

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

18th and 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

INFORMATION NOTE FOR THE BACKGROUND REPORT FOR UNECE RIM

I. Introduction to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

1. The consumption of chemicals by all industries and modern society's reliance on chemicals for virtually all manufacturing processes make chemicals production one of the major and most globalized sectors of the world economy. Acknowledgement of the essential economic role of chemicals and their contribution to improved living standards needs to be balanced with recognition of potential costs. These include the chemical industry's heavy use of water and energy and the potential adverse impacts of chemicals on the environment and human health. The diversity and potential severity of such impacts makes sound chemicals management a key cross-cutting issue for sustainable development.

2. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management is a global policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world. Voluntary in nature, it is notable for its comprehensive scope; ambitious goal of sound chemicals management by 2020; multi-stakeholder and multi-sector approach; endorsement at the highest political levels; close involvement of civil society, including the private sector; emphasis on chemicals as a sustainable development issue; efforts towards resource mobilization to build developing country capacity; and formal endorsement or recognition by the governing bodies of intergovernmental organizations. It comprises the Dubai Declaration expressing high-level political commitment to the Strategic Approach and an Overarching Policy Strategy which sets out its scope, needs, objectives, financial considerations, underlying principles and approaches and implementation and review arrangements. The Declaration and Strategy are accompanied by a Global Plan of Action that serves as a working tool and guidance document to support implementation of the Strategic Approach and other relevant instruments and initiatives by suggesting specific activities and targets.

3. As stated in the Overarching Policy Strategy, "a major driving force for the establishment of the Strategic Approach has been the recognition of the growing gaps between the capacities of different countries to manage chemicals safely, the need to improve synergies between existing instruments and processes and the growing sense of urgency regarding the need to assess and manage chemicals more effectively to achieve the 2020 goal articulated in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation".¹ The Strategic Approach is hence driven by the ambition to elevate global efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals on the basis of the commitments expressed in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, which was developed in the context

¹ Paragraph 5, Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS).

of the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.² It is also based on the implementation of applicable chemicals management agreements with a view to strengthen the coherence and synergies that exist between them and addressing, as appropriate, existing gaps in the framework of international chemicals policy.³

Accordingly, the Strategic Approach is not intended as an initiative which replaces pre-existing binding and non-binding instruments relevant to chemicals management, but rather as a strategic policy framework under which the sound management of chemicals can be promoted holistically drawing on such instruments.⁴

4. The Strategic Approach's overall objective is to achieve the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal that, by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment. Individual objectives are grouped under five themes: risk reduction; knowledge and information; governance; capacity-building and technical cooperation; and illegal international traffic. These objectives build upon and incorporate those contained in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 (1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development), including the latter's six programme areas (expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks; harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals; information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks; establishment of risk reduction programmes; strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals; and prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products). Risk reduction, knowledge and information, capacity-building and technical cooperation, as well as illegal international traffic constitute four of the five Strategic Approach individual objectives referred to above and are the subject of a series of activities foreseen in the Global Plan of Action.⁵ Assessment of chemicals risks, the first programme area of Chapter 19, is included in the Strategy's objective under risk reduction and knowledge and information. It is furthermore the subject of several activities envisaged in the Global Plan of Action.⁶ Similarly, the Strategy promotes the harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals in particular through the use of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, as referred to in the Overarching Policy Strategy, as well as the Global Plan of Action.⁷

II. Evolution of the Strategic Approach

5. The Strategic Approach was adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai on 6 February 2006 after a three-year consultation. Originally called for by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the development of the Strategic Approach was endorsed by Heads of State and Government at their summits in Johannesburg in 2002 and New York in 2005. The development process was overseen by a Preparatory Committee, which engaged over 140 Governments

² Paragraph 10, Dubai Declaration; paragraph 1, OPS.

³ Paragraph 8, Dubai Declaration.

