



## ***Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)***

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### **Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

Second session

Nairobi, 4-8 October 2004

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

### **Further development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management**

## **Submission by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on its global workshop on synergies for capacity-building under international agreements**

### **Note by the secretariat**

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, a submission from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) concerning its global workshop on synergies for capacity-building under international agreements addressing chemicals and waste management, held in Geneva from 30 March to 2 April 2004, for the information of the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

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## **Annex**

### **Global Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management, Geneva, 30 March – 2 April 2004**

#### **Issues Relevant for Developing SAICM**

##### **Submitted by UNITAR**

From 30 March to 2 April 2004, 81 representatives from developing countries, countries with economies in transition, industrialized countries, international organizations, Convention Secretariats and non-governmental organizations (including industry, public interest groups and labour unions) participated in the "Global Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management", which took place in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting concluded that the identification and implementation of synergies for capacity building under international agreements should become a key aspect of developing an integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals that aims at systematically implementing the WSSD 2020 chemical safety goals.

Workshop participants identified a number of issues and made specific recommendations for SAICM to consider and requested UNITAR to bring these forward for consideration at PrepCom-2. Key recommendations of the workshop which relate to the SAICM process include the following:

- SAICM should encourage countries to develop an integrated national programme for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including a coherent legal and institutional infrastructure as well as measures to facilitate the integrated implementation of relevant international agreements.
- SAICM should further define, or initiate a process to further define, the goals, objectives, indicators and mechanisms towards achieving integrated chemicals management by the year 2020 from a national capacity development perspective. This would allow countries to link their activities and progress to an internationally agreed road-map, which will facilitate step-by-step improvements to address the existing gaps.
- SAICM may want to consider and encourage the exchange of lessons learned from country projects on integrated chemicals and waste management (e.g. those identified in the context of UNITAR/IOMC supported pilot projects).
- SAICM should initiate/strengthen fora (e.g. the IOMC) to ensure that secretariats of international agreements and UN agencies can explore more systematically opportunities to ensure that efforts are not duplicated and cooperation is maximised.

The Executive Summary of the Workshop is included with this note as Annex 1. Annex 2 features a summary table, prepared for the workshop by UNITAR, which links the requirements of 11 international agreements to the elements of national chemicals safety, as agreed at the Rio Summit in 1992.<sup>1</sup> A "horizontal" analysis of the

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<sup>1</sup> The agreements analyzed were: UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention); Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal; Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemicals Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention, CWC); International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (Revised version); Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS); ILO Chemicals Convention 1990, No. 170; ILO Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention 1993, No. 174; Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete

table identifies a number of areas where synergistic or integrated approaches at the national level may be possible and beneficial. The analysis undertaken is only a first step and does not cover all relevant agreements. UNITAR, working with its international and national partners, looks forward to receiving guidance on possible next steps to take the analysis further. A complete report of the workshop report will be made available at PREPCOM 2.<sup>2</sup>

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the Ozone Layer; and United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

<sup>2</sup> UNITAR will also submit an INF paper to PrepCom-2 highlighting national experiences with integrated approaches to chemicals and waste management capacity building.



Geneva Environment Network



Secretariat of the Basel Convention



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## **Executive Summary of Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management**

**30 March – 2 April 2004, Geneva, Switzerland**

### ***Background***

*Geneva, Switzerland, 15 May 2004* – The Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management took place from 30 March – 2 April 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland. The workshop brought together 81 representatives from developing countries, countries with economies in transition, industrialized countries, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations including industry, public interest groups and labour unions. Representatives of the following secretariats or other bodies directly involved in the implementation of international agreements were present: Aarhus Convention, Basel Convention, Chemical Weapons Convention, Global Environment Facility, ILO Convention 170, Montreal Protocol, Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention. The event was organized by UNITAR in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Basel Convention and OPCW, the Geneva Environment Network (GEN) and UNECE, within the framework of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). It was opened by Marcel Boisard, Executive Director of UNITAR and Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations. Funding was kindly provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the OPCW.

Following a request made by several governments at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) held in Bangkok in November 2003, the outcomes of the workshop will contribute to an information paper on "Opportunities for Integrated Chemicals Management Capacity Building", which UNITAR will submit to PrepCom 2 of SAICM scheduled for October 2004.

### ***Measures to Facilitate Integrated Capacity and Synergy Development at the National Level***

The workshop concluded that approaches to the implementation of individual conventions at the national level often are disconnected and incoherent. This fragmentation can prevent identifying opportunities for co-operation and realizing mutual benefits. The workshop therefore recommended that countries should develop an integrated national framework for the implementation of international agreements. Developing synergies in capacity development does not, however, always mean full integration. In many cases, improving information flow and exchange, or systematic coordination, may also produce the “5 Cs” of synergy development: coherency, co-ordination, consistency, continuity, and cost efficiency.

