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;[[1]](#footnote-1)

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,

*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,[[2]](#footnote-2)

*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;[[3]](#footnote-3)

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;

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, [[4]](#footnote-4) 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;

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 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:

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. Tools and information on potential safer substitutes for chemicals of concern in electrical and electronic product applications; [[5]](#footnote-5)
4. Green purchasing strategies of businesses and Governments;
5. Extended producer responsibility policies of businesses and Governments;
6. 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,[[6]](#footnote-6)

*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,[[7]](#footnote-7)

*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 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,[[8]](#footnote-8)

*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 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:

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. 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.

1. SAICM/ICCM.3/13, SAICM/ICCM.3/14, SAICM/ICCM.3/15, SAICM/ICCM.3/16 and SAICM/ICCM.3/17. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *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. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See SAICM/ICCM.3/14. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Building materials, electronics, textiles and toys. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 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.” [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *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. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. SAICM/OEWG.1/12. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *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. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)