⁴ These are referred to in Section VI of the OPS.

⁵ Paragraphs 14, 15, 17 and 18 OPS; Global Plan of Action (GPA) activities (selected) nr. 23-30, 32-42, 114-117; 102-113, 256; 208-236; 204, 263-271.

⁶ GPA activities nr. 61-67, 127-137, 247.

⁷ Paragraph 15, OPS; GPA activities nr. 22, 99-101, 68, 248-250.

as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Representatives were drawn from all relevant sectors, including agriculture, environment, health, industry and labour.

6. All Strategic Approach stakeholders have committed themselves to its implementation according to their own needs and capabilities. In accordance with the Overarching Policy Strategy as well as resolution I/1 on implementation arrangements, as adopted by the Conference in 2006, Strategic Approach implementation plans have been developed by governmental, stakeholders at national and regional levels. Similarly, intergovernmental and non-governmental stakeholders have developed their own Strategic Approach implementation plans. In a joint undertaking with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and in collaboration with the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Strategic Approach secretariat has issued guidance for the development of such implementation plans (available at www.saicm.org). Moreover, intergovernmental organizations have endorsed the Strategic Approach and are integrating Strategic Approach objectives into their programmes of work. Networks of non-governmental organisations, including industry associations, are also actively contributing to Strategic Approach implementation.

III. Institutional Framework of the Strategic Approach

7. The International Conference on Chemicals Management is the governing body of the Strategic Approach. Having adopted the Strategic Approach in Dubai at its first session in 2006, the Conference's main function is to undertake periodic reviews of implementation of the Strategic Approach. Reflecting the Strategic Approach's multi-stakeholder nature, it comprises representatives of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Conference convenes triennially until 2015. Its last meeting will take place 2020. The Conference is currently presided over by Dr. Ivan Eržen (Slovenia).

8. Since its second session, the Conference also has a subsidiary body, the Open-Ended Working Group which meets once intersessionally to prepare sessions of the Conference. Its first meeting is tentatively scheduled for autumn 2011. In addition, regional meetings serve as important Strategic Approach implementation and preparatory forums for the Conference during the intersessional period. During the intersessional period preceding the second session of the Conference, all five regions of the United Nations held at least one regional meeting, with a total of 19 Strategic Approach meetings held at the regional level.

9. The Strategic Approach's institutional framework is furthermore characterized by a large network of Strategic Approach focal points representing 160 Governments, 12 intergovernmental organizations and 60 non-governmental organizations. The establishment of a broad network at national as well as regional levels has been a key factor in ensuring effective flow of information as well as the identification of priorities and hence in moving Strategic Approach implementation continuously forward.

IV. Strategic Approach activities

The Strategic Approach foresees a series of arrangements, including financial arrangements for the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives.⁸ Initial (enabling) capacity building activities for the implementation of Strategic Approach objectives are supported by the Strategic Approach's only dedicated financial mechanism, the Quick Start Programme. The Quick Start Programme consists of a voluntary, time-limited trust fund, administered by the United Nations Environment Programme, and multilateral, bilateral or other forms of cooperation. The Quick Start Programme aims to support initial enabling activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small-island developing States and countries with economies in transition. It is open to contributions until 2012 and can make disbursements until 2013. Thus far, the Quick Start Programme has received US\$ 20 million from 21 donors as well as non-trust fund contributions declared by governmental and intergovernmental stakeholders worth over US\$23 million in addition to in-kind contributions. Since May 2006, 185 applications have been received and 82 projects in 76 countries for a total of \$16 million approved. It should be noted, however, that the Quick Start Programme constitutes only a fraction of Strategic Approach implementation activities at national, regional and international levels.

