

The Strategic Approach to
International Chemicals Management
A tool for the sound management of
chemicals

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Presentation

- 1. The Challenge
- 2. The Negotiations
- 3. The Result
- 4. The Implementation

1. The Challenge

- Piecemeal approach to chemicals
- Fragmented and differing responses to problems encountered
- Obstacles to trade
- Uneven playing field for industry

1. The Challenge

- Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) efforts to implement Agenda 21 chapter 19 not integrated by the UN
- Problems in implementing the growing number of chemicals conventions

1. The Challenge

- A growing gap in chemicals management
- Lack of capacity in developing countries
- Illegal international traffick
- Lack of financial and technical resources

2. The negotiations

- Recognition that the existing international policy framework is not completely adequate and needs to be further strengthened
- Decision by UNEP Governing Council in 2002 to start negotiations

2. The Negotiations

- WSSD in Johannesburg 2002
- Ask for finalisation of negotiations by 2005
- Add the 2020 goal that chemicals should be used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment

2. The Negotiations

- A multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral consultation
- Representatives of Governments, NGOs and IGOs from sectors such as agriculture, environment, health, science, industry and labour

2. The Negotiations

- 11 member SAICM steering committee formed in 2002 to guide the development process:
 - 7 participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC – FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO)

2. The Negotiations

- Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- UNDP
- World Bank

2. The Negotiations

- Preparatory Committee
- Regional consultations
- International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in Dubai

2. The Negotiations

- Over 140 Governments participated
- Emphasis on multi-sectoral representation
- Regional consultations enhanced the ability of developing countries to shape the agenda

2. The Negotiations

- Around 60 NGOs took part , including public interest groups focussed on the environment and health, trade unions, industry associations and the scientific community.
- Rules of procedure

2. The Negotiations

- Binding vs non-binding
- Voluntary
- Relation to WTO
- Scope
- Principles and approaches
- Implementation and follow up
- Financial and technical support

3. The Result

- SAICM is a non-legally binding policy framework for actions and coordinated measures at all levels
- SAICM will facilitate the elimination and reduction of risks associated with the life-cycle management of chemicals
- SAICM aims to close the widening gap

3. The Result

- SAICM builds on previous initiatives
 - Broad scope
 - Ambitious goal
 - Endorsement at the highest political level
 - Sound management of chemicals is a sustainable development issue
 - Resource mobilization
 - Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder

3. The Result

- The Dubai Declaration
- Overarching Policy Strategy
- Global plan of action
- Quick Start Programme

The Dubai Declaration

- Agreed by ministers, heads of delegations and leaders of industry and civil society
- Fundamental changes are needed in the way chemicals are managed
- Achieve chemical safety

The Dubai Declaration

- Commits to promote the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes throughout their life-cycle and reach the 2020 goal set in Johannesburg
- Stresses the need for all stakeholders to be actively involved, particularly the equal participation of women in chemicals management

The Dubai Declaration

- Adopts the Overarching Policy Strategy
- Recommends the use of the Global Plan of Action
- Commits to strengthening capacities and mobilizing financial and technical resources

Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS)

- Introduction
- Scope
- Statement of needs
- Objectives

Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS)

- Financial considerations
- Principles and approaches
- Implementation and taking stock of progress

Scope

- A) environmental, economic, social, health and labour aspects of chemical safety
- B) Agricultural and industrial chemicals, with a view to promoting sustainable development and covering chemicals at all stages of their life-cycle, including in products

OPS - Objectives

- Risk reduction
- Information and knowledge
- Governance
- Capacity building and technical cooperation
- Illegal international traffick

OPS - Objectives

risk reduction

- Minimize risks for health including workers' protection and environment during all stages of the life-cycle
- Particular focus on vulnerable populations and ecosystems
- Phase out of substances by 2020 that cannot be safely handled
- Precautionary approach

OPS – Objectives

risk reduction

- Priority to preventive measures
- Reduce amount and toxicity of hazardous waste
- Support environmentally sound recovery and recirculation of materials and waste
- Support development of environmentally sound and safer alternatives
- New and emerging issues of global concern

OPS – Objectives

Knowledge and information

- Should be accessible, user-friendly, adequate and suitable knowledge during all stages of the life-cycle
- Particular focus on vulnerable populations
- Available to all stakeholders

