



Strategic Approach
to International
Chemicals Management



Achievements and Future Directions of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

SAICM Seminar: Global Trends of Stakeholder Involvement in
Chemicals Management through SAICM Implementation
21 October 2011, Tokyo, Japan

Leonor Alvarado, Coordinator, SAICM secretariat

What is SAICM?

- SAICM is a unique global policy framework to support efforts to achieve the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal that, by 2020, chemicals should be produced and used in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.
- SAICM aims to coordinate, catalyse and facilitate.

What SAICM is *not*

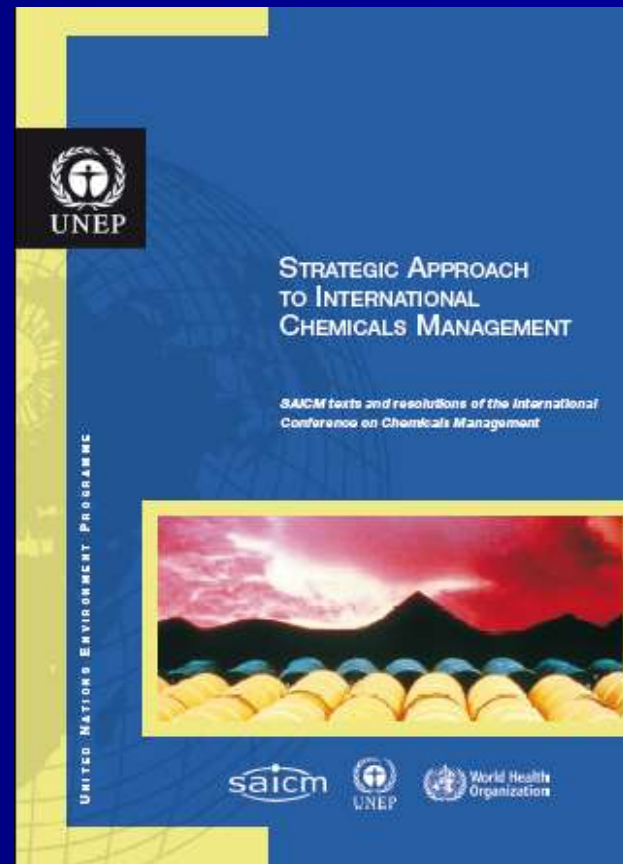
- SAICM is *not* a legally binding instrument.
- SAICM is *not* a new organization.
- SAICM does *not* replace existing institutions and mechanisms.

What is new about SAICM?

- SAICM is notable for its:
 - very broad scope;
 - ambitious goal (the Johannesburg 2020 target);
 - endorsement at the highest political levels;
 - emphasis on the sound management of chemicals as a sustainable development issue;
 - resource mobilization;
 - formal endorsement or recognition by IGO governing bodies;
 - **multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral character.**

