Development of Integrated National Programmes for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INP)

Submitted by UNITAR
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Background and Context

At the First Session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom 1) for SAICM, held in Bangkok, Thailand, 8-13 November 2003, the Committee requested UNITAR to share lessons learned from a series of UNITAR/IOMC-supported national level pilot projects to support development of *Integrated National Programmes for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INP)*, including methodologies to assist inter-ministerial coordination and stakeholder involvement.[1] Complementary to this request, participants of the Global Thematic Workshop on Synergies for Capacity Building under International Agreements Addressing Chemicals and Waste Management (30 March – 2 April 2004) recommended that countries establish an *Integrated National Programme for Sound Chemicals Management* and requested that UNITAR forward this recommendation to PrepCom 2 of SAICM.[2]

This note introduces the concept of an Integrated National Programme (INP), developed through collaboration of pilot countries, UNITAR and participating organizations of the IOMC. It also suggests possible action items for PrepCom 2 to consider and outlines opportunities for further international work to support integrated national action to reach the WSSD 2020 goal for sound chemicals management. Specifically, PrepCom 2 may want to consider developing a recommendation on the development of *Integrated National Programmes for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INPs)*. In support of such national Programmes, UNITAR would consider it important that international benchmarks or a road map are developed which could serve as reference points for countries to work towards and reach the WSSD 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals. Both suggestions are further addressed in this note.

The Concept of an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INP)

Recognizing the need for a more coherent, systematic, and long-term approach towards chemicals management capacity building, a number of pilot countries have taken steps in the recent past to integrate their chemicals management activities and projects into a "programmatic" framework at the national level, or what has been called an *Integrated National Programme for Sound Chemicals Management (INP)*. These country initiatives were technically and methodologically supported by UNITAR/IOMC, with funding from the Swiss Government. Through these collaborative projects, the INP concept was pilot tested and further developed over

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[1] SAICM/PREPCOM.1/7 19 November 2003, paragraph 23.
[2] See SAICM/PREPCOM.2/INF/5, "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.

time.[3] Details about the INP concept can be found in the UNITAR/IOMC Guidance Document entitled: "Developing and Sustaining an Integrated National Programme for Sound Chemicals and Waste Management (2004)" (available at PrepCom 2 at the UNITAR display).

Core elements of the INP approach include, *inter alia*, the following[4]:

• establishment of a formalized inter-ministerial coordinating mechanism;

• development and updating of a comprehensive National Chemicals Management Profile through participation of affected and interested parties;

• a national chemical safety policy outlining strategic goals and milestones towards reaching the WSSD 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals;

• a national information exchange mechanism, including operation of a national chemical safety webpage/portal;

• co-ordinated national goal and priority setting against agreed strategic objectives;

• development and implementation of action plans for priority topics including involvement of relevant government sectors, industry and civil society;

• systematic identification of synergies for capacity building under international agreements (e.g. in areas such as import control or emission reporting); and

• consolidated and coordinated efforts to mobilize national and external resources and to raise the importance of chemicals management within the national sustainable development agenda.

A core feature of the INP approach is that all government ministries keep their independence and contribute to the National Programme within their own areas of competence and within their mandate. Only where a fully integrated approach provides value-added are activities undertaken collectively, such as preparing a National Profile. The vision of the INP concept is that the sum of activities within an INP becomes more than the adding up of its individual parts, thus synergies are created and resources maximized.

Thematic Workshops on Priority Topics in Support of INP Processes

In support of country-based INP activities and to facilitate knowledge management and information exchange at the global level, UNITAR and its international partners have convened a series of workshops addressing priority issues of national chemicals management as identified by countries in the context of national INP projects.

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[3] Current project countries include Armenia, Jamaica, Jordan and Tchad. Pilot countries from previous phases include Argentina, Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, Senegal, Slovenia and Sri Lanka. The Projects have been funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC).

[4] A graph representing an overview of the INP approach is contained as Annex 1. More information, including guidance and training materials, regarding the UNITAR/IOMC programme that assists countries in addressing issues related to INP can be found at: www.unitar.org/cwm/a/inp/index.htm/.

Workshops addressed topics such as inter-ministerial coordination, financial resource mobilization, information exchange, and synergy development under international agreements. Workshop proceedings serve as discussion documents to inform INP country activities in the respective areas. [5]

Possible Recommendations by SAICM on INP

Should the INP concept be considered of value for developing SAICM, PrepCom 2 may consider developing recommendations to encourage countries to develop a more programmatic and integrated approach to chemical management capacity building. To provide for an overarching framework, SAICM may want to *encourage countries to establish an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals by a target date* to be considered realistic by all participants. As an integral part of implementation of an INP, SAICM may recommend and develop targets for:

- development of a comprehensive National Profile by the year xxxx;

- formalization of an inter-ministerial coordinating mechanism on chemicals management issues by xxxx, including co-ordination of national government positions in international meetings;

- development of a national chemical safety policy by xxxx outlining strategic goals and milestones towards reaching the WSSD 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals;

- development of a national chemical safety information exchange system, including use of the world wide web, by xxxx as appropriate;

- development of a national strategy to mobilize national and external resources and to raise the importance of chemicals management within national sustainable development frameworks by xxxx; and

- etc..

