

Extracts From the SAICM Texts Relevant to the Almaty Guidelines

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) comprises three core texts the Dubai Declaration, the Overarching Policy and the Global Plan of Action. The present document compiles extracts from the SAICM texts relevant to the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums.

Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management

The following paragraphs have been extracted from the Dubai Declaration:

18. We will work towards effective and efficient governance of chemicals management by means of transparency, public participation and accountability involving all sectors of society, in particular striving for the equal participation of women in chemicals management;

19. We will engage actively in partnerships between Governments, the private sector and civil society, including strengthening participation in the implementation of the Strategic Approach by small and medium-sized enterprises and the informal sector;

21. We will facilitate public access to appropriate information and knowledge on chemicals throughout their life cycle, including the risks that they pose to human health and the environment;

22. We will ensure that, when information is made available, confidential commercial and industrial information and knowledge are protected in accordance with national laws or regulations or, in the absence of such laws and regulations, are protected in accordance with international provisions. In making information available, information on chemicals relating to the health and safety of humans and the environment should not be regarded as confidential;

29. We collectively share the view that implementation and taking stock of progress are critical to ensuring success and that, in this regard, a stable and long-term fully participatory and multi-sectoral structure for guidance, review and operational support is essential;

30. We are determined to cooperate fully in an open, inclusive, participatory and transparent manner in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

Overarching Policy Strategy

The present Overarching Policy Strategy 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.

IV. Objectives

B. Knowledge and information

15. The objectives of the Strategic Approach with regard to knowledge and information are:

(a) To ensure that knowledge and information on chemicals and chemicals management are sufficient to enable chemicals to be adequately assessed and managed safely throughout their life cycle;

(b) To ensure, for all stakeholders:

(i) That information on chemicals throughout their life cycle, including, where appropriate, chemicals in products, is available, accessible, user friendly, adequate and appropriate to the needs of all stakeholders. Appropriate types of information include their effects on human health and the environment, their intrinsic properties, their potential uses, their protective measures and regulation;

(ii) That such information is disseminated in appropriate languages by making full use of, among other things, the media, hazard communication mechanisms such as the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and relevant provisions of international agreements;

(c) To ensure that, in making information available in accordance with paragraph 15 (b), confidential commercial and industrial information and knowledge are protected in accordance with national laws or regulations or, in the absence of such laws or regulations, are protected in accordance with international provisions. In the context of this paragraph, information on

chemicals relating to the health and safety of humans and the environment should not be regarded as confidential;

(d) To make objective scientific information available for appropriate integration into risk assessments and associated decision-making relating to chemicals policy, including in relation to assessment of chemical hazards and risks to human health, especially vulnerable sub-populations such as children, and to the environment, particularly vulnerable ecosystems;

(f) To make objective scientific methods and information available to assess the effects of chemicals on people and the environment, particularly through the development and use of indicators;

(i) To make widely available, for consideration and implementation, the range of existing risk reduction and other tools from various participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) 9 such as the Mutual Acceptance of Data system of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) database on chemical safety information from intergovernmental organizations (INCHEM), in order to promote best practices in chemicals management, harmonization and burden-sharing;

C. Governance

16. The objectives of the Strategic Approach with regard to governance are:

(g) To promote and support meaningful and active participation by all sectors of civil society, particularly women, workers and indigenous communities, in regulatory and other decision-making processes that relate to chemical safety;

(h) To ensure equal participation of women in decision-making on chemicals policy and management;

D. Capacity-building and technical cooperation

17. The objectives of the Strategic Approach with regard to capacity-building and technical cooperation are:

(e) To promote coordination of and access to information on capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals and to enhance transparency and accountability;

VII. Implementation and taking stock of progress

22. Implementation of the Strategic Approach could begin with an enabling phase to build necessary capacity, as appropriate, to develop, with relevant stakeholder participation, a national Strategic Approach implementation plan, taking into consideration, as appropriate, existing elements such as legislation, national profiles, action plans, stakeholder initiatives and gaps, priorities, needs and circumstances. Strategic Approach regional implementation plans may be developed, as appropriate, in a similar fashion. Subsequent implementation phases should focus on implementing specific action plans. In parallel, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and private actors are encouraged to support these activities and to consider the development of their own action plans as appropriate. Partnerships among stakeholders should be pursued in support of implementation.

28. The functions to be performed by the secretariat will be:

(a) To facilitate meetings and intersessional work of the Conference, as well as regional meetings, with maximum multi-stakeholder participation, and to disseminate the reports and recommendations of the Conference;

(f) To provide information clearing-house services such as provision of advice to countries on implementation of the Strategic Approach, referral of requests for information to relevant sources, and facilitation of access to information and expertise in support of specific national actions;

Global Plan of Action

Executive summary

C. Governance: strengthening of institutions, law and policy

11. [...] another core area would be measures to ensure the participation of all stakeholders, including women in particular, in the management of the life cycle of chemicals.

Table A. Possible work areas

Work Area	
21.	Information management and dissemination
25.	Stakeholder participation
35.	Civil society and public interest non-governmental organization (NGO) participation