V. Linkages between the Strategic Approach and sustainable development

10. The development of the Strategic Approach has its roots in Agenda 21 of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ('Earth Summit') as well as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. In 2002, shortly before the convening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council in its decision SS.VII/3 (entitled "Strategic approach to international chemicals management") decided that there was a need to further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management and invited the World Summit to endorse its development. The World Summit subsequently renewed the commitment, as advanced in Agenda 21, to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment, inter alia, aiming 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".⁹ The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called for the further development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management.¹⁰ The development of SAICM was endorsed by the United Nations World Summit in New York in September 2005. Moreover, the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council in its decision 22/4 called for the Strategic Approach to be "regularly reviewed to assess progress on chemical safety, in the light of the targets set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in cooperation with other relevant processes".

⁸ Chapters V - VII, OPS; Resolution I/1 ("Implementation arrangements"), adopted by the ICCM at its first session.

⁹ Paragraph 23, Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

¹⁰ Paragraph 23(b), *ibid.*

11. The linkages between sustainable development and the sound management of chemicals hence form the conceptual foundations for the Strategic Approach's existence having emerged from the needs identified in outcome documents of the 1992 Earth Summit as well as the 2002 World Summit.¹¹ The Strategic Approach accordingly builds on the commitments to chemicals management contained therein and contributes towards the overall objectives of sustainable development, including the internationally agreed development goals set out in the Millennium Declaration.¹² In particular, the Strategic Approach recognizes that 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".¹³

12. The Dubai Declaration includes the political commitment to "promote the sound management of chemicals [...] as a priority in national, regional and international policy frameworks, including strategies for sustainable development, development assistance and poverty reduction".¹⁴ Accordingly, the Overarching Policy Strategy, which "flows from the commitments expressed in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management developed in the context of the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation",¹⁵ seeks to promote sustainable development through sound management of chemicals at all stages of their life-cycle, and emphasizes the need to include sound management of chemicals in sustainable development strategies (bi- and multilateral).¹⁶

13. Moreover, the Strategy Approach's Global Plan of Action envisages a series of activities highlighting the various sustainable development dimensions of chemicals management. For example, specific activities are foreseen for the protection of human health,¹⁷ children and chemical safety,¹⁸ occupational health and safety,¹⁹ reduction of health and environmental risks of pesticides,²⁰ remediation of contaminated sites,²¹ but also in relation to social and economic considerations.²²

14. Finally, the Strategic Approach puts considerable emphasis on the protection of vulnerable groups, respect for human rights and advancement of human security in

¹¹ The specific references to chemicals management related issues are listed in the "scoping document" for the fourth regional implementation meeting on sustainable development distributed by the UNECE secretariat.

¹² Paragraph 11, Dubai Declaration; see also paragraph. 13 *ibid.*

¹³ Para. 1, *ibid.*

¹⁴ Para. 26, *ibid.*

¹⁵ Paragraph 1, OPS.

¹⁶ Paragraph 3(b), OPS; see also paragraphs. 9 (d), 17 (f), 19 (c), *ibid.* The OPS also refers to the objectives to "develop knowledge and information on the estimated current and projected financial and other impacts on sustainable development associated with the unsound management of chemicals of concern on a global basis" (paragraph. 15(j)) and to "promote the awareness of donors, multilateral organizations and other relevant actors of the relevance of chemical safety for poverty reduction and sustainable development" (paragraph 17(i)).

¹⁷ GPA activities nr. 2-6.

¹⁸ GPA activities nr. 7-10, 150-153, 245-246.

¹⁹ GPA activities nr. 11-21, 138-149, 255.

²⁰ GPA activities nr. 32-42.

²¹ GPA activities nr. 47-48, 243.

²² GPA activities nr. 181-188, 257.

achieving sound management of chemicals.²³ Public participation, gender equality and a strengthened role for women in chemicals management are key features in that regard.²⁴

VI. Recent Developments: the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

15. Having focused entirely on the negotiation of the Strategic Approach at its first session in 2006, the Conference performed its substantive functions for the first time at the second session held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009. Among the approximately 800 participants attending the second session were representatives of 147 Governments, 27 intergovernmental organizations and 90 non-governmental organizations, including industry and scientific organizations. An advance version of the report of the second session is attached to this paper.

