

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: preparations for the first meeting of the Open-ended Legal and Technical Working Group¹ and the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management²

Questionnaire for Governments on the financial arrangements of the Strategic Approach

One of the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), set out in paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is “to evaluate the performance of the financing of the Strategic Approach.” In order to assist the Open-ended Legal and Technical Working Group in preparing for ICCM to fulfil that function, the secretariat is issuing the present questionnaire seeking information from stakeholders on the six SAICM financial arrangements contained in paragraph 19 of the Strategy, as reproduced below. Responses to the questionnaire should be submitted to the SAICM secretariat (by fax to: +41 22 797 3460, or by e-mail to saicm@chemicals.unep.ch) **by 31 August 2008**.

Extract from the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy:

“19. The Strategic Approach should reflect national, regional and global efforts to advance the sound management of chemicals recognizing Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The Strategic Approach should call upon existing and new sources of financial support to provide additional resources and should build upon, among other things, the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building. It should also include the mobilization of additional national and international financial resources, including through the Quick Start Programme and other measures set out in this paragraph, to accelerate the strengthening of capabilities and capacities for the implementation of the Strategic Approach objectives. The extent to which developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small-island developing States, and countries with economies in transition can make progress towards reaching the 2020 goal depends, in part, on the availability of financial resources provided by the private sector and bilateral, multilateral and global agencies or donors. Financial arrangements for the Strategic Approach include, among other things:

- (a) Actions at the national or sub-national levels to support financing of Strategic Approach objectives, including by:
 - (i) Integrating Strategic Approach objectives in relevant programmes, plans and/or strategies at various levels;
 - (ii) Assessing current laws, policies and regulations to identify changes that may be needed to advance implementation of the Strategic Approach objectives, including an assessment of funding needs where appropriate;
 - (iii) Assessing and where necessary adopting appropriate policies at the national and sub-national levels, which could include economic instruments, that can help to cover the cost of sound chemicals management;
 - (iv) Where appropriate, assessing and adopting at the national and sub-national levels economic instruments intended to internalize the external costs of chemicals, bearing in mind that such instruments need careful design, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
 - (v) Governments and other stakeholders exchanging information on experience and studies in the national use of economic instruments and submitting such information to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to make it broadly available;
- (b) Enhancing industry partnerships and financial and technical participation in the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives, including by inviting industry:

¹ The first meeting of the Open-ended Legal and Technical Working Group will be held in Rome, Italy, from 21 to 24 October 2008.

² The second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11 to 15 May 2009.

- (i) To review and strengthen current voluntary industry initiatives to address the considerable challenges associated with the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives;
 - (ii) To develop new initiatives, including in partnership with foundations, academia and non-governmental organizations, for the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives;
 - (iii) To provide resources, including in-kind contributions, for the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives, continuing and building upon its initiatives on good corporate social and environmental responsibility;
- (c) Integration of the Strategic Approach objectives into multilateral and bilateral development assistance cooperation, including by:
- (i) Developing countries and countries with economies in transition, where necessary with the technical support of donors, considering the integration of Strategic Approach objectives into relevant national documents that influence development assistance cooperation;
 - (ii) Donors responding to requests by, and working in partnership with, developing countries and countries with economies in transition by recognizing Strategic Approach objectives as an important element of bilateral aid agency cooperation in support of sustainable development;
 - (iii) Inviting United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and other intergovernmental organizations to include Strategic Approach objectives within their activities, as appropriate;
- (d) Making more effective use of and building upon existing sources of relevant global funding, including by inviting the Global Environment Facility and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol within their mandates to consider whether and how they might support implementation of appropriate and relevant Strategic Approach objectives and to report;
- (e) Supporting initial capacity-building activities for the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives by establishing a programme to be called the Quick Start Programme. The Programme will contain a voluntary, time-limited trust fund and may include multilateral, bilateral and other forms of cooperation. The trust fund will be administered by UNEP;
- (f) Inviting Governments and other stakeholders to provide resources to enable the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to fulfil the tasks set out in paragraph 28, including by:
- (i) Inviting UNEP to arrange for the adaptation and reinforcement of the existing voluntary trust fund to support these tasks;
 - (ii) Inviting all countries and regional economic integration organizations to contribute;
 - (iii) Inviting the private sector, including industry, foundations and other non-governmental organizations, to also contribute.”

In some instances, the questionnaire seeks information that is already publicly available, for example, whether a Government is participating in a Quick Start Programme project. Space for such information is provided for ease of reference of readers. .

