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Agenda item 4

Further development and adoption of a strategic approach to international chemicals management

Preparation of a guide to resource, guidance and training material of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals participating organizations relevant to national implementation of the strategic approach to international chemicals management

Submission by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals

Preparation of a Guide to Resource, Guidance and Training Material of IOMC Participating Organizations Relevant to National Implementation of SAICM

An ICCM Conference Room Paper submitted by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)

Background

Once the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) has been adopted at the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in February 2006, countries will enter a first phase of SAICM implementation which will involve development and strengthening of national chemicals management programmes. In order to inform country deliberations and related capacity building initiatives, the organizations cooperating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) have embarked on the development of a guide that will point to relevant tools and resource documents available through IOMC Participating Organizations (POs). The title of the guide is *National Implementation of SAICM: A Guide to Resource, Guidance and Training Materials of IOMC POs*. It will raise topics that countries may want to consider in preparing for and developing their SAICM implementation plans and chemical management programmes, and point to existing resources, guidance and training materials available through IOMC POs for particular SAICM work areas.¹ The preparation of the document is co-ordinated by UNITAR, working jointly with IOMC Participating Organizations and Observers.

In preparing the document, the IOMC recognizes that countries are departing from different stages of development with regards to their national regimes for the sound management of chemicals and will therefore have different requirements for guidance materials and tools to assist the implementation process. Furthermore, countries will have different priorities for strengthening their capacities for the sound management of chemicals, priorities that may be captured under specific SAICM work areas. These factors generate a demand for a flexible resource guide that allows countries to identify and access a portfolio of materials tailored to suit their specific needs in planning for the implementation of SAICM.

Proposed Structure of the Document

The structure of the document is as follows. Following a general introduction (Section 1), Section 2 of the document provides a brief summary of SAICM, including a review of the main outcomes of SAICM, as contained in the three key texts agreed upon at ICCM, the High Level Declaration, the Overarching Policy Strategy, and the Global Plan of Action.

Section 3 lists resource documents available through IOMC POs that are relevant to the development of an enabling platform at the national level for effective and coordinated SAICM implementation and sound chemicals management. Specific topics addressed include: integrating chemicals management into national development priorities; developing a sound institutional and programmatic national framework; effective project planning, implementation and evaluation; and involvement of the private sector and civil society. These topics were taken from resource documents available through IOMC POs and take into consideration relevant discussions at SAICM.

¹ The materials included in this document have been developed by the participating organizations of the IOMC and two observer organisations. The seven participating organizations of the IOMC are as follows, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and the World Health Organization (WHO). The two observer organisations are the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Section 4 focuses on substantive aspects of strengthening chemicals management and SAICM implementation. It will feature references to relevant IOMC documents in the following areas: legislation and enforcement; information generation and dissemination; risk management/reduction; accident prevention and control; education and awareness raising; and analytical and laboratory capacity. It will also provide cross-references to indicate how these areas relate to the five SAICM objectives.

Section 5 of the document summarizes relevant capacity building programmes of IOMC POs, and provides contact details. Finally, a comprehensive Index will allow users to search for documents that are relevant to specific SAICM work areas.

Next Steps

An overall structure for the document was agreed by the IOMC in December 2006. Following adoption of SAICM, IOMC POs will submit relevant documents for inclusion in the Guide². The document will then be subject to peer review, with publication of the first edition scheduled for mid-2006.

² For further information, please contact: Principal Coordinator, Programmes in Chemicals, Waste and Environmental Governance, UNITAR, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, email: cwg@unitar.org.