Workshop participants suggested that national focal points of international agreements may want to consider and undertake a number of practical activities and measures towards identifying and realising synergies at the national level. These include, for example:

- Regular co-ordination meetings in preparation for and as a follow-up to international meetings and negotiations, such as the upcoming SAICM PrepCom.
- Preparation of a situation analysis, which identifies the agreements relevant to the country, summarizes implementing measures already in place, and identifies potential areas for synergy development.
- Organization of a national workshop on the integrated implementation of international agreements, bringing together national focal point agencies and other ministries and stakeholders.
- Development of an integrated national programme, including a coherent legal and institutional infrastructure, for the sound management of chemicals and wastes that addresses integrated implementation of international agreements.
- Close collaboration among focal points of international agreements to place chemicals management on the national sustainable development agenda (e.g. via ministries of finance, planning, parliamentarians, etc.).
- Ensuring the involvement of ministries and institutions that are not primarily concerned with chemicals and waste management, such as ministries of finance/customs.
- Creating linkages with institutions that have specific jurisdictional responsibilities, such as state/local authorities.

Through working groups, in-depth discussions took place regarding a number of specific areas contained in international agreements which can benefit from a coherent or integrated approach at the national level. They included: development of coherent policy, legislation and institutional frameworks; the role of provinces/local

authorities; awareness raising, education and training; information exchange and public participation; capacity for risk assessment; and capacity for analysis, monitoring and enforcement. Other areas highlighted included the development of integrated strategies for import/export control, inspection systems, and integrated disposal of chemical wastes, outdated drugs and obsolete pesticides. All in all, these collaborative efforts can help ensure that chemicals and waste management can become an integral part of national sustainable development agendas.

### ***The Importance of Synergy Development at the International Level***

While synergy development at the national level received significant attention, workshop participants also emphasized the need for ensuring synergies at the international level among international organisations and convention secretariats. Specific suggestions include:

- regular meetings among secretariats of international agreements on capacity building issues;
- involvement of convention secretariats as members of the IOMC;
- systematic inclusion of synergy development in the design of capacity building projects; and
- development of integrated training programmes for national focal points.

Concerning international guidance and training material on synergy development, a range of guidance documents and training materials are already available for a number of Conventions and on a number of topics. However, they often do not facilitate integrated capacity building approaches. Materials should therefore be developed in the form of “integrated” toolkits, which could be either used during training programs or for self-training. Existing training material on import/export control (such as that available through UNEP DTIE) or on illegal traffic (such as that available from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention) could, for example, be further developed to facilitate a more integrated approach to capacity development at the national level. Several international organizations present at the meeting expressed their interest to collaborate towards further developing such guidance and training packages.

The workshop highlighted that internationally available tools such as the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) promote synergy development at the national level. The GHS ensures coherence of classification and labelling through the chemical life-cycle and for all chemicals, and PRTR’s allow tracking of emissions of chemicals/wastes addressed under international agreements in an integrated way through a multi-media approach.

### ***Issues Relevant to the SAICM Process***

The workshop identified a number of issues and recommendations that should be channelled into and considered by SAICM. They include the following:

- SAICM should encourage countries to develop an integrated national programme for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including a coherent legal and institutional infrastructure as well as measures to facilitate the integrated implementation of relevant international agreements.
- SAICM should further define, or initiate a process to further define, the goals, objectives, indicators and mechanisms towards achieving integrated chemicals management by the year 2020 from a national capacity development perspective. This would allow countries to link their activities and progress to an internationally agreed road-map, which will facilitate step-by-step improvements to address the existing gaps.
- SAICM may want to consider and encourage the exchange of lessons learned from country projects on integrated chemicals and waste management (e.g. those identified in the context of UNITAR/IOMC supported pilot projects).
- SAICM should initiate/strengthen fora (e.g. the IOMC) to ensure that secretariats of international agreements and UN agencies can explore more systematically opportunities to ensure that efforts are not duplicated and cooperation is maximised.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Franz Perrez of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL) pointed out that the workshop has resulted in practical discussions and outcomes: "The workshop has identified clear benefits of synergies: an increase of effectiveness, cost-efficiency, coherence, comprehensiveness, a reduction of overlap, duplication and contradiction and missed opportunities, and a safe and healthier environment for all of us". Mr. Perrez also pointed out that the workshop recommendations and results will hopefully motivate participants to catalyse concrete action with concrete impacts when they return home and also provide a rich and stimulating input to the SAICM process.