The core SAICM texts & resolutions

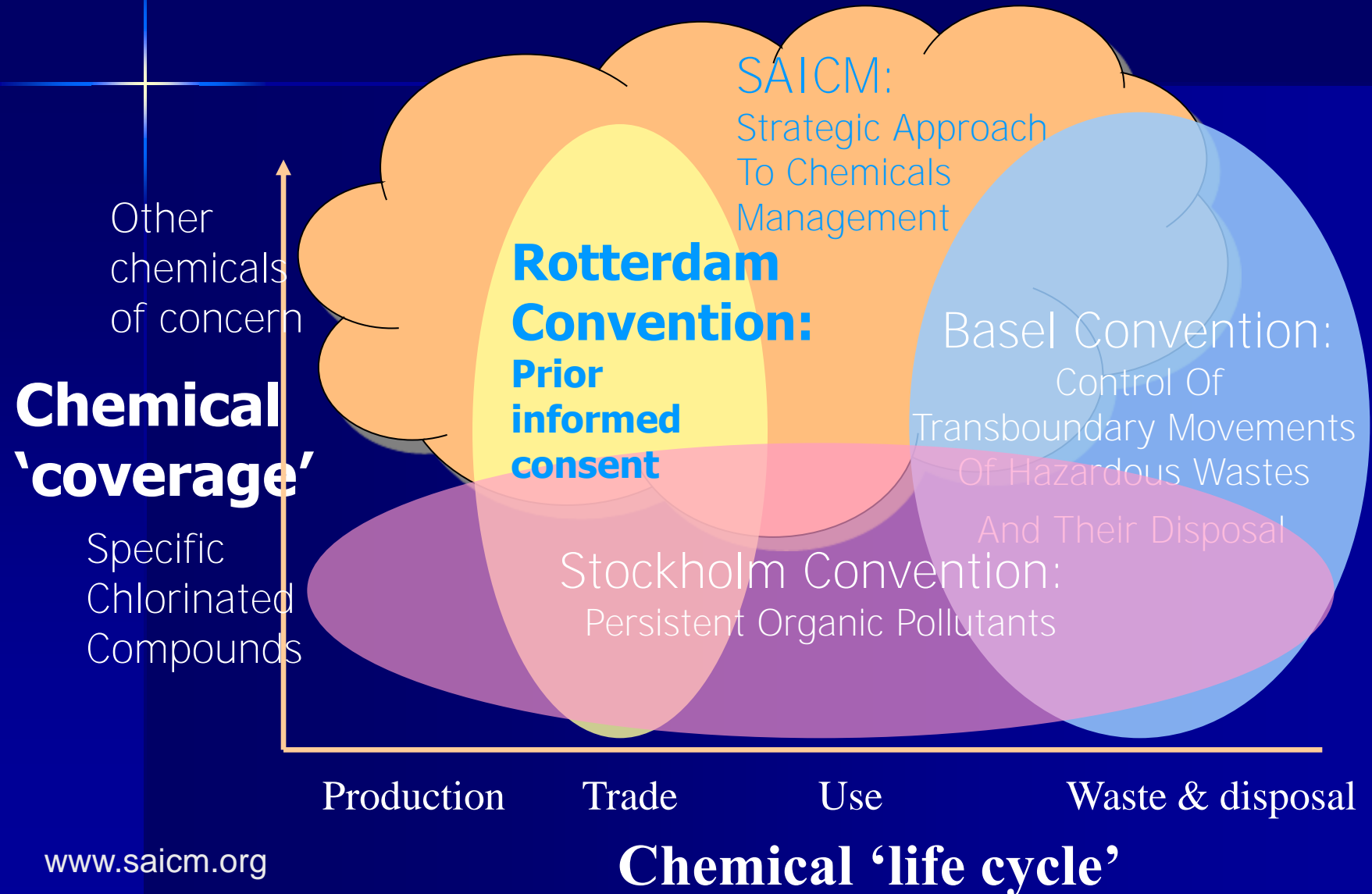
- **Dubai Declaration**
- **Overarching Policy Statement**
- **Global Plan of Action**
- **Resolutions adopted by the ICCM**



Why SAICM?

- Since 1992 UNCED, “much has been done to improve chemicals management”
- However, SAICM is based on the recognition that:
 - Progress in international chemicals management was not sufficient
 - Changing patterns of production & use of chemicals pose increased chemicals burden on developing countries
 - Growing gaps between the capacities of different countries to manage chemicals safely
 - Need to improve synergies between existing instruments and processes
 - Urgency to assess and manage chemicals more effectively to achieve the 2020 goal

Scope of Chemical MEAs



The Dubai Declaration

The Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management is the political commitment to SAICM and implementation.

“The sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development.”

- Adopted by the ICCM
- Structure:
 - Scope (environmental, economic, social, health and labour aspects of chemical safety)
 - Needs
 - Objectives (risk reduction; knowledge & information; governance; capacity-building; and illegal traffic)
 - **Financial considerations**
 - Principles and approaches
 - Implementation arrangements

Global Plan of Action (GPA)

- Recommended for use and further development as a working tool and guidance document for stakeholders implementing SAICM.
- Not fully negotiated.
- 36 work areas, 273 activities, actors, targets/timeframes, indicators of progress, implementation aspects.
- Structured in accordance with the 5 categories of SAICM objectives set out in the OPS.

