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Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for action by the Conference of the Parties
at its first meeting: programme of work of the
secretariat and budget for the period 2018–2019**

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

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out an update on the activities of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The information set out in the annex has been submitted by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and is presented as received, without formal editing by the secretariat.

* UNEP/MC/COP.1/1.

Annex

Update on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

I. Update on the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

1. At its fourth session, held from 28 September to 2 October 2015, the International Conference on Chemicals Management in its resolution IV/4 (see Appendix) decided to initiate an intersessional process for preparing recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management 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 regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, for the consideration of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to be held 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. The first meeting of the intersessional process was held from 7 to 9 February 2017 in Brasilia upon the invitation of the Government of Brazil. Information about the first meeting, including the meeting report and the co-chairs' is available at the following link: www.saicm.org/Meetings/FirstIntersessional/tabid/5463/language/en-US/Default.aspx. The meeting participants elected Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho (Brazil) and Mr. David Morin (Canada) to serve as co-chairs of the intersessional process. As an output of the first meeting, the co-chairs prepared a summary of the meeting, which sets out their views of the contributions of the participants. The co-chairs' summary is a non-negotiated document that does not represent an agreed outcome of the meeting or a consensus view and does not limit discussion of any issue during the intersessional process. The summary is structured around why a framework for chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 is needed, what should be included in such a framework and how the sound management of chemicals and waste could be achieved in the beyond 2020 period.
2. Preparations are on-going for the second meeting in the intersessional process. The second meeting in the intersessional process will be held in March 2018. It is tentatively scheduled for 12-16 March 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.
3. The Strategic Approach secretariat is consulting with the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in preparing for that meeting. The next meeting of the Bureau is schedule for 7-8 November 2017 in Rome, Italy.
4. An independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach for 2006 to 2015 is currently underway 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. Amongst other things, the independent evaluator will present information, as appropriate, on coordination and cooperation with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals on the understanding that the information provided will inform rather than prejudge intersessional discussions on the subject.
5. 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.

II. Planning for Strategic Approach Regional Meetings

6. Strategic Approach regional meetings are planned to take place in January and February 2018 to discuss Strategic Approach implementation, and prepare for the second meeting of the intersessional process and third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. The tentative timing of these meetings is as follows:
 - (a) Africa: 6 to 9 February 2018. Location: Abidjan, Ivory Coast;

- (b) Asia-Pacific: 23 to 26 January 2018. Location: to be determined;
- (c) Central and Easter Europe: 19-21 February 2018. Location: Lodz, Poland;
- (d) EU-JUSSCANNZ: 9 February 2018. Location: Paris, France;
- (e) Latin America and the Caribbean: 29 Jan to 1 Feb 2018. Location: Panama City, Panama.

III. Status of the Quick Start Programme

7. The Quick Start Programme Trust Fund was closed for new contributions at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. However, the full closure of the Trust Fund will take place before the fifth session (scheduled to take place in 2020) and the decision on the appropriate date for closure was delegated to the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme.

8. The Conference appointed new national government representatives as members of the Executive Board of the Quick Start Programme. The following representatives of governmental participants are currently serving on the Executive Board: from the African region Malawi and Togo, from Asia and the Pacific region Malaysia and Yemen; from Central and Eastern European region Moldova and Albania; from the Latin-American and the Caribbean region Panama and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and from the Western Europe and Others Group Finland and Norway.

9. Since its establishment, there have been 14 application rounds to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. Over these 14 application rounds, the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee approved 184 projects covering 108 different countries. Currently, 125 projects are completed.

10. At the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, many representatives highlighted the key role played by the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund in facilitating capacity-building and technical cooperation and enabling many countries to address national and regional priorities. Moreover, it was said that the inclusiveness of the Programme had facilitated efforts to resolve chemicals management issues by enabling more effective policymaking and implementation.

IV. Strategic Approach Global Environment Facility Project

11. The Global Environment Facility has approved the concept note on 'Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)'. The aim of the project is to accelerate and measure adoption of national activities to control Emerging Policy Issues to achieve the 2020 implementation of SAICM goal and support early planning for chemical management in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

12. The project focuses on three work components: lead in paint, chemicals in products as well as strategic planning and knowledge management. Full project preparation is underway.

Appendix

International Conference on Chemicals Management Resolution IV/4: the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

The Conference,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Noting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular the targets to achieve, by 2020, the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycles, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and to significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment and to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030,

Recalling the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”, and in particular the aim to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment,

Recalling also resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Environment Assembly welcomed the important contribution of the Strategic Approach in facilitating action by all relevant stakeholders towards the sound management of chemicals and waste, emphasized the need for continued and strengthened multisectoral and multi-stakeholder involvement and recognized that the need to prevent or minimize the significant adverse effects from chemicals and hazardous wastes on human health and the environment would continue to provide a strong basis for sound chemicals and waste management beyond 2020,

Recalling further the outcome of the country-led consultative process supported by the United Nations Environment Programme on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster and the outcome document of the process, entitled “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”,

Noting that projections as set out in the 2012 Global Chemicals Outlook show an increase in chemical production and use worldwide, continuing beyond 2020, with the largest increases also occurring in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and that all countries will need to continue strengthening their capacity for governance, knowledge- and information-sharing and risk reduction required to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,

Noting also the continuing need to respond to new and emerging issues and to ensure that newly identified risks to human health and the environment can be identified and timely action taken to reduce those risks,

Noting further 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,

Recognizing the need to start considering arrangements for the period beyond 2020,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to contract an independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the annex to the present resolution;
2. *Decides* to initiate an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;
3. *Also decides* that the intersessional process should include, in principle, two meetings before the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and one meeting between the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and that it may also work by correspondence and/or by electronic means.

