

Strengthening Governance, Civil Society Participation and Partnerships within an Integrated National Chemicals and Waste Management Programme

*Pilot Projects in Support of National SAICM Implementation:
2006-2009*

Information Note and Application Information

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Secretariat of the Basel
Convention
United Nations Environment Programme



INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS
A cooperative agreement among UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR, and UNESCO

Overview

This brochure features information relevant for countries interested in submitting an application to participate as a pilot country in the UNITAR-supported projects (2006–2009) on strengthening governance, civil society participation, and partnerships within an integrated national chemicals and waste management programme. Guiding principles for the projects include:

- a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach at the national level, involving representatives from all concerned government ministries, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations;
- a country-driven, results-oriented process through which key groups (*i.e.* government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations) assess their existing capacities as a basis for setting national priorities taking into account specific needs and circumstances;
- and exploration of innovative concepts, such as pilot testing of partnerships and voluntary industry initiatives as a complement to regulatory approaches.

The deadline for submitting an application package is
31 May 2006.

UNITAR would like to acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Switzerland. For additional information please contact:

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1. Background

International Policy Context

It is now widely recognized that chemicals and chemical wastes need to be managed properly in order to achieve sustainable agricultural and industrial development and a high level of environmental and human health protection. In 2002, delegates at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) set a goal to ensure the sound management of chemicals world-wide by 2020. As an important milestone towards achieving this goal and to ensure a coherent approach to chemicals management at all levels, governments in cooperation with stakeholders, developed the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), which is expected to be adopted at the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in early 2006.

SAICM builds upon a number of prior initiatives such as *Chapter 19 of Agenda 21* (adopted at the “Rio Summit” in 1992), the *IFCS Bahia Declaration* (adopted in 2000), and several international agreements, including the *Rotterdam Convention* on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), the *Stockholm Convention* on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), *ILO Convention 170*, the *Basel Convention* on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and the *Chemicals Weapons Convention*.

Programmatic and Integrated Approaches to Chemicals and Waste Management

The importance of developing an integrated and coordinated approach to national chemicals management is one of the key messages of SAICM. This can be achieved, as the SAICM outcomes to-date suggest, through the development of a national programme for the sound management of chemicals and chemical wastes. Such a programme can facilitate, *inter alia*, inter-ministerial coordination, access to and exchange of information, meaningful stakeholder participation, and coordinated priority setting.

Importance of Effective Partnerships and Stakeholder Involvement

SAICM’s “Global Plan of Action” specifically notes that the involvement of all relevant stakeholders is essential to achieving sound chemicals management. It also refers to the importance of a transparent and open implementation process and public participation in decision-making. Equally important, SAICM addresses the need for public-private partnerships to achieve the sound management of chemicals and chemical wastes.

These provisions are consistent with a number of related international policy developments. For example, Chapter 23 of Agenda 21 which recognizes that broad public participation is a fundamental prerequisite of sustainable development, and Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration which states that environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens.

Public interest and labour organizations, however, often lack the financial and human resources and technical know-how required to ensure meaningful participation. An important opportunity therefore exists to build the capacities of these organizations to facilitate their effective participation in chemicals management. Such capacity can be enhanced by providing technical training, supporting the cost of their participation, and strengthening their skills to develop successful funding proposals.

2. UNITAR Programme to Support Development of Integrated National Programmes for Chemicals and Waste Management

Since 1996, UNITAR, in collaboration with its IOMC partners and other international organizations, has assisted some 11 countries to develop integrated national approaches and programmes for chemicals and waste management. Through collaboration with pilot countries, several guidance documents have been developed which are relevant to and will be adapted towards addressing national implementation of SAICM. They include, *inter alia*:

- *Preparing a National Profile for the Sound Management of Chemicals;*
- *Organizing a National Priority Setting Workshop for Sound Chemicals Management;*
- *Action Plan Development for Sound Chemicals Management;* and
- *Developing and Sustaining an Integrated National Programme for Sound Chemicals Management.*

The next phase of the UNITAR programme is being implemented from 2006 to 2009 and will be linked to the implementation of SAICM. It will specifically focus on strengthening governance, civil society participation, and partnerships within an integrated national chemicals and waste management programme.