OPS – Objectives

Knowledge and information

- Disseminated in appropriate languages using the Globally Harmonized System for classification and labeling
- Scientific information and methods for risk assessment and decision available
- Increase research and identification of risks

OPS- Objectives

Governance

- Increase capacity for chemicals management during the whole life-cycle, in particular in developing countries
- Promote sound chemicals management in all relevant sectors and in integrated programs
- Strengthen implementation of national legislation and its enforcement

OPS- Objectives

Governance

- Ensure equal participation of women in decision-making
- Promote mutual supportiveness between environment and trade
- Enhance cooperation between governments, private sector and civil society at all levels, national ,regional, global

OPS- Objectives

Capacity-building and technical cooperation

- Increase the capacity for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle
- Narrow the widening gap
- Promote the awareness of all actors of the relevance of chemical safety for poverty eradication and sustainable development

OPS – Objectives

International illegal traffic

- Prevent illegal international traffic
- Strengthen mechanisms and implementation existing agreements
- Promote information sharing

OPS - Financial considerations

- Actions at the national or sub-national levels
- Enhancing industry partnerships
- Integration of SAICM objectives into development cooperation

OPS - Financial considerations

- Making more effective use of and building upon existing sources of relevant global funding (e.g. GEF and Montreal Protocol MLF)
- Quick Start Programme

OPS - Principles and approaches

- Reference to existing declarations, policy documents and agreements rather than individual principles.
- Stockholm, Rio and Johannesburg
- The Montreal Protocol, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the ILO Convention No 170 concerning Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work

OPS – Implementation and taking stock of progress

- National and other SAICM implementation plans (e.g. regional and IGO)
- SAICM focal points - national, NGO and Private Sector
- ICCM to be reconvened to undertake periodic reviews (2009, 2012, 2015, 2020)

OPS – Implementation and taking stock of progress

- Intersessional regional meetings
- Bureau
- Secretariat (UNEP and WHO)

Global Plan of Action

- Recommended for use and further development
- 36 work areas, 273 activities, actors, targets/timeframes, indicators of progress, implementation aspects
- Structured in accordance with the 5 categories of SAICM objectives

Global Plan of Action

Priority activities

- Focus on narrowing the gap
- Implementation of existing agreements
- Phase out by 2020
- Promote generation and dissemination of knowledge
- Chemicals issues in the broader development agenda

Global Plan of Action

Priority activities

- GHS
- Heavy Metals
- Illegal international traffic
- Promote alternatives
- Capacity-building, education and training

4. The Implementation

- Voluntary basis
- Regional conferences
- National commitments

4. The Implementation

- Quick Start Programme
- National development strategies
- Included in bi- and multilateral development cooperation

4. The Implementation

Initial phase

- National chemical profiles
- Identification of capacity needs
- Development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities
- Undertaking analysis, interagency coordination, and public participation activities

4. The Implementation

initial phase

- Establishment of:
 - National focal point
 - National coordination mechanism
 - Capacity development, incl institutional strengthening
 - Review of legislation

4. The Implementation

Initial Phase

- Education and training of all stakeholders
- Measures against illegal international traffick
- Sufficient financial and technical resources
- Integration and synergies between chemicals conventions

The implementation progress so far

- National focal points (95 officially nominated so far)
- Regional focal points (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America & Caribbean, Western Europe and Others)
- NGO focal points

4. The Implementation

Quick Start Programme (QSP)

- Initial SAICM enabling capacity-building and implementation activities
- The QSP will include a UNEP trust fund (for 5 years) and multilateral, bilateral and other forms of cooperation

4. The Implementation

Quick Start Programme (QSP)

- QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee (FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO + UNDP)
- QSP Executive Board (2 Government representatives for each UN region, plus bilateral and multilateral donors and other contributors)
- UNEP trust fund administration
- SAICM secretariat

4. The Implementation

- Regional meetings
- Principal mechanism for dialogue and cooperation between sessions of the ICCM
- The first SAICM regional meeting September in Cairo for the African region.

Conclusion

- SAICM is an ambitious new policy framework
- Success will depend on stakeholders' commitment to implementation
- International chemicals regulation has moved from regulating specific problems to addressing generic issues including governance

"The sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development."

Dubai Declaration