16. The Conference at its second session concluded the establishment of the Strategic Approach's institutional framework with the adoption of its rules of procedure (resolution II/1), the appointment of a bureau and the creation of an open-ended working group as its subsidiary body (resolution II/6). The multistakeholder dimension of the Strategic Approach - one of its key characteristics - was demonstrated by the full and interactive participation in the second session of the Conference of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations and reinforced by the establishment of a bureau which makes provision for the organizations to be represented as observers.

17. In substantive terms, the outcomes of the second session of the Conference can be summarized as follows:

- It considered the financing of Strategic Approach implementation and adopted a broad-ranging resolution on financial considerations, which includes the initiation of reviews of the Quick Start Programme and Strategic Approach financial arrangements, as well as encouragement to the World Bank to re-engage in Strategic Approach and the Global Environment Facility to expand its support for chemicals management activities (resolution II/3).
- The Conference addressed the following so-called “emerging policy issues” with a view to establishing co-operative action (resolution II/4): nanotechnology (putting an emphasis on information sharing, public dialogue and further research); chemicals in products (establishment of a project to collect and assess information on information systems, and develop further recommendations); lead in paint (establishment of a global partnership to promote phasing out the use of lead in paints); and electronic waste (further consideration during the intersessional period through a workshop). The Conference's recommendations on cooperative actions in relation to emerging policy issues included invitations to intergovernmental organizations to assume leadership in their implementation during the intersessional period. The Conference also established a process for the future consideration of emerging policy issues.

²³ Paragraphs 9, 10, 23, 24 Dubai Declaration; cf. paragraph 7(c), OPS.

²⁴ Paragraph 18, Dubai Declaration; paragraphs 2, 9(a), 15(d), OPS.

- It furthermore considered perfluorinated chemicals and encouraged the development of voluntary stewardship actions (resolution II/5).
- The Conference also considered the linkages between health and chemicals management and adopted a resolution on the health aspects of the Strategic Approach, including a request to the Strategic Approach secretariat in consultation with the World Health Organization to develop a strategy for increasing health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach (resolution II/8).
- It adopted a resolution underlining the importance of regional networks for Strategic Approach implementation (resolution II/2).
- The Conference decided not to integrate the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety into the International Conference on Chemicals Management “at this time” (resolution II/9).
- The Conference approved the secretariat’s indicative budget and activities for the next intersessional period (resolution II/10).
- The Conference furthermore agreed to a procedure for future additions to the Strategic Approach Global Plan of Action (Annex II of the Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its second session);
- The Conference adopted modalities and indicators for reporting on Strategic Approach implementation progress (Annex III of the Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its second session).
- The Conference held two high-level round tables on key issues of the second session of the Conference, namely on “financing sound chemicals management” and “public health, the environment and chemicals management” (summaries of the round-table discussions are contained in Annex V of the Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its second session).
- The Conference also handed out Strategic Approach awards to 45 governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental awardees in recognition of their contributions to Strategic Approach implementation.

18. Finally, at its second session the Conference also sought ways to strengthen cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders, including the Commission on Sustainable Development. With regard to the latter, the Conference adopted resolution II/7 at its second session, the main elements of which are as follows:

- It recalls that the overall objective of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management is to achieve the sound management of chemicals in support of the commitment expressed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and furthermore recalls that the Dubai Declaration was developed in the context of the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (preambular paragraphs 1 and 2).