Development of new guidance documents will also be considered, including the following:

- *National Implementation of SAICM: A Guide to Resource, Guidance and Training Materials of IOMC POs;*
- *Preparing a National Capacity Assessment for Implementation of SAICM;*
- *Strengthening Participation of Civil Society in National Chemicals Management and SAICM Implementation;* and
- *Designing Effective Partnerships and Voluntary Industry Programmes for the Sound Management of Chemicals.*

3. Implementation of Pilot Projects: 2006–2009

Starting in September 2006, UNITAR will be in a position to support three developing countries and one country in economic transition to develop an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste with a focus on governance, stakeholder participation, and partnerships to support national SAICM implementation. Country projects will take place over a period of three years, from Sept 2006 to August 2009.

National Project Coordination

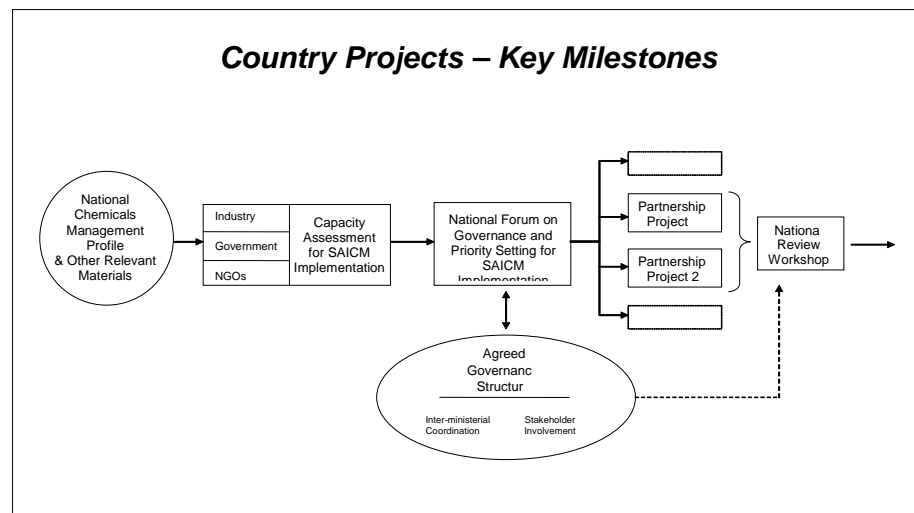
At the national level, implementation of the projects will involve key actors from government (including ministries concerned with chemicals management, such as Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Health, Labour, Industry, and Transport), business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations (such as public interest groups, environmental and consumer groups, labour unions, research institutes, and academia). In order to ensure national project coordination, a steering group will be established (with appropriate representation of government and other stakeholders) to oversee project design and implementation.

Project Activities

A number of activities will be implemented by each pilot country. Based on the National Chemicals Management Profile (and other relevant materials, such as National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention), government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations will collaborate in preparing a National Capacity Assessment for the Implementation of SAICM. The assessment will be prepared by an independent organization jointly selected by and working closely with government and relevant stakeholders. It will document existing capacities in government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations, and present their respective priorities. Through a final chapter, common priorities and opportunities for specific partnership projects involving government and other stakeholders will be identified.

This assessment will provide an important input to the next activity, a National SAICM Forum, where priorities for action will be selected and a governance structure for the national programme and SAICM implementation agreed upon. As a follow-up to the National SAICM Forum, two partnership projects aimed at making concrete progress in selected SAICM priority work areas will be supported by the project. The project will conclude with a National Review Workshop to assess progress made and to enhance the sustainability of the National Programme by seeking commitment to fully integrating chemicals management into

national development planning. The following figure illustrates the methodology and key milestones to be met by pilot countries.



4. Expected Outcomes in Pilot Countries

Expected outcomes of the projects include:

- A *national governance framework* for chemicals management and SAICM implementation, including inter-ministerial coordination, information exchange, and stakeholder involvement.
- Identified *national priorities for chemicals management and SAICM implementation*, based on the National Chemicals Management Profile and the National Capacity Assessment for Implementation of SAICM.
- Two implemented *partnership projects* for sound chemicals and waste management, involving government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations.
- An updated *National Profile* (if not recently completed).

