

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

Fatoumata Ouane

Workshop on the Implementation of the
Stockholm Convention and Synergies with
Other Chemicals Related Conventions,
Cairo, Egypt, 21 February 2005

SAICM Background

- In February 2002, UNEP Governing Council decided there is a need for a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).
- Did not say what a SAICM looked like.
- Requested UNEP to work with Governments, IOMC, IFCS and other stakeholders.
- Called for an open-ended consultative process.
- Also endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, September 2002

SAICM Background (cont.)



- 10-member SAICM Steering committee formed in 2002:
 - 7 participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals or IOMC (FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO)
 - Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)
 - UNDP
 - World Bank
- GEFSec joined in December 2003

SAICM Background (cont.)

- In February 2003, UNEP Governing Council:
 - Agreed to preparatory meetings and the convening of an international conference to adopt SAICM.
 - Requested the Executive Director to compile possible draft elements.
 - Proposed holding the international conference in conjunction with the 9th Special Session of UNEP Governing Council in early 2006.

SAICM Background (cont.)

- Governing body decisions also taken by WHO and ILO:
 - World Health Assembly Resolution 56.22, May 2003
 - International Labour Conference conclusion, June 2003

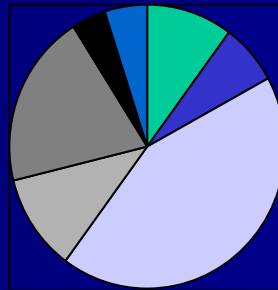
SAICM PrepCom1

- First session of the Preparatory Committee - Bangkok, 9-13 November 2003
- About 500 participants representing:
 - 127 Governments;
 - 19 intergovernmental organizations; and
 - 60 non-governmental organizations and umbrella networks

SAICM PrepCom1 (cont.)

Multi-sector participation is a key feature of SAICM

Breakdown of Government participants in PrepCom1 by sector



■ Agriculture 10%

■ Environment 43%

■ Health 20%

■ Others 5%

■ Economy, trade & industry 7%

■ Foreign Affairs 11%

■ Labour 4%

SAICM PrepCom1 (cont.)

- Dr Halldor Thorgeirsson (Iceland) elected President; 4 Vice-Presidents from Croatia, Nigeria, Thailand and Uruguay
- The Committee adopted an overarching SAICM goal from the (WSSD) Johannesburg Summit Plan of Implementation:
 - to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment

SAICM PrepCom1 (cont.)

- Discussion on possible SAICM elements was organized by the President as follows (with not all topics addressed at PrepCom1):
 - Statement of political strategic vision
 - Statement of needs
 - Goals and objectives
 - Principles and approaches
 - Scope
 - Scientific activities in support of decision-making
 - Concrete measures
 - Coordination
 - Capacity, resources & development
 - Implementation and taking stock of progress

African regional meeting on SAICM

- The meeting was held in Abuja, Nigeria, 24-26 May 2004
- Regional consultations in preparation for PrepCom2
- Attended by 38 African Governments, plus NGOs and IGOs
- A draft decision on SAICM from the Abuja meeting was later adopted by African Environment Ministers at "AMCEN 10"
- Also produced an African position paper on SAICM and an "Abuja statement"

SAICM Prepcom2

- The second session of the SAICM Preparatory Committee was held in Nairobi, 4-8 October 2004, with similar participation as PrepCom1
- PrepCom2 was an opportunity for participants to move beyond the initial lists of possible elements and begin to draft the actual SAICM
- New President: Ambassador Viveka Bohn of Sweden

SAICM PrepCom2 (cont.)

- PrepCom2 agreed on a tripartite structure for SAICM: a high level declaration; an overarching policy strategy; and concrete measures with targets and responsibilities
- Agreed provisionally on SAICM scope and developed objectives for risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity-building, and illegal international traffic.
- Developed a large number of concrete measures for global action on chemical safety during the period 2006-2020.

SAICM Next steps

- The third and final session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Vienna from 19 to 24 September 2005.
- An “international conference on chemicals management” (ICCM) will be held in conjunction with the 9th Special Session of UNEP Governing Council in early 2006.
- In the lead-up to PrepCom3 there will be regional consultations and a large amount of inter-sessional work.

SAICM: next steps (cont.)

- Regional consultations
 - Africa: 15-18 March 2005, Saly, Senegal
 - Asia-Pacific: 4-7 April 2005, Bangkok, Thailand
 - GRULAC: 27-29 April 2005, Punta del Este, Uruguay
 - Central and Eastern Europe: 17-19 May 2005, Ljubljana, Slovenia
 - Extended bureau meeting: 28 June-1 July 2005, Sweden

SAICM: next steps (cont.)

- Intersessional work before PrepCom3 includes
 - Further revision of draft documents for the three parts of SAICM by the President and secretariat in light of submissions (due 20 May 2005)
 - Financial considerations study
 - Papers on possible SAICM implementation arrangements

Conclusions

- SAICM is on track for adoption in early 2006
- It will hopefully:
 - Identify priority areas for better achieving the sound management of chemicals.
 - Better integrate and coordinate among related ongoing chemical safety activities
 - Promote multisectoral cooperation
 - Involve the aid community at both the donor and recipient side
 - Better make the connection between chemical safety and sustainable development

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SAICM Website: WWW.CHEM.UNEP.CH/SAICM

Drafts of the three main parts of SAICM are annexed to the PrepCom2 report, available on the web site. Comments are due 20 May 2005.