- Welcomes the consideration of chemicals by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its 2010-2011 cycle (pp 3, operative paragraph 1) and expresses its readiness to support consideration by the Commission of chemicals in relation to sustainable development (operative paragraph 1).
- Requests the Strategic Approach secretariat to cooperate with the Commission on Sustainable Development secretariat in that regard (operative paragraph 2).
- Encourages Strategic Approach stakeholders to participate in the Commission on Sustainable Development's consideration of chemicals, including through regional preparatory processes (operative paragraph 3).
- Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to highlight the importance of sound chemical management for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (op 5); emphasizes the need to mainstream chemical management in development strategies and assistance efforts and invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to pay special attention to this issue (operative paragraph 6); and invites the Commission on Sustainable Development to explore the role of the private sector in supporting the global sound management of chemicals (operative paragraph 7).

VII. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in the region covered by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

19. The Strategic Approach puts considerable emphasis on regional activities and meetings for its implementation.²⁵ In particular, the Strategic Approach's Overarching Policy Strategy notes that "regional meetings will facilitate input on Strategic Approach activities, preparation for future meetings of the Conference and exchange of regional expertise and exchange of information" (paragraph 26 lit. a, Overarching Policy Strategy). Accordingly, regional meetings form part of the implementation arrangements foreseen by resolution I/1 adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first session. At its second session, the Conference has underlined the "important role of regional meetings and coordination mechanisms in enabling stakeholders in each region to exchange experience and identify priority needs in relation to implementation of the Strategic Approach and develop regional positions on key issues" (paragraph 3, resolution II/2). The Conference furthermore called upon "Governments and organizations in a position to do so to provide financial and in-kind resources to enable at least one meeting for each of the five United Nations regions to be organized in the coming intersessional period" (paragraph 7, resolution II/2).

20. The functions of regional meetings, as generally provided for in the Strategic Approach, include the review of progress on Strategic Approach implementation within the regions; the provision of guidance on implementation to all stakeholders at the regional level; and the enabling of technical and strategic discussions and exchange of information.²⁶

²⁵ Paragraph 26, OPS.

²⁶ Paragraph 26(b), OPS.

21. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) comprises 56 States located in the European Union, non-EU Western and Eastern Europe, South-East Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States and North America. It hence spans over two of the United Nations regional groups in which Strategic Approach stakeholders are informally organized, i.e. the Western European and Others Group, and the Central and Eastern European group.

22. Both regional groups have held a series of regional meetings on the Strategic Approach. The Western European and Others Group, meeting as European Union and JUSSCANNZ,²⁷ has convened three regional meetings (1st EU-JUSSCANNZ regional meeting, Barcelona, Spain, 20-22 November 2006; 2nd EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting, Paris, 12 June 2007; 3rd EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting, Paris, 12 February 2008). The Central and Eastern European region has held two regional meetings to date (Central and Eastern European meeting, Riga, 4-6 December 2006; 2nd Central and Eastern European regional meeting and associated workshops, Bucharest, 8-11 September 2008).

23. In addition, each regional group has established a regional focal point and nominated regional representatives to the Executive Board of the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme. The Strategic Approach regional focal point for the Western European and Others Group is Ms. Hodayah Finman (United States of America). The region is represented by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland on the Executive Board of the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme. The Strategic Approach regional focal point for Central and Eastern Europe is Mr. Jerzy Majka (Poland). The region is represented by the Governments of Armenia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the Executive Board of the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme. Both regional groups are represented in the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (the current President of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, Mr. Ivan Eržen, Slovenia, was nominated by the Central and Eastern Europe Group; the Western European and Others Group is currently represented by Mr. Victor Escobar from Spain).

24. The Central and Eastern Europe region has furthermore developed terms of reference for the regional focal point and representatives on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board (agreed at the region's first meeting, held in Riga from 4-6 December 2006) and also established a regional coordination group (agreed at its second meeting, held in Bucharest on 8 and 9 September 2008). The Western European and Others Group, on the other hand, decided at its first meeting, held in Barcelona from 20 to 22 November 2006, that it would not be necessary to develop terms of reference for its regional focal points or representatives on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board, or to establish a regional coordination body.