SAICM may also request that countries and stakeholders work together to achieve a coherent legal and institutional infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals.

Additional Suggested Action: Development of Benchmarks/Road Map for Chemicals Management Capacity Building towards Reaching the 2020 Goal
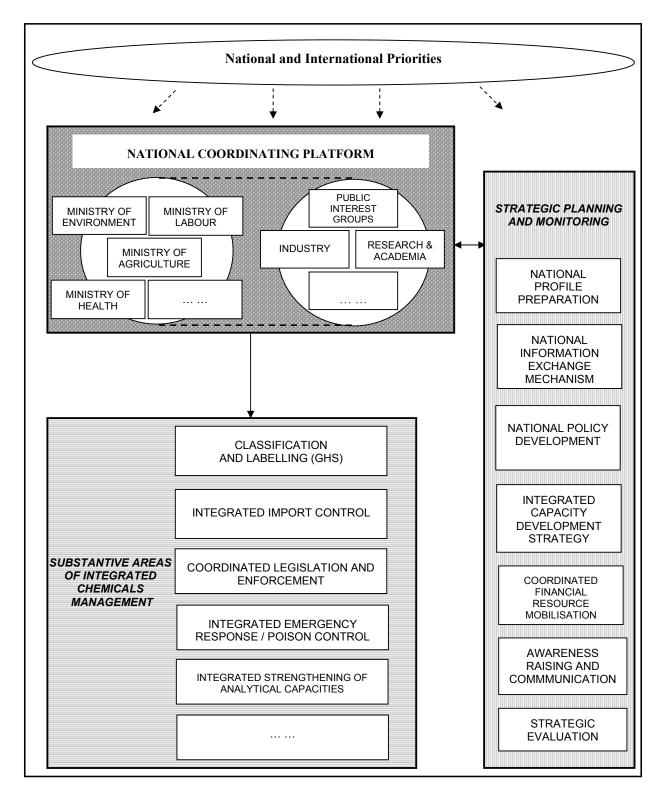
In the absence of benchmarks or a road map against which national capacities can be assessed and progress evaluated, identification of national priorities for action is challenging. The advantage of having a benchmark in place would be that national capacity self assessments (such as those undertaken through National Profiles), as well as national priority setting processes, are more focused and can take place against clear reference marks. It would also facilitate tracking progress made in countries and to identify challenges faced in reaching the 2020 WSSD goal. Participants at the

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[5] The full reports of all eight Thematic Workshops can be found at the UNITAR workshop webpage (http://www.unitar.org/cwm/c/tw/index.htm) and on the CD-Rom "Synergies for Capacity Building Under International Chemicals and Waste Management Agreements: An Electronic Resource Library".

Global Thematic Workshop on Synergies strongly supported the use of benchmarks in order to facilitate integrated chemicals management capacity building.

To assist developing countries and countries in transition to reach the WSSD 2020 goal, SAICM may therefore develop (or initiate a process to develop) concrete benchmarks (or a road map) to provide a point of reference for countries in taking a more systematic approach within the context of an *Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals*. These benchmarks should have sufficient flexibility to take into consideration different starting points in countries and different levels of industrial and agricultural development. For example, one benchmark has already been agreed by WSSD: the national implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) by the year 2008. Other benchmarks could be developed taking into consideration obligations under important international agreements and the Bahia Declaration.[6] UNITAR would be pleased to work with its national and IOMC partners, as well as stakeholders in developing a coherent set of benchmarks and a road map for chemicals management capacity building towards achieving the WSSD 2020 goal.

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[6] PrepCom I listed implementation of the GHS in its report on concrete measures (SAICM/PREPCOM.1/7, Final Report of PrepCom I, Annex VI – Concrete Measures: Possible Elements).

**Annex 1: Framework for an Integrated National Programme for
Sound Chemicals Management**

National and International Priorities

NATIONAL COORDINATING PLATFORM

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

… …

PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS

INDUSTRY

RESEARCH & ACADEMIA

… …

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND MONITORING

NATIONAL PROFILE PREPARATION

NATIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM

NATIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT

INTEGRATED CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

COORDINATED FINANCIAL RESOURCE MOBILISATION

AWARENESS RAISING AND COMMMUNICATION

STRATEGIC EVALUATION

SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF INTEGRATED CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING (GHS)

INTEGRATED IMPORT CONTROL

COORDINATED LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT

INTEGRATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE / POISON CONTROL

INTEGRATED STRENGTHENING OF ANALYTICAL CAPACITIES

… …