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**Basel Convention on the Control of
Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

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**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and
Pesticides in International Trade****Stockholm Convention on Persistent
Organic Pollutants****Conference of the Parties to the
Basel Convention on the Control
of Transboundary Movements
of Hazardous Wastes and
Their Disposal
Fourteenth meeting**

Geneva, 29 April–10 May 2019

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Enhancing cooperation and
coordination among the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm
conventions: international
cooperation and coordination****Conference of the Parties to the
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Item 6 (a) of the provisional
agenda*****Enhancing cooperation and
coordination among the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm
conventions: international
cooperation and coordination****Update on the intersessional process considering the Strategic
Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste
beyond 2020****Note by the Secretariat**

As is mentioned in the note by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination (UNEP/CHW.14/20–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/23), the annex to the present note sets out a report submitted by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/CHW.14/1.

** UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/1.

*** UNEP/POPS/COP.9/1.

Annex

Update on the third meeting of the Strategic Approach Open-ended Working Group and the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

1. The third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management was hosted by the Government of Uruguay from 2-4 April 2019 in Montevideo, Uruguay. Over 350 participants from 85 governments, IGOs, NGOs and the private sector participated. OEWG3 in-session documents and further information are available at the following link:

<http://www.saicm.org/About/OEWG/OEWG3/tabid/5984/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

2. At OEWG3, Germany formally announced it would host the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) in Bonn, 5-9 October 2020, and initial preparations are currently underway. ICCM5 will be a critical milestone as a new global approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste is expected to be adopted and will be heavily influenced based on the negotiations and discussions from OEWG3. ICCM5 will also provide an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of SAICM.

3. The OEWG3 deliberated on overall progress towards the achievement of the 2020 overall objectives of the Strategic Approach. It also provided an effective platform for valuable dialogue and showcasing of key initiatives, including:

- a) reviewing overall progress, including in implementing actions on emerging policy issues and the SAICM overall orientation and guidance;
- b) reflecting on implementation of the health sector strategy and welcoming the WHO Chemicals Roadmap;
- c) reviewing the financing of the Strategic Approach, including showcasing of projects implemented under the Quick Start Programme;
- d) presenting 36 countries in attendance, which pledged to ban lead in paint under the SAICM GEF project, with certificates to honour their commitment;
- e) launching the full Global Chemicals Outlook II report at a technical briefing hosted by UN Environment on 1 April 2019; and
- f) reviewing the SAICM Knowledge Management Strategy (OEWG.3/INF/32) to which stakeholders are invited and welcome to contribute.

4. Two meetings of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 will take place before ICCM5, building on the related outcomes of the OEWG3. In moving forward, Ms. Judith Torres, Uruguay, will take over from Ms. Leticia Carvalho (Brazil), as the co-chair of the intersessional process. Mr. David Morin, Canada, will remain as the other co-chair. The third meeting of the intersessional process will be held in Bangkok from 30 September to 4 October 2019. Romania formally offered, at OEWG3, to host the fourth intersessional process meeting in early 2020. These meetings will support stakeholders to take an informed decision on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 at ICCM5.

5. At OEWG3, stakeholders advanced discussions on strategic objectives for beyond 2020 for the sound management of chemicals and waste, based on the objectives that had been set out by the co-chairs in document SAICM/OEWG.3/4. The following strategic objectives will be forwarded to the intersessional process for further deliberation:

- Strategic Objective A: [Measures are identified, implemented and enforced in order to prevent or, where not feasible, minimize harm from chemicals throughout their life cycle [and waste];]
- Strategic Objective B: Comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data and information are generated, available and accessible to all to enable informed decisions and actions;

- Strategic Objective C: Issues of concern [that warrant [global] [and] [joint] action] are identified, prioritized and addressed;
- Strategic Objective D: Benefits to human health and the environment are maximized and risks are prevented or, where not feasible, minimized through safer alternatives, innovative and sustainable solutions and forward thinking;
- Strategic Objective E: [The importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste as an essential element to achieving sustainable development is recognized by all]; adequate financial and non-financial resources are [identified and] mobilized; actions are accelerated; and necessary [transparent and accountable] partnerships are established to foster cooperation among stakeholders].]

6. The intersessional process is open for participation by all stakeholders. Stakeholders are invited to participate in intersessional meetings and also engage in efforts to inform the process by correspondence and/or by electronic means, including Parties to the BRS Conventions and the BRS secretariat. In particular, it is important that the objectives of SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and the goals of the BRS Conventions are broadly aligned and that joint collaboration continues and is enhanced while moving forward.

7. The Swedish Ministry of the Environment and Energy and the Uruguayan Ministry of Environment have initiated a High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste. Information is set out in OEWG3 document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/33. The Alliance, established in July 2018, comprises a group of committed ministers and senior representatives from intergovernmental organizations, industry and civil society. Its general aim is to create a framework for action and enhance awareness and understanding about the urgency to act on chemicals and waste at all levels both in the context of the beyond 2020 process and thereafter.

8. In preparation for the next intersessional meeting, a number of documents were requested by SAICM stakeholders during OEWG3: (a) for the co-chairs of the intersessional process follow-up: other mechanisms to support implementation; additional measures to achieve multisectoral engagement; issues of concern; and 'Principles and Approaches' set out in document SAICM/OEWG3.3/4; (b) for the SAICM secretariat follow-up: examples of successful mechanisms for cost recovery and implementation of the polluters pay principle. In order to support preparation of this work, stakeholders are invited to provide input on these elements by 15 May 2019 to the SAICM secretariat (saicm.chemicals@unep.org). In addition, at OEWG3 the United Kingdom offered to host a technical expert meeting to support further development of measurable targets for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste prior to the third meeting of the intersessional process. The technical expert meeting is tentatively scheduled for early September with more details to follow as they become available.

9. An advanced Executive Summary of the Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management for the period 2006 to 2015 (SAICM/OEWG.3/3), undertaken in accordance with the terms of reference set out in Conference resolution IV/4, is available to stakeholders. The Independent Evaluation was mandated to provide information which supports the intersessional process in developing recommendations which enable ICCM5 to make informed decisions on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The Independent Evaluation is to also serve as a guide on a number of items to inform the intersessional process, including coordination and cooperation with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). The full Independent Evaluation Report will be available by the end of April 2019. The Strategic Approach secretariat and the BRS Secretariat will jointly review the relevant outcomes of the Independent Evaluation and consider options for enhanced cooperation in moving forward.

10. Overall cooperation and coordination between the Strategic Approach secretariat and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions is on-going including in the following areas of work: (a) emerging policy issues and other issues of concern as identified by the ICCM, in particular on chemicals in products; hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products; endocrine-disrupting chemicals; perfluorinated chemicals and highly hazardous pesticides; (b) policy and strategic issues, through the provision of inputs to related work; and (c) outreach and communication, including knowledge management.