Range of information products**

39. The nature of the Strategic Approach as a framework for concerted multisectoral action is not readily understood beyond international governance settings. It would be of benefit to develop information products that could focus on examples and benefits of and opportunities for health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach and on specific technical issues of interest to the health sector such as lead in paint, mercury in measuring devices, chemicals of major public health concern, the assessment and management of occupational hazards, the chemicals subject to international actions and children's environmental health. The relevance of each issue to a specific target health sector audience should be emphasized.

### **3. Strategic Approach health information portal**

40. A Strategic Approach health information portal could facilitate access to useful information and activities as part of the secretariat's clearing-house activities. The portal would provide links to national awareness-raising campaigns and organizations working on chemicals and health issues. Branding the portal "SAICM health" and linking it to the WHO Global Health Observatory<sup>14</sup> might further encourage broad recognition and lead to an improved understanding of the Strategic Approach as a forum for addressing health-related chemicals issues.

### **4. Journals**

41. In order to capitalize on the most frequently read journals catering specifically to the health sector, efforts could be aimed at increasing the number of peer-reviewed articles on the Strategic Approach health-sector issues in health care, medical, toxicology and other related journals, including those of professional bodies.

## **B. Building on existing networks in the health sector**

42. Information dissemination and participation in inter-ministerial or inter-institutional arrangements constitute a vital part of the Overarching Policy Strategy's provisions on implementation and taking stock of progress. Knowing whom to contact on any given issue is a basic minimum requirement for the effective implementation of the Strategic Approach.

### **1. Building on existing country and regional mechanisms that engage the health sector**

43. In accordance with requests from the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, efforts should continue to enable Strategic Approach national focal points to cooperate and coordinate with health sector contact points making use of existing WHO country and regional office structures where possible. WHO should be invited to make relevant contact information available to enable a network of contacts to be swiftly established and linked to the Strategic Approach chemical information clearing house. The inclusion of existing institutions and centres for public and environmental health in the network would help to bolster technical capacities at the country and regional levels.

### **2. Specific interest networks**

44. Interactive websites, discussion forums and networks should be fostered and supported on issues of specific interest to the health sector, to stimulate information flow and the exchange of learning and best practices between health professionals, academics and other stakeholders. Lessons learned and case studies on successful interventions and experiences with chemicals of major public health concern could be shared in this manner. The networks should continue to be developed and managed by stakeholders with increased visibility and accessibility at the international level. The selection of discussion groups would be guided by the identified key roles and responsibilities of the sector, such as risk assessment. With a view to ensuring their promotion and use wherever possible, efforts would be made to build on existing discussion groups and networks, such as the INTOX network for sharing information and mutual assistance on poisons and toxicological issues<sup>15</sup> and the chemical risk assessment network to be established by WHO to provide a forum for the identification of gaps, needs and emerging issues, scientific exchange and collaboration on risk assessment activities.<sup>16</sup>

## **C. Empowering Strategic Approach focal points**

45. At all levels, Strategic Approach focal points are the lynch-pin of successful Strategic Approach implementation and play a critical role in section VII of the Overarching Policy Strategy on implementation of the Strategic Approach.

### **1. Role of Strategic Approach focal points**

46. Paragraph 23 of the Overarching Policy Strategy states that the role of a Strategic Approach national focal point is to act as an effective conduit for communication on Strategic Approach matters. Given that the level of implementation of the Strategic Approach has increased and deepened, this communication role may require clarification. Guidance, such as that proposed by the African region at the second session of the Conference,<sup>17</sup> could be developed to provide additional information to Strategic Approach focal points on the need to engage with colleagues in other sectors, including the

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<sup>14</sup> <http://apps.who.int/ghodata/>.

<sup>15</sup> [www.who.int/ipcs/poisons/network/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/ipcs/poisons/network/en/index.html).

<sup>16</sup> [www.who.int/ipcs/about\\_ipcs/networks/gra\\_report/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/ipcs/about_ipcs/networks/gra_report/en/index.html).

