



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General
3 November 2004

English only



**Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties
to the Montreal Protocol on
Substances that Deplete the
Ozone Layer**
Prague, 22–26 November 2004

**Information on the development of a strategic approach to
international chemicals management**

I. Introduction

1. The present document provides information to the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on the progress in developing the strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM).
2. In its decision SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) decided that there was a need to further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management and endorsed the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety's Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 as the foundation of that approach. The decision set out consultation requirements and an analytical process involving a review of current and planned chemical safety activities, identification of gaps and the proposing of priorities and projects. In September 2002, the development of SAICM was endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
3. In February 2003, the Governing Council agreed at its twenty-second session, in decision 22/4 IV, to the concept of an open-ended consultative process involving representatives of all stakeholder groups as envisaged in decision SS.VII/3, taking the form of preparatory meetings and the convening of an international conference. Decision 22/4 IV also called upon the Executive Director of UNEP to strive to ensure that the process of further developing the strategic approach remained open, transparent and inclusive, providing all stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the substantive work.

K0473220 101104

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

II. Progress

4. After initial planning work by an inter-organization steering committee¹ and an open-ended information meeting held in Geneva in April 2003, the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 9 to 13 November 2003. The session was attended by 428 participants from 127 Governments, 19 intergovernmental organizations and approximately 50 non-governmental organizations drawn from a wide range of sectors including agriculture, environment, foreign affairs, health, industry, labour and science. Under the Presidency of Dr. Halldor Thorgeirsson of Iceland, the Preparatory Committee considered and further developed draft SAICM elements proposed by stakeholders. It adopted as the overall SAICM goal the target set down in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation that, by 2020, chemicals be used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

5. For purposes of structuring its debate on SAICM, the Preparatory Committee agreed to a proposal by the President to address ten subject headings: (i) statement of political strategic vision; (ii) statement of needs; (iii) goals and objectives; (iv) principles and approaches; (v) scope; (vi) scientific activities in support of decision-making; (vii) concrete measures; (viii) coordination; (ix) capacity, resources and development; and (x) implementation and taking stock of progress. In response to calls for intersessional regional consultations, the Africa Group met to discuss SAICM in Abuja, Nigeria, from 24 to 26 May 2004 and the Latin American and Caribbean Group met from 2 to 3 May 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya.

6. The second session of the Preparatory Committee was held in Nairobi from 4 to 8 October 2004 and attended by approximately 400 participants from 116 Governments and a range of nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations. The Ozone Secretariat was also represented at the meeting. The Committee elected Ambassador Viveke Bohn of Sweden as its new President and agreed on a tripartite structure for SAICM comprising a high-level declaration, an overarching policy statement and a global plan of action. Good progress was made in developing outlines and initial text for all three components. The Committee mandated the President and the secretariat (UNEP) to continue work intersessionally, taking account of debate at the Nairobi meeting, and of future submissions and regional consultations. The latter are expected to take place during the first half of 2005.

III. Plans

7. It is anticipated that there will be one further session of the Preparatory Committee around September 2005, followed by a final international conference on chemicals management in early 2006. The other two co-convenors of SAICM, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, have agreed in principle to the Governing Council's proposal that the final conference should be held in conjunction with the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2006, with a view to the latter serving as a high-level segment of the conference, during which consideration would be given to adopting the completed strategic approach document and inviting the governing bodies of other relevant organizations to endorse it.

¹ The current members of the steering committee are the seven participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the Global Environment Facility, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, the United Nations Development Programme, and the World Bank. IOMC comprises the International Labour Organization, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the World Health Organization.