25. The regional meetings that both the Western European and Others well as the Central and Eastern European groups have held thus far were predominately focused on issues in relation to the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and its preparations. However, a few recurrent themes that transcend the

²⁷ JUSSCANNZ stands for Japan, the United States, Switzerland Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand.

second session and apply to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in general are discernable:

- *Central and Eastern European Group*: financing Strategic Approach implementation; the importance of mobilizing national resources for Strategic Approach implementation (integration and prioritization of sound chemicals management in national development planning; resource mobilization through all relevant departments and ministries; possible adoption of national economic instruments, including as appropriate economic instruments to internalize the external costs of chemicals; involvement of non-governmental organizations; etc.); the need to develop sustainable long-term financial mechanisms; the need for mechanisms for engagement by and financial support from the private sector; the importance of planning beyond the lifetime of the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme; the need to continue to engage with the Global Environment Facility particularly in the context of its replenishment with a view to establishing as new chemicals focal area; the strengthening of chemicals management capacity through bilateral and multilateral technical, financial and development assistance cooperation. Moreover, the following list of issues was adopted at the second regional meeting (Bucharest, 8 and 9 September 2008) as regional priorities for further development and discussion: capacity building and coordination and national level; chemical legislation (formulation, improvement, implementation and enforcement); dissemination of information on chemicals hazards to the public and awareness raising; exchange of information and experiences; remediation of contaminated sites; environmentally sound management and safe disposal of hazardous waste, obsolete pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls; risk assessment and management associated with health issues; and finding long-term, sustainable resources for chemicals management at the national level.²⁸
- *Western European and Others Group*: financing of Strategic Approach implementation, with particular emphasis on expanding the donor base to include additional governmental as well as non-governmental (industry) contributions; sound chemicals management as part of poverty eradication and the need to prioritize accordingly; consideration of chemicals management by the Global Environment Facility; generation of synergies among to make more effective use of existing means and avoid duplication; contributions of industry; development and aid programmes as relevant means for the channelling of funding to support sound chemicals management.

26. While constituting only a snapshot of overall chemicals management activities at national, regional and international levels, it may be noted that the region participates in the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme and its trust fund, although the Quick Start Programme activities have been limited in terms of applications for Quick Start Programme funding. 17 out of 140 project proposals have been submitted from Governments and 2 out of 45 project proposals from the civil society organizations in the region. The Quick Start Programme is providing funding to seven government-led projects

²⁸ Paragraph 36, Report of the second Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Bucharest, 8-9 September 2008, SAICM/RM/CEE.2/9 (29 October 2008), available at www.saicm.org.

and one civil society project in the region. The approved projects are concerned with initial enabling activities related to developing or updating national chemicals management profile and establishing integrated national programmes for sound chemicals management, strengthening capacity for integrating of sound management of chemicals considerations into development plans and processes and for developing pollutant and release transfer. The majority of the projects have an executing agency. The region received approximately US\$1.7 million out of total funding US\$16 million, after the 6th round of Quick Start Programme trust fund in April 2009. The projects are as follows:

Governments (7) and projects (9) supported through the Quick Start Programme trust fund in Central and Eastern Europe

Country	Project title	Executing agency	Funding	Round	Project type
Albania	Strengthening Capacities for SAICM Implementation in Albania	UNITAR	\$250,000	6th	individual
Armenia	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,607	1st	multi-country
	Armenia and UNEP Partnership Initiative for Sound Management of Chemicals and Implementation of SAICM in Armenia	-	\$245,680	3rd	individual
Belarus	Belarus, UNDP and UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals Considerations into Development Plans and Processes	UNDP & UNEP	\$250,000	3rd	individual
Georgia	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,607	1st	multi-country
	Strengthening Capacities for Developing a National Pollutant and Release Transfer Register and Supporting SAICM Implementation in Georgia	UNITAR	\$170,500	4th	individual