<sup>17</sup> SAICM/ICCM.2/15, annex IV.

health sector. A specific standing item could be established on the agendas of regional meetings of the Strategic Approach to provide an opportunity to discuss issues relating to the health sector and the implementation of the Strategic Approach and to highlight issues of mutual importance for health and environment. Such a mechanism would emphasize the importance of contact with the health sector in preparation for meetings and would build upon the use of existing networks of health sector contacts, increasing their familiarity with matters being discussed in the context of the Strategic Approach thereby facilitating their inputs in Strategic Approach meetings. When nominated Strategic Approach focal points are unable to participate in meetings, nominated contact points from other sectors, such as the health sector, could be encouraged to do so rather than the role being delegated within the same ministry. This approach would further promote and secure the inter-ministerial coordination envisaged in the Overarching Policy Strategy.

## **2. Monitoring Strategic Approach implementation plans**

47. A clearer and more formal understanding of the implementation of the key health-related activities expressed in the Global Plan of Action might be obtained by reviewing existing and future Strategic Approach implementation plans in conjunction with planning tools for health-sector development. Efforts to link such work with WHO initiatives at the country level, for example WHO cooperation strategies that set out the priorities jointly agreed upon by WHO and national Governments, could foster closer links between strategic agendas. Such approaches would enable aspects of chemicals management related to the health sector to be identified more readily and information on specific chemicals and health issues, including environmental disease burdens, to be taken into account. Information could be gathered on the implementation status of health-related elements of the Global Plan of Action to enable updating of the plan over time.

## **3. High-level health-related briefing sessions**

48. High-level briefing sessions on health for politicians and senior officials at the national, regional and international levels should be conducted. Such briefings could be incorporated into regional meetings on the Strategic Approach and would serve to provide decision makers with clear and up-to-date advice and evidence on the burden of disease and associated costs, to promote dialogue between sectors and to raise the policy profile of health aspects of sound chemicals management. Host countries of regional meetings could be encouraged to take the lead in organizing such sessions involving the health secretary or other senior health ministry representatives in their country.

## **D. Creating healthy health-care settings**

49. Risk reduction, a key objective of the Overarching Policy Strategy, is intended to minimize the risks that chemicals may pose to human health and the environment, with particular focus on risks affecting vulnerable groups. Activities under this part of the health sector strategy are aimed at increasing actions pertaining to the management of chemicals within the health sector, thereby stimulating interest and building capacity for broader action within the sector to contribute to the sound management of chemicals.

### **1. Mobilizing the interest and awareness of the health-care workforce**

50. The health-care industry is a major consumer of chemicals, including those that are known to have serious impacts on health and the environment. Thus, a sector whose mission it is to protect human health may also be contributing to the burden of disease. Chemicals in products that are used in health care affect human health throughout the life cycle of those products. Vulnerable populations include patients, health-care workers who are exposed to chemicals on a daily basis, factory workers involved in the manufacture of health-care products, workers in waste disposal facilities and people who live near manufacturing plants or waste disposal sites. Mobilizing health-care workers' interest in and awareness of sound chemicals management could lead to greater awareness of and engagement in chemicals management and more generally a reduction in the burden of chemicals-related occupational diseases and other forms of work-related ill-health within health-care settings.

### **2. Chemicals policy for health-care settings**

51. A framework for a chemicals policy for health-care settings should be established on the basis of best practices. One approach might be to initiate the development of a report on the use, disposal and environmental health impacts of chemical constituents of products used in health-care settings. The report could include best practice case studies in hospitals and other health-care settings where safer alternatives to selected uses have been introduced, to identify possible actions for the health sector to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals. The report could identify those who might be engaged in decision-making to introduce safer alternatives into such settings, including planners, builders, systems managers, suppliers, operators and stakeholders representing inpatients, outpatients and local

communities. The application of simple approaches that are often used in low-resource settings, such as control banding,<sup>18</sup> to chemicals used in the health sector could serve to engage health-care professionals in the sound management of chemicals in their workplaces.