In preparation for the workshop, UNITAR prepared a number of documents, including an analysis of international agreements from a perspective of synergy development for capacity building. The full report of the workshop will be available by mid-June. All related documentation is available on the official website for the workshop at <<http://www.unitar.org/cwm/c/tw/ws8/index.htm>>.

For further information, please contact:

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## Annex 2: Summary Table of National Capacity Requirements Under International Chemicals and Waste Management Agreements

Draft prepared by UNITAR for the *Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building Under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management*, 30 March – 2 April 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland

Chapter 19, Agenda 21: Elements for sound chemicals management	Issue <sup>3</sup>	Aarhu s Conve ntion	Basel Conv ention	Chemical Weapons Conventio n	FAO Code	<i>GHS</i>	ILO Chemical s Conventi on 170	ILO 174 Major Industrial Accidents	Rotter- dam	Stock- holm	Vienna Convention Montreal Protocol	UN Narcotic s
<b>(A) Adequate Legislation</b>	Generic Legislation	+++	+++	+++	++	+	+++	+++	+++		+++	+++
	Import/Export Control Legislation		+++	+++					+++	+++		
	Enabling Legislation for Chemical Use Restrictions/Bans		+++							+++		+++
<b>(B) Information Gathering and Dissemination</b>	Development of chemical lists and/or inventory		+		++		+++	+++	++	+++		
	Emissions reporting	+++								+++	+++	
	National information systems/exchange	+++		+++	++	+	+	+++	+++	+++		+++
	International information exchange	+++	+++	+++	+	+	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
	Hazard data generation				++	+						
	Data confidentiality	+		+++		+	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++
	Access to information	+++		+	++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++		

<sup>3</sup> **Key:** +++ Specific Obligation; ++ Specific Recommendation; + General Reference



Chapter 19, Agenda 21: Elements for sound chemicals management		Issue <sup>3</sup>	Aarhu s Conve ntion	Basel Conv ention	Chemical Weapons Conventio n	FAO Code	<i>GHS</i>	ILO Chemical s Conventi on 170	ILO 174 Major Industrial Accidents	Rotter- dam	Stock- holm	Vienna Convention Montreal Protocol	UN Narcotic s
(C) Capacity for Risk Assessment and Interpretation		Hazard assessment / classification		+	+	++	+	+++	+++	+++	+		
		Hazard / risk communication (e.g. labeling)	+++	+++		++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
		Risk assessment				++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++		
(D) Establishment of Risk Management Policy		Packaging requirements		+++		++	+	+++		+			
		Capacity for risk management decision-making				++		+++	+++				
		Chemical-specific use restrictions/bans			+++	+		+++		+++	+++	+++	
		Life-cycle management		+		+	+	+		+++	+		
		Precautionary principle/approach							+++		+	+	
(E) Capacity for Implementa- tion and Enforcemen t		Focal points		+++	+			+	++	+++	+++		+
		Interministerial Coordination				++							
		Stakeholder Involvement	+++			++		+++	+++		+++		
		Resource Mobilisation		++	+++	++				++	+++	+++	
		Technical assistance		+++	+++	++	+			+++	+++	+++	+++

Chapter 19, Agenda 21: Elements for sound chemicals management		Issue <sup>3</sup>	Aarhu s Conve ntion	Basel Conv ention	Chemical Weapons Conventio n	FAO Code	<i>GHS</i>	ILO Chemical s Conventi on 170	ILO 174 Major Industrial Accidents	Rotter- dam	Stock- holm	Vienna Convention Montreal Protocol	UN Narcotic s	
	General Implementa- tion Issues	Training / Skills building		+		++	+	+++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	
		Technology transfer		+++		++				+	+++	+++		
		Development of alternatives				+	++				+++	+++	VC ++ MP +++	
		Evaluation of Implementation	+++	+	+++	++	++		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
	Enforcement	Capacity for chemical analysis/monitoring				+	++	+	+++		+++		+++	+++
		Enforcement of regulations/decisions		+++	+++	++			+++		+++	+++	+++	+++
		Access to Justice	+++						+++					
(F) Capacity for Rehabilitation of Contaminated Sites and Poisoned Persons						++			+++		+++			
(G) Effective Education programmes			+++	+	+		+	+++			+++	+++	+	
(H) Capacity to Respond to Emergencies				++	+++		+	+++	+++					