Country	Project title	Executing agency	Funding	Round	Project type
Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic)	Development and mainstreaming of the National Plan on SAICM implementation for the Republic of Macedonia	UNDP	\$248,400	1st	individual
Moldova	Moldova and UNEP partnership on capacity building for improving the environmentally sound management of chemicals in the Republic of Moldova and the implementation of SAICM	-	\$249,950	2nd	individual
Serbia	Updating the national chemicals management profile, development of a national SAICM capacity assessment and holding a national SAICM priority setting workshop	UNITAR	\$49,607	1st	multi-country

Quick Start Programme trust fund civil society project in Central and Eastern Europe (1)

Organization	Project title	Country (ies)	Funding	Round	Project type
Network for Protection of Public Environmental Interests in the Kyrgyz Republic, Green Partnership & Local Self-Government Development Centre	Strengthening Capacities of Civil Society Organizations for National and Regional SAICM Implementation in the Eastern Europe, Caucuses and Central Asia region	Belarus, Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan	\$160,000	4th	civil society

VIII. Outlook

27. In the aftermath of the Conference's second session, the focus is now shifting to Strategic Approach implementation activities during the intersessional period and related processes. Based on the direction provided by the Conference at its second session, activities during the intersessional period will in particular include work on emerging policy issues as identified at the second session of the Conference as well as the nomination of additional emerging policy issues for the consideration of the Conference at its third session, the management of perfluorinated chemicals, and the evaluation of the Strategic Approach financial arrangements, including the Quick Start Programme.

Furthermore, the secretariat in consultation with the World Health Organization will develop a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach for the consideration of the Conference at its third session. The secretariat will continue its efforts in providing guidance on Strategic Approach implementation, such as through the guidance document on the development of Strategic Approach implementation plans, which is a joint initiative between the secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in collaboration with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.²⁹

28. The work of participating and observer organizations in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, World Health Organization, World Bank and United Nations Development Programme) will be key to advancing Strategic Approach implementation. All have chemicals programmes that advance Strategic Approach objectives, many are serving as executing agencies for Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme projects and several will take up invitations from the second session of the Conference to work on emerging policy issues. The United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization will provide the secretariat for the global partnership on lead in paints; the United Nations Environment Programme will lead and facilitate a project on chemicals in products; the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development will continue its central role in enhancing understanding of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials; the Basel and Stockholm Convention secretariats and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization will plan and convene a workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products.

29. In addition to the above, several preparatory processes will be undertaken intersessionally in relation to reporting on Strategic Approach implementation, the consideration of proposals for the inclusion of new activities in the Strategic Approach's Global Plan of Action, and the convening of the Conference's third session, such as the preparation of its agenda.

30. As foreseen in resolution II/2, at least one meeting for each of the five United Nations regions is anticipated for the intersessional period preceding the third session of the International Conference to facilitate the implementation of Strategic Approach activities. The third meeting for the Central and Eastern European region is tentatively scheduled for September 2010. The European Union-JUSSCANZ meeting is likely to take place in February 2010. The outcomes of the regional meetings will be considered by the Open-ended Working Group being the Conference's subsidiary body in preparation of the third session of the Conference (tentatively in August 2011).

31. Countries of the region may continue to seek funding from the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme Trust Fund for projects that support initial enabling capacity-

²⁹ The Conference took note of the pilot edition of the guidance document at its second session and called for its further development. The guidance document will be piloted throughout 2009. It is available at the SAICM website at www.saicm.org.

building and implementation activities, consistent with the objective and strategic priorities of the Programme. Proposals may be presented by Strategic Approach participating Governments that have given appropriate formal recognition to the Strategic Approach, at a minimum by having designated an official Strategic Approach national focal point.

32. Spread over the lifetime of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund interested countries can participate in a multi-country and/or civil society project as well as receiving assistance for a national governmental project, provided that such projects did not involve duplication and that sufficient funds were available to the Quick Start Programme trust fund, bearing in mind the need for equitable access to the trust fund among the eligible countries. While some countries in the region are already engaged in the Quick Start Programme funded activities thus reaching their project “quota“, there are approximately five eligible countries that have not yet received Quick Start Programme funding.