4. *Directs* the Open-ended Working Group to consider the need to call an additional meeting of the intersessional process before the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
5. *Decides* that meetings of the intersessional process should, as far as possible, be held back-to-back with other relevant meetings and processes;
6. *Requests* the Bureau of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, with assistance of the secretariat, to notify the stakeholders by 31 March 2016 of the first meeting of the intersessional process specified in the present resolution and, in consultation with the participants at that first meeting, to draw up the timetable for the subsequent meetings;
7. *Decides* that the intersessional process should be open to all stakeholders and requests the secretariat to support, subject to the availability of resources, the participation of stakeholders eligible for funding as identified by the regions and sectors through the Bureau, up to eight from African States, eight from Asian-Pacific States, three from Central and Eastern European States, five from Latin American and Caribbean States and two representatives of each of the health, trade union and public interest sectors of non-governmental participants, in order to support balanced regional and sectoral participation;
8. *Also decides* that the participants at the first meeting of the intersessional process should elect two co-chairs from among the Governmental participants present at that meeting;
9. *Further decides* that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”, including the vision to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development;
10. *Decides* that the intersessional process should, among other things, consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
11. *Requests* that the secretariat make available and that the intersessional process consider relevant available documents, including the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach referred to in paragraph 1 above, the overall orientation and guidance, relevant documents and reports of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the Open-ended Working Group and regional meetings, relevant United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions and other relevant documents available on the Strategic Approach website, the Global Chemicals Outlook, Global Waste Management Outlook, report entitled “Cost of Inaction on the Sound Management of Chemicals” by the United Nations Environment Programme and related World Health Organization health priority documents;
12. *Directs* the Open-ended Working Group to consider the conclusions of the independent evaluation and any recommendations identified by the intersessional process for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session.

Annex to resolution IV/4

Terms of reference for the evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

I. Objective

1. The present document outlines the terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management called for by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in its resolution IV/4.
2. The aim of the evaluation is to provide information to enable the intersessional process referred to in paragraph 2 of resolution IV/4 to develop recommendations and to enable the International Conference on Chemicals Management 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.

II. Methodology

3. The secretariat is requested to engage an independent evaluator to produce an evaluation consistent with the present terms of reference.
4. The evaluation is to cover the period from the adoption of the Strategic Approach in 2006 to 2015. It may also cover any insights gained in the period from 2015 to the finalization of the evaluation.
5. The evaluation should take into account, among other things, the available evaluation of progress in implementing the Strategic Approach, the evaluation of the Quick Start Programme, the relevant reports and resolutions from the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the Open-ended Working Group and regional meetings, the overall orientation and guidance, and national implementation plans of the Strategic Approach. The evaluator may also collect information from stakeholders on their experiences implementing the Strategic Approach, and may use various methods of qualitative and quantitative information collection, including questionnaires and interviews, taking into account regional, gender and stakeholder balance.

III. Report on the evaluation

6. An interim report on the evaluation will be made available to all stakeholders at least one month ahead of the first meeting of the intersessional process. A draft of the final report will be made available to all stakeholders at least one month ahead of the second meeting of the intersessional process. The final report, taking into account, as appropriate, the additional comments on the draft final report from stakeholders, will be made available to all stakeholders at least two months before the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group that will precede the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
7. The reports will contain an introduction, an executive summary and a brief history of the Strategic Approach, and will present information in support of conclusions and, where appropriate, lessons drawn in respect of the implementation of the Strategic Approach, including, in particular:
 - (a) Impact of the Strategic Approach;
 - (b) Strengths, weaknesses and gaps in implementing the Strategic Approach, taking into account the eleven basic elements identified in the overall orientation and guidance;
 - (c) Progress towards targets;
 - (d) Institutional arrangements within the voluntary multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach of the Strategic Approach.
8. The independent evaluator will present information, as appropriate, on the following elements in the report, on the understanding that the information provided is intended to inform rather than prejudge intersessional discussions on the subject:
 - (a) Objectives for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;
 - (b) Identifying and taking action on new or emerging issues;

- (c) Coordination and cooperation with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;
- (d) Relevance of impacts to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (e) Maintenance and development of indicators of progress;
- (f) Identifying and taking action on regional and subregional needs for advancing sound management of chemicals and waste.

9. The evaluation should be focused and succinct and its executive summary should be made available in the six official languages of the United Nations.