In addition, the projects are expected to implement SAICM provisions which recommend the integration of chemicals management into national policies concerned with development priorities.

5. Support Provided to Pilot Countries

UNITAR, and its international partners, will provide national-level training and technical support to pilot countries. In addition, as a contribution to nationally-executed activities, UNITAR will be able to provide a grant in the range of USD 110,000 per country. Approximately USD 40-50,000 will be available for preparing the National Capacity Assessment, organizing a National SAICM Forum and a National Review Workshop, and establishing a national governance framework. In addition 2 x USD 30-35,000 will be available for developing and implementing activities for the two partnership projects.

A significant portion of the total funding available (approximately 30%) would be allocated specifically to strengthen the capacities of public interest and labour organizations to participate effectively in project activities. Some limited funding may be available for business and industry activities, but it is expected that their activities would in general be self-funded.

Details regarding funding will be agreed between UNITAR and the pilot country in a work-plan developed in August–October 2006. The work-plan will provide details on activities, outputs, and timelines; institutional implementation arrangements; participating government bodies and stakeholder organizations; and financial aspects. Prior to the transfer of financial resources, Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) will be signed between UNITAR and executing partners in each pilot country.

6. Application Process and Requirements (February–May 2006)

Interested countries should submit an application package that includes separate *Statements of Interest* from government, business and industry,

and public interest and labour organizations, respectively. Each statement should refer to the anticipated benefits of participating in the project from the perspective of each group. It should also outline counterpart and in-kind resources available to contribute to project implementation, point to linkages with other ongoing initiatives, and annex a list of entities within each group that endorse the application. In order to facilitate the application process, the proposed lead government agency for the project may consider convening an informal meeting with government, business and industry, and public interest and labour organizations.

Only one application package can be submitted per country. Application forms are available from UNITAR upon request. They can also be downloaded at www.unitar.org/cwg. The deadline for submitting the application package is 31 May 2006.

7. Programme Implementation at the International Level

At the international level, a Programme Task Force (PTF) – comprising representatives from the IOMC Participating Organizations (POs), the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and other partners – serves as a steering committee for the Programme, with UNITAR providing the Secretariat as the implementing organisation. The PTF meets regularly to discuss issues of Programme planning and implementation. The participation of international partners in the Programme is intended to ensure that the specialized expertise and guidance available through these organisations is made available to all actors in partner countries. In addition, collaboration will be sought at the international level with representatives from industry (e.g. ICCA) and public interest and labour organizations (e.g. IPEN, WWF).

The PTF will be responsible for selecting the four participating countries in June 2006. Primary criteria for selection include completeness and quality of the application package and the demonstrated commitment of key groups (*i.e.* government, business and industry, and public interest and

labour organizations) to working collaboratively to develop a national programme to facilitate SAICM implementation. In addition, the PTF will attempt to ensure that selected countries will represent different developing regions/sub-regions. Countries will be informed of the decision no later than 31 July 2006. Implementing activities are expected to commence before the end of 2006.



**Thematic Workshop on Governance, Civil Society Participation
and Partnerships for Chemicals and Waste Management and
SAICM Implementation**

June 2006

In preparation for country-based projects and to facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learned at the international level, UNITAR, in collaboration with interested international organizations, will organize a global thematic workshop on governance, civil society participation, and partnerships for sound chemicals and waste management and SAICM implementation in June 2006. Country and stakeholder representatives will have an opportunity to present examples of partnership projects and contribute to the development of practical guidance for future country-based activities. Countries interested in applying as pilot countries are strongly encouraged to participate in the workshop and will receive priority attention for travel support available for the workshop.

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- To conduct training programmes in multilateral diplomacy and international cooperation for diplomats accredited in Geneva and the national officials, involved in work related to United Nations activities.
- To carry out a wide range of training programmes in the field of social and economic development which include:
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 - b. Environmental and Natural Resource Management Training Programmes;
 - c. Training Programme on Debt and Financial Management with special emphasis on the Legal Aspects;
 - d. Training Programme on Disaster Control;
 - e. Training Programme on Peace-Keeping, Peace-Making, and Peace-Building.

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