IX. Progress achieved, challenges and lessons learned

33. The Strategic Approach has been able to live up to its conception as a multisectoral framework, regularly engaging governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental stakeholders with a view to achieving the objective of sound chemicals management by 2020. Its endorsement by all relevant intergovernmental organizations has enabled the Strategic Approach to assume its key function as a policy framework for all stakeholders involved in the promotion of sound chemicals management. Moreover, the comprehensive network of Strategic Approach focal points at national, regional and intergovernmental levels has facilitated continuous momentum on Strategic Approach implementation activities. The Strategic Approach’s dedicated financial mechanism, the Quick Start Programme, has spurred Strategic Approach implementation, particularly in relation to capacity building. Progress has also been achieved in developing guidance for Strategic Approach implementation and putting processes into place to take action on so-called emerging policy issues.

34. However, more than three years into the implementation of the Strategic Approach, many of the challenges referred to in its constitutive documents with regard to the sound management of chemicals remain valid. For instance, the full implementation of the Strategic Approach for the achievement of its objectives requires the commitment of additional financial resources at all levels, a challenge that the Strategic Approach’s Overarching Policy Strategy had already identified.³⁰ The lack of capacity, as highlighted in the Dubai Declaration and the Overarching Policy Strategy,³¹ also continues to be a key requirement for the achievement of the 2020 goal. Equally, sound chemicals management still suffers from the lack of prioritization and mainstreaming through all relevant sectors.³² The need to meet the challenge of establishing more effective governance structures for the sound management of chemicals remains,³³ which includes an increase in the level of inclusiveness, particularly in relation to civil society participation and gender balance.³⁴ Moreover, as recognized in the Dubai Declaration, growth in production and trade of

³⁰ Paragraphs 12, 7 OPS.

³¹ Paragraph 6, Dubai Declaration; paragraphs 5, 6(e), and 10, OPS.

³² Paragraph 9(d), OPS.

³³ Paragraph 5, OPS.

³⁴ Paragraph 9(e), OPS.

chemicals continues to place an increasing chemicals management burden on developing countries.³⁵ The international framework relevant to the sound management of chemicals remains fragmented giving rise to a continuous need for the strengthening of coherence and synergies.³⁶ There is also significant room for improving the level of information necessary to facilitate the sound management of chemicals.³⁷

35. Based on the above overview of challenges referred to in constitutive and other Strategic Approach documents as well as the debates that have been held at regional and global Strategic Approach meetings, the following recurrent themes can be identified: a persistent lack of capacity for the sound management of chemicals; the lack of adequate financial resources, including for the funding of activities concerning the remediation of contaminated sites; the lack of prioritization of sound chemicals management, which predominately remains to be perceived as an environmental priority in disregard of its broader implications on sustainable development; correspondingly, the lack of effective “mainstreaming” of sound chemicals management throughout relevant sectors (health, development assistance, etc.); the continuous need for information sharing as well as the need for finding safer alternatives and offering (affordable) access to them; need for dissemination and exchange of information on chemical safety matters and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements such as the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; the need to improve engagement and cooperation efforts among stakeholders and the importance of promoting synergies to achieve the goals of the national and international chemicals agendas; need to review, update and, most of all, strengthen current legislation and policies related to chemicals at the national level; where appropriate legislation is in place, there is a need to enforcing existing coordination mechanisms with stakeholders and the provision of support in the form of technical assistance and training on enforcement and compliance issue.

³⁵ Paragraph 7, Dubai Declaration.

³⁶ Paragraph 8, Dubai Declaration; paragraphs 5, 6(a)-(c), 9(b), OPS.

³⁷ Paragraph 8, OPS.