Keys to achieving SAICM implementation

- Involvement of all stakeholders – Government, non-governmental and intergovernmental
- High-level commitment from all sectors – health, environment, industry, labour, economic
- Emphasis on the sound management of chemicals as a sustainable development issue
- Implementation depends on actions at national, regional and international levels
- Early enabling actions - to build necessary capacity & relevant stakeholder participation

Stakeholder involvement - Industry

- Chemical industry involved through implementation of Responsible Care and Global Product Strategy
- Objective: to improve sound management of chemicals globally

Stakeholder involvement – Labor

Trade Union Actions regarding SAICM objectives:

Risk reduction

Principles for action: “**hierarchy of controls**”

- Elaboration of priority lists and registers
- Risk reduction activities

Knowledge and information

- Data base
- Reports
- Website and journals
- Mobilization, outreach and communication

Governance

- Structures within the Trade Unions
- Policy making and implementation - international, regional, national and workplace (Occupational Health and Safety Committees and access to the Safety Data Sheets)

Stakeholder involvement – Public interest/NGOs

- SAICM NGO Global Outreach Campaign – IPEN
 - Aims at raising awareness about the harms of toxic chemicals, plus engage and broaden the base of civil society groups working on issues related to the implementation of SAICM.
Active involvement in SAICM regional meetings and activities
- Assistance through QSP and other funding/partnership mechanisms
- Drive implementation related activities at country/regional level

Strengths/advantages

- SAICM as unique multi-stakeholder/multi-sectoral model to advance sustainable development objectives
- Public-private partnerships to supplement inter-governmental activities and act as a catalyst
- A balanced combination of regulations and voluntary initiatives can achieve sound management of chemicals

International Conference on Chemicals Management

- The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) undertakes periodic **reviews of SAICM's implementation.**
- ICCM2, Geneva, 11-15 May 2009 in Geneva.
- ICCM3, Geneva, September 2012 (tbc), preceded by a preparatory meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in November 2011.

Initial SAICM implementation

- Start-up phase 2006-2009 (until first review at ICCM2) included:
 - Establishment of the SAICM secretariat.
 - Establishment of a SAICM focal point network (including national focal points from over 160 Governments).
 - Commencement of national planning.
 - Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations developing implementation activities.
 - Regional meetings to establish regional priorities and coordination arrangements.
 - Establishment of the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund.

Continuing SAICM implementation

- Following the first review of progress at ICCM2 in May 2009, SAICM implementation continues, including through:
 - Ongoing national and organization activities, moving beyond initial planning;
 - Work on emerging policy issues agreed at ICCM2;
 - Launch of the SAICM information clearing house;
 - Development of a SAICM health sector strategy;
 - Further regional coordination meetings;
 - Over 139 SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund projects as of July 2011.

Taking stock – achievements

- Substantive work on emerging policy issues
 - Lead in paint (WHO & UNEP)
 - Chemicals in products (UNEP)
 - Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical & electronic products (UNIDO & Basel & Stockholm secretariats)
 - Nanotechnologies & manufactured nanomaterials (OECD & UNITAR).
 - Perfluorinated chemicals (OECD & UNEP)
- Progress on the implementation through QSP projects (Activities implemented in 103 countries)
- Review of progress and identification of priorities at regional meetings.

Next steps - OEWG

- First meeting of the Open-ended Working Group meeting scheduled for 15-18 November in Belgrade, Serbia.
- Purpose: Preparation for the third session of the Conference
- Functions: Identify priority issues for inclusion in the agendas of the sessions of the Conference; prepare draft decisions or resolutions for possible adoption by the Conference; consideration of progress made in the implementation, development and enhancement of SAICM
- Expected outcome: draft decision on nanotechnology and nanomaterials, chemicals in products, and hazardous substances in e-products.
- Other potential draft resolutions: financial resources for implementation, lead in paint, nominations for new emerging issues

Taking stock – towards 2020

- New emerging policy issues
- New additions to global plan of action
- Health sector strategy
- Emerging policy issues:
 - Lead in Paint: Global phase out by 2018?
 - CiP: Non-legally binding framework for information exchange
 - Hazardous substances e-products: international set of best practices, green design?
 - Nanotechnologies: criteria for the Globally Harmonized System concerning the safety of nanomaterials
 - PFCs: stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches ?

The Future

- SAICM entering important phase in implementation – mid-life
- ICCM3 will review progress and assess 2020 target – are we there yet?
- Financial Resources for implementation
- Linkages with Rio + 20
- Long term global chemical outlook

Thank you for your kind attention

Please visit the SAICM web site at:
www.saicm.org

or contact:

SAICM secretariat,
c/o Chemicals Branch, UNEP/DTIE,
11-13 chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine,
Geneva, Switzerland,
Tel +41 22 917 8532, Fax +41 22 797 3460
E-mail: saicm@unep.org