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| <p>Questionnaire for Governments on SAICM financial arrangements for the information of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session</p> | <p>Please return by 31 August 2008 to:</p> <p>SAICM secretariat 11-13 chemin des Anémones CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva Switzerland Tel: +41 22 917 86 31 Fax: +41 22 797 34 60 E-mail: saicm@chemicals.unep.ch</p> |
| <p>In order to assist ICCM in evaluating the performance of the financing of SAICM, please address the six SAICM financial arrangements, below, by providing, where relevant, information on steps taken by your Government to pursue, to contribute to, or to benefit from each of the six arrangements.</p> | <p>Submitter <i>(Government or organization, address, contact name)</i></p> <p>Dr. Hirotsugu Kimura National Focal Point of SAICM Director Environmental Health and Safety Division Environmental Health Department Ministry of the Environment, JAPAN</p> |
| <p>a) Actions at the national or subnational levels to support the financing of SAICM objectives:</p> <p>(i) Has your Government integrated SAICM objectives in relevant programmes, plans or strategies at various levels?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, describe: The Third Environmental Basic Plan (Cabinet decision in April 2006, based on the Basic Environmental Law) incorporated the SAICM objectives.</p> <p>(ii) Has your Government assessed current laws, policies and regulations to identify changes that may be needed to advance implementation of SAICM objectives, including by assessing funding needs where appropriate?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, describe: Expert committees of relevant ministries are currently reviewing the laws related to chemicals management (PRTR, MSDS and regulation on new and existing industrial chemicals) in light of the SAICM objectives. For implementation specific topics in SAICM, e.g. Children Health, are funded for the researches and policies discussion by competent authorities.</p> <p>(iii) Has your Government assessed, and where necessary adopted, appropriate policies at the national and subnational levels, including economic instruments, which might help to cover the cost of sound chemicals management?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, describe:</p> <p>(iv) Has your Government, where appropriate, assessed and adopted at the national and sub-national levels economic instruments intended to internalize the external costs of chemicals?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, describe:</p> | |

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| <p>(v) Does your Government have information on experience in and studies on the national use of economic instruments which it could share with UNEP in order to make it broadly available?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please attach information.</p> |
| <p>b) Enhancing industry partnerships and financial and technical participation in the implementation of SAICM objectives: <i>(Please provide information on steps taken by your Government, if any, to encourage industry contributions to SAICM implementation.)</i></p> <p>The distribution of information on SAICM itself and its implementation in other countries has been implemented in several channels e.g. national seminar for public on SAICM. Examples of specific partnership programmes on chemicals management includes the Japan Challenge Programme, in which industry voluntarily contribute to the safety assessment of high production volume chemicals.</p> |
| <p>c) Integration of SAICM objectives into multilateral and bilateral development assistance cooperation:</p> <p>(i) <i>For developing countries and countries with economies in transition:</i> Has your Government, where necessary with the technical support of donors, considered the integration of SAICM objectives into relevant national documents that influence development assistance cooperation?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, describe:</p> <p>(ii) <i>For donors:</i> Has your Government responded to requests from, and worked in partnership with, developing countries and countries with economies in transition by recognizing SAICM objectives as an important element of bilateral aid agency cooperation in support of sustainable development?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, describe:</p> <p>Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter identifies the priority Issues including global issues such as global warming and other environmental problems, which potentially contains chemical management. Mid term policy of ODA also states that Japan will give high priority to cooperation in pollution control through measures on air pollution, water contamination, and waste management, which includes chemical management issues.</p> |
| <p>d) Making more effective use of and building upon existing sources of relevant global funding:</p> <p>(i) <i>For developing countries and countries with economies in transition:</i> Has your Government sought to use Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Multilateral Fund projects to pursue SAICM objectives that are consistent with the objectives of those funds?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, describe:</p> <p>(ii) <i>For all Governments:</i> Has your Government, through its representatives on the relevant governing bodies, encouraged GEF and the Multilateral Fund to respond positively to the invitation contained in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy for the two funds, within their mandates, to consider whether and how they might support implementation of appropriate and relevant SAICM objectives?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |

e) Supporting initial capacity-building activities for the implementation of SAICM by establishing the Quick Start Programme:

(i) *For developing countries and countries with economies in transition:* Has your Government made use of the Quick Start Programme?

Yes No If yes, describe:

(ii) *For all Governments:* Has your Government contributed to the resources of the Quick Start Programme?

Yes No If yes, describe:

Ministry of the Environment, Japan is starting two implementation projects in Thailand and Bhutan in 2008.

(iii) *For all Governments:* Please indicate your views, if any, as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the Quick Start Programme's performance?

f) Inviting Governments and other stakeholders to provide resources to enable the SAICM secretariat to fulfil its tasks, as set out in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy:

Has your Government contributed resources, in cash or in kind, as requested in the Overarching Policy Strategy, to enable the SAICM secretariat to fulfil its tasks?

Yes No If yes, describe:

SAICM regional meeting in Asia Pacific region was funded by Ministry of the Environment, Japan.

Additional comments and recommendations

If your Government has any additional comments to make regarding the performance of the SAICM financial arrangements and/or recommendations for the future, please state them below.