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Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its fourth session

Resolution IV/2: Emerging policy issues

The Conference,

Recalling the goal established by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as set out in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, of ensuring that by 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment,

Reaffirming Conference resolutions II/4 and III/2 on emerging policy issues and acknowledging with appreciation the cooperative actions undertaken by stakeholders of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the emerging policy issues of lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and endocrine-disrupting chemicals and recognizing their contribution toward the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management,

Considering the nomination of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue,

Recalling its request that the secretariat report on the progress made on the work on emerging policy issues at its fourth session,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the reports on progress made on the work on the emerging policy issues;
2. *Encourages* further implementation of the cooperative actions by all Strategic Approach stakeholders on the emerging policy issues;
3. *Also encourages* continued and enhanced risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues;
4. *Stresses* the need to foster coherent implementation of the emerging policy issues;
5. *Requests* the lead agencies of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, Governments and other relevant stakeholders to report through the secretariat on progress in the implementation of Conference resolutions on emerging policy issues to the Open-ended Working Group and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session;
6. *Invites* all Strategic Approach stakeholders, in a position to do so, to provide resources for further work on emerging policy issues, including financial resources to facilitate means of implementation for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

7. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of the Conference resolutions of all emerging policy issues and to continue that support in its 7th replenishment.

1. Existing emerging policy issues

A. Lead in paint

Recalling resolution II/4 B on lead in paint adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session and the establishment by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) as a voluntary global partnership,

Recalling also resolution III/2 B on lead in paint adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session and its welcome to the formation of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint,

Welcoming the progress to date made by the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, including the recent formation of the advisory group for the Alliance, and the contributions by the United Nations Environment Programme and World Health Organization, and of the United States of America as chair of the advisory group,

Noting the inclusion of risk reduction as a Strategic Approach objective,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint to achieve its goal to phase out lead in paint by 2020;

2. *Encourages* Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to participate in the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and assist in achieving the above goal;

3. *Encourages* Strategic Approach stakeholders to promote and/or initiate national and/or regional discussions to address the possible establishment of effective measures, including regulation, to phase out the use of lead in paint;

B. Chemicals in products

Recalling its resolutions II/4 C and III/2 C, dealing with cooperative action to improve availability of and access to relevant information on chemicals in products in the supply chain and throughout their life cycle,

Recalling also Conference resolution III/2 C to develop a proposal for a voluntary, international and multi-stakeholder programme for information on chemicals in products along the supply chain and throughout their life cycles,

Acknowledging with appreciation the progress made in the development of a chemicals in products programme proposal and the guidance on chemicals in products led by the United Nations Environment Programme and supported by the Steering Group and facilitation of pilot projects,

Acknowledging also the report "The Business Case for Knowing Chemicals in Products and Supply Chains",

Acknowledging further existing information system initiatives and standards with a view to learning, sharing best practices and avoiding duplication of effort, as well as the advantages for stakeholders that information systems and related initiatives on chemicals in products throughout their life cycle have for supply chain actors, workers, consumers and other relevant stakeholders,

Recognizing that some emerging policy issues are expected to benefit from improving the availability of information on chemicals in products,

1. *Welcomes* the chemicals in products programme document as set out in the annex to the note by the secretariat on a chemicals in products programme as a voluntary framework for all Strategic Approach stakeholders;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the guidance on chemicals in products, as circulated in the annex to the note by the secretariat on the issue, as a practical means of implementing the chemicals in products programme, and recognizes the guidance as a living document that will evolve, under the review of the Steering Group, to address the needs of the Strategic Approach stakeholders and encourages participants to consider the guidance in the implementation as appropriate;

3. *Encourages* the private sector, Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, including worker organizations to participate actively and report on the implementation of the chemicals in products programme and invites all stakeholders to provide adequate human, financial and in-kind resources for further work;
4. *Renews* the mandate of the Steering Group set out in resolutions II/4 C and III/2 C with additional representation of Strategic Approach stakeholders to be inclusive, suggests that representation from the recycling sector be included and requests the Steering Group to develop and adopt its own terms of reference with inputs from stakeholders;
5. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to lead the chemicals in products programme in an open, transparent and inclusive manner to promote and facilitate implementation activities, with input from stakeholders, to coordinate periodic updates, as necessary, of the guidance and to provide a comprehensive report on progress to the Open-Ended Working Group at its third session as well as to the Conference at its fifth session, with support from the Steering Group;
6. *Also invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to available resources, to maintain the website of the chemicals in products programme with a view to facilitating access to programme documents and promoting awareness of the use of chemicals in products information for sound chemicals management actions, as well as in coordination with the Steering Group to engage in stakeholder capacity-building and awareness-raising and to facilitate chemicals in products programme pilot and implementation activities, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders and vulnerable groups.

C. Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

Noting the progress report by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Strategic Approach secretariat survey on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, which highlight gaps and suggest the need for further work on the upstream and mid-stream levels,

Recognizing the report entitled “The Challenge to the Global Electronics Industry”, which addresses sound management of hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products,

1. *Encourages* stakeholders to:
 - (a) Consider and implement, as appropriate, the Strategic Approach Global Plan of Action, particularly the actions related to hazardous substances in electric and electronic products adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session;
 - (b) Maximize risk reduction by encouraging original equipment manufacturers to adopt sustainable design and safer processes for production, waste management and recycling of electrical and electronic products throughout the supply chain and life cycle;
 - (c) Widely disseminate the report and consider the recommendations made and the key messages delivered on hazardous chemicals within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products by the participants in the international workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, held in Vienna on 29–31 March 2011 (see SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/24) when deciding on further actions to take in respect of such chemicals.
2. *Invites* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in partnership with other organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and relevant stakeholders to undertake a process to develop and finalize the workplan 2016–2020 set out in SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/18, including by:
 - (a) Soliciting comments and input on the workplan from Strategic Approach stakeholders; and
 - (b) Revising the workplan on the basis of comments received from Strategic Approach stakeholders and including indicators of progress to be reported by stakeholders as part of the report to be developed for consideration by the Conference at its fifth session.
3. *Encourages* Strategic Approach stakeholders to take steps to enhance their involvement and efforts to develop and implement the workplan wherever possible, in particular the International Labour Organization in addressing worker safety in the production of electrical and electronic products throughout the supply chain, as well as in waste management and recycling;

4. *Encourages* meaningful engagement of all Strategic Approach stakeholders to consider the recommendations from the Vienna workshop when deciding on further action to take, in particular to:

- (a) Promote advocacy, awareness, information, education and communication about hazardous chemicals in electrical and electronic products for vulnerable groups and relevant stakeholders along the supply chain beginning in 2016;
 - (b) Encourage original equipment manufacturers to work with their supply chain to develop and implement sustainable and effective electrical and electronic products take-back programmes;
 - (c) Encourage original equipment manufacturers to work with their supply chain to establish and implement industrial hygiene and environmental monitoring programs;
 - (d) Facilitate the implementation of procurement initiatives that favour improved safety and sustainability profile of electrical and electronic products, including chemicals used in manufacturing;
 - (e) Encourage original equipment manufacturers to collect and provide health and safety information to workers on chemicals they are handling or exposed to in electrical and electronic products manufacturing.
5. Encourage relevant stakeholders to consider implementing the chemicals in products programme in order to provide access to information on hazardous chemicals in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products.

D. Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

Welcoming the continuing work of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, its participating organizations and the International Organization for Standardization, including lessons learned on effective mechanisms for information exchange,

Welcoming and encouraging the continued work of the United Nations subcommittee on the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions II/4 E and III/2 E on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;
2. *Welcomes* the report on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials prepared by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management for the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and in particular its conclusions recommending further actions to be taken under the Strategic Approach;
3. *Encourages* Strategic Approach stakeholders to address the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials in relevant national and international instruments, including regulatory frameworks, adapted to take into account specific properties of manufactured nanomaterials, as appropriate, and taking into consideration the objective of enhancing coordination and cooperation in the chemicals and waste cluster;
4. *Welcomes* the establishment of regional networks focusing on the safety of nanomaterials and encourages all stakeholders to develop and implement regional cooperation mechanisms;
5. *Emphasizes* the need to continue facilitating the exchange of information on the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials throughout their life cycle, for example through an appropriate clearing house mechanism and regional networks;
6. *Emphasizes* the need for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to continue development of international guidance and training materials for the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials, drawing on existing initiatives, needs assessment and best practices, within their respective mandates and subject to available resources in cooperation with the regions and other relevant stakeholders,
7. *Welcomes* the proposed workplan in the document ICCM.4/INF/19 for the period 2016–2020;
8. *Invites* all stakeholders to continue raising awareness and enhance capacity on the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials, paying particular attention to the situation and

needs of developing countries and Countries with Economies in transition, including through regional consultations and e-learning courses;

9. *Encourages* Strategic Approach stakeholders to consider using the guidance for the Development of a National Nanotechnology Policy and Programme developed by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other relevant documents.

E. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals

Recognizing that endocrine-disrupting chemicals can have adverse effects on human health and the environment and the need to protect humans and ecosystems and their constituent parts that are especially vulnerable, as set out in, inter alia, paragraph 14 (b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Considering the particular needs that developing countries and countries with economies in transition may increasingly have in coping with endocrine-disrupting chemicals throughout their complete life cycle and the costs of inaction,

Welcoming the key objective of awareness-raising and information sharing on issues related to endocrine-disrupting chemicals through the workshops on endocrine-disrupting chemicals organized by the Strategic Approach secretariat for regional meetings in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development,

Recognizing that continued actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals by all stakeholders will be needed in order to attain the objectives of the Strategic Approach,

Reaffirming that Strategic Approach stakeholders should decide the extent to which they will take actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, respecting domestic and international obligations,

1. *Welcomes*¹ the report by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization entitled *State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals – 2012*, which identifies concerns, including evidence in humans, laboratory animals and wildlife that exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals can result in adverse effects; the most critical window of exposure is during development and exposure during early life stages can result in adult-onset disease; and an important focus should be on reducing exposure;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization to address the needs identified by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, subject to available resources, by generating and disseminating information on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, as part of the workplan;

3. *Acknowledges* the work by the Advisory Group on Endocrine Disruptors Testing and Assessment of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and efforts by Governments and other stakeholders;

4. *Invites* the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to further develop and implement the plan of work for the cooperative actions in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, and request all interested stakeholders to provide support in these efforts.

2. New emerging policy issues

A. Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants

Recognizing that pharmaceuticals are used in both human and animal health care, and have major benefits for human health and animal welfare,

Recognizing also the potential adverse effects associated with exposure to environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants on human health and the environment, and the need to protect humans and ecosystems and their constituent parts that are especially vulnerable, as set out in paragraph 14 (b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach,

Mindful of the scope of the Strategic Approach and the work being done by other international bodies,

¹ The International Council of Chemical Associations, CropLife International and the United States Council for International Business wish to note that the methodology and conclusions of the report remain contentious amongst certain scientific groups.

1. *Agrees* that international cooperation is crucial to build awareness and understanding and promote action on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as an emerging policy issue;
2. *Considers* that information dissemination and awareness-raising on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants are particularly relevant and that improving the availability of and access to information on such chemicals is a priority;
3. *Recognizes* the current knowledge gaps on exposure to and the effects of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants;
4. *Decides* to implement cooperative actions on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders;
5. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to generate and share information to fill the identified knowledge gaps;
6. *Invites* relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals within their respective mandates as part of their programmes of work, to lead and facilitate cooperative action and to develop a plan of work on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants in an open, transparent and inclusive manner;
7. *Requests* all interested stakeholders and organizations to provide support, including expertise, financial and in-kind resources, on a voluntary basis, for such cooperative action, including by participating in developing and making available relevant information and guidance;
8. *Invites* relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and other Strategic Approach stakeholders to report on the cooperative action on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants to the Conference at its fifth or any other session as decided upon by the Conference.

IV/3: Highly hazardous pesticides

The Conference,

Mindful of the overarching goal of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as set out in its paragraph 23, of aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment,

Recognizing that highly hazardous pesticides cause adverse human health and environmental effects in many countries, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries,

Noting with appreciation the revised International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (2014) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, which draws specific attention to highly hazardous pesticides, as well as the significant work being done by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and others to raise awareness, and inform and guide pesticide regulators, industry, civil society and other stakeholders on the identification and elimination of unacceptable risks from highly hazardous pesticides,

Recognizing that additional action on highly hazardous pesticides by Strategic Approach stakeholders will be needed in order to attain the objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Reaffirming that Strategic Approach stakeholders should decide the extent to which they will be able to take individual and cooperative action on highly hazardous pesticides while respecting domestic and international obligations,

Welcoming the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization to develop, in consultation with other stakeholders, a proposal for a strategy to address highly hazardous pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach as an issue of concern,

1. *Supports* concerted action to address highly hazardous pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach and welcomes with appreciation the strategy set out in part II of the proposal on highly hazardous pesticides;

2. *Encourages* relevant stakeholders to undertake concerted efforts to implement the strategy at the local, national, regional and international levels, with emphasis on promoting agroecologically based alternatives and strengthening national regulatory capacity to conduct risk assessment and risk management, including the availability of necessary information, mindful of the responsibility of national and multinational enterprises;
3. *Welcomes* the offer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization to develop modalities for international coordination in the context of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;
4. *Invites* appropriate organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to facilitate collaboration, cooperation and contributions of stakeholders in the implementation of the strategy;
5. *Invites* Strategic Approach stakeholders to report, through the Strategic Approach secretariat, on progress on implementing the strategy to the Open-ended Working Group at its third session and to the Conference at its fifth session.

ADVANCE