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**Conference of the Parties to the  
Minamata Convention on Mercury  
Second meeting**  
Geneva, 19–23 November 2018  
Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Programme of work and budget**

## **Update on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

### **Note by the secretariat**

1. The annex to the present note sets out an update on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.
2. The update is presented as received from the United Nations Environment Programme, which serves as the secretariat for the Strategic Approach, without formal editing.

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\* UNEP/MC/COP.2/1.

## Annex

### **Update on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

1. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was initiated in 2006 with the overall objective “to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.” Implementation of SAICM is overseen by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) – a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder forum. ICCM5 will be hosted by Germany from 5-9 October 2020 in Bonn.

2. SAICM provides a platform for sectors and stakeholders to work together voluntarily to protect human health and the environment from harmful effects of chemicals and waste across the lifecycle. SAICM exists within and supports the broader context of global sound management of chemicals and waste that includes legally binding approaches such as the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), the International Health Regulations (2005), and certain of the International Labour Organization's Conventions, among others.

#### **I. Third meeting of the Strategic Approach Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3)**

3. The third meeting of the Strategic Approach Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) will be hosted by the Government of Uruguay and take place in Montevideo from 2-4 April 2019. The meeting will cover a number of key areas to the Strategic Approach, including: progress and gaps towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management; setting the scene for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; emerging policy issues and other issues of concern; activities and budget of the secretariat and preparations for ICCM5. Regional meetings, an ICCM5 Bureau meeting and technical briefings will take place on 1 April 2019.

4. Invitations to the meeting will be issued in due course. Limited funding will be available for participants from developing countries, countries with economies in transition and civil society.

5. The ICCM5 Bureau will be meeting from 23-24 January 2019 in Zambia and will be providing guidance on the preparations for OEWG3.

#### **II. The Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

6. At its fourth session, held from 28 September to 2 October 2015, ICCM4 in its resolution IV/4 decided to initiate an intersessional process for preparing recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. In resolution IV/4, the Conference noted the value of a voluntary, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to mobilize all actors, which can enable flexible and timely action to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste. The intersessional process is tasked with preparing recommendations for the consideration by participants in ICCM5 in 2020. Furthermore, the intersessional process will consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. The second meeting of the intersessional process was hosted by the Government of Sweden from 13-15 March 2018 in Stockholm. Information about the second meeting, including the meeting report and the co-hosts summary is available at the following link:  
<http://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/SecondIntersessionalmeeting/tabid/6193/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

8. Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho (Brazil) and Mr. David Morin (Canada) are serving as co-chairs of the intersessional process. At the end of the second meeting of the intersessional process, drawing attention to the need to make further progress, all regions and sectors requested the co-chairs to develop a paper for submission to OEWG3 to be used as a basis for discussion. The co-chairs are developing the paper in consultation with the Bureau and with the support of the secretariat. The paper is based on the outcomes of the first and second intersessional meetings, taking into account stakeholder submissions and the outcomes of the regional meetings that took place in January and February 2018.

9. An independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach for 2006 to 2015 is currently being finalized as mandated in Conference resolution IV/4. The aim of the evaluation is to provide information to enable the intersessional process to develop recommendations and to enable the Conference at its fifth session to take an informed decision on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
10. The intersessional process is open for participation by all stakeholders. Stakeholders are invited to participate in the intersessional process meetings and also to engage in efforts to inform the process by correspondence and/or by electronic means.
11. The Government of Sweden launched a High-Level Alliance on Chemicals and Waste with the aim of mobilizing political engagement for more effective global management of chemicals and waste during a side-event at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2018 in New York. The aim of the Alliance, which is the first of its kind, is to reach a global agreement on chemicals and waste in 2020 in follow-up to the Strategic Approach.

### **III. Status of the Quick Start Programme**

12. The Quick Start Programme (QSP) has funded chemicals and waste projects in line with the objectives of the Strategic Approach. Since its establishment in 2006, the QSP has mobilized a total of over 136 million USD. This amount includes approximately 37.8 million USD in cash contributions to its trust fund and over 9.8 million USD in cash and/or in-kind contributions from project implementers and executing agencies. In addition, 88.5 million USD in non-Trust Fund contributions were reported over the period 2006 to 2017.
13. Over the course of 14 funding rounds, the QSP has funded 184 projects in 108 developing countries, countries with economies in transition, and small island states. It has completed a wide range of projects, from legislative and national capacity building projects, to more direct training and awareness-raising activities to improve the sound management of chemicals. Currently, 140 projects are completed.
14. The QSP Trust Fund was closed for new contributions at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in September 2015. The Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme has decided that 31 December 2019 would be the final closure date of the Trust Fund.
15. Overall, the QSP Impact Evaluation (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/5) noted that the QSP has demonstrably met, and in many cases exceeded, its objective of establishing enabling environments for sound management of chemicals at the national level.

### **IV. Strategic Approach Global Environment Facility Projects**

16. The Global Environment Facility has approved an 8.19 million USD project ‘Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)’. The aim of this global project is to accelerate progress and measure the adoption of national activities on emerging policy issues to achieve the SAICM 2020 goal and support planning for chemical management in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
17. The project will be implemented in over 40 countries over a 4-year period with aims to present early project results at ICCM5 in 2020. UN Environment GEF unit is the implementing agency and the SAICM Secretariat is the executing agency. The project focuses on three work components: lead in paint, chemicals in products, and strategic planning and knowledge management. The project was approved for implementation by the GEF on 7 August 2018 and the project inception meeting is planned for January 2019.
18. A proposal for a medium size project was submitted to the GEF for review and CEO approval on 11 October 2018. This is a 2 million USD project to be implemented in 11 countries over a 4-year period. UN Environment GEF unit is the proposed implementing agency and SAICM Secretariat is the proposed executing agency. Key project partners include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

### **V. Engagement with the Minamata Convention**

19. Regional Strategic Approach meetings were held back-to-back with the regional meetings organized in preparation of the Minamata Convention Second Conference of the Parties (COP2). The Strategic Approach meetings were half-day sessions. The purpose of these sessions was to inform the

meeting participants of the intersessional process for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and explore areas for collaboration with Minamata Convention representatives and SAICM stakeholders.

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