## **E. Strengthening professional training and development**

### **1. Environmental and occupational health training**

52. Professional training and development in environmental health has yet to be optimally strengthened, particularly for the sound management of chemicals that affect specific vulnerable groups, including children, older persons, highly exposed populations, such as workers in certain industries, and indigenous peoples. The development and delivery of professional training is shared between a wide range of organizations. Governments and relevant professional bodies should consider working together to share and optimize the use of existing training materials and possibly extending or adapting them for use in teaching curricula on chemicals and health as part of undergraduate and postgraduate nursing and medical training to foster the further development of a cadre of medical and nursing professionals qualified in environmental health. Training modules produced by WHO for health professionals and paediatricians in the context of its initiatives on children's environmental health hold considerable potential in this regard.<sup>19</sup> Consideration should be given by medical schools to residencies and fellowships or specializations in environmental health with an emphasis on toxicology and occupational and public health.

### **2. Pilot projects linking professional associations**

53. Pilot projects could be initiated to link professional medical and nursing associations with key academic environmental health or risk analysis groups and institutions to strengthen engagement on chemicals management issues.

## **F. Increasing the number of joint actions by sectors**

### **1. Health protection as a cross-cutting issue**

#### **(a) Multilateral environmental agreements, including the International Health Regulations**

54. Given that all multilateral environmental agreements aim to protect human health, common cross-cutting actions involving the health sector could be jointly pursued and coordinated with the Strategic Approach as part of the implementation of the present strategy. In view of the priority accorded to the implementation of the revised International Health Regulations (2005) and the finding in reviews of implementation that relatively low core capacities of preparedness for chemical and radiological events exist in most regions,<sup>20</sup> a closer level of cooperation between international instruments could be beneficial. Capacity-building initiatives such as strengthening national capacities for laboratory analysis; emergency preparedness, alert and response; better coordinating inspections at ports and land crossings; and enhancing epidemiological surveillance, risk assessment and communication; have applications under several international chemicals instruments. The Strategic Approach could be used to foster and monitor improved cooperation in this regard. Such an approach could increase leverage and resources, particularly for capacity-building projects where significant investment is needed. Surveillance and biomonitoring activities, for example, would be of value to a number of national, regional and international instruments and engage the health sector specifically.

#### **(b) Toxicovigilance**

55. Toxicovigilance and toxicosurveillance are analogous terms for a systematic approach to the identification and prevention of the adverse effects of chemicals largely based on the collection of observational information from human experience. Successful toxicovigilance approaches rely on effective coordination and relations between ministries, health-care establishments and poison information centres, among others, and provide an opportunity for engaging the health sector and other stakeholders while promoting the sound management of chemicals.

### **2. Regional health and environmental processes**

56. The strengthening of regional health and environmental ministerial processes affords an opportunity to stimulate the engagement of the health sector with chemicals issues. Several existing initiatives have the potential to draw further attention to implementation of the Strategic Approach. In Africa, for example, chemicals management was recently identified as one of 10 joint environment

<sup>18</sup> [www.ilo.org/legacy/english/protection/safework/ctrl\\_banding/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/legacy/english/protection/safework/ctrl_banding/index.htm).

<sup>19</sup> [www.who.int/ceh/capacity/training\\_modules/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/ceh/capacity/training_modules/en/index.html).

<sup>20</sup> A65/17 and A65/17/Add.1. Available from [http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e\\_wha65.html](http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha65.html).

and health priorities for implementation of the Libreville Declaration. Links between such processes and the implementation of the Strategic Approach should be formalized as part of the present strategy.

## **VII. Means of implementation**

57. The present strategy was conceived to be implemented through existing institutional arrangements to strengthen engagement in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. Such existing institutional arrangements include those for national and regional coordination processes, Strategic Approach implementation plans, the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme and long-term financial arrangements. Information on health sector engagement should be collected through the Strategic Approach periodic reporting mechanisms, with relevant health sector stakeholders being invited to provide additional information to complement that gathered through the secretariat's online reporting tool.

58. Progress will be reviewed at regional meetings held during intersessional periods. The secretariat, in consultation with WHO, should prepare a formal report on progress in strengthening health sector engagement in implementation of the Strategic Approach for consideration at sessions of the Conference, commencing at its fourth session.

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