



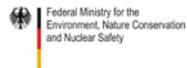
# STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

*SAICM texts and resolutions of the International  
Conference on Chemicals Management*

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



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# Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Comprising the Dubai Declaration  
on International Chemicals Management,  
the Overarching Policy Strategy  
and the Global Plan of Action

Resolutions of the International Conference  
on Chemicals Management



World Health  
Organization

At its first session, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 February 2006, the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management and the Overarching Policy Strategy. The Conference also recommended the use and further development of the Global Plan of Action as a working tool and guidance document. Together these three documents constitute the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

The first session of the Conference and the process to develop the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management were co-convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS). The participating organizations of IOMC are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank joined the IOMC participating organizations and IFCS in a steering committee established to oversee the Strategic Approach development process.

In its resolution I/1, the International Conference on Chemicals Management commended the Strategic Approach to the attention of the governing bodies of relevant organizations and encouraged them to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge the Strategic Approach with a view to incorporating its objectives into their programmes of work within their mandates. In addition, the Conference requested UNEP to establish and assume overall administrative responsibility for the Strategic Approach secretariat. Both UNEP and WHO have lead roles in the secretariat in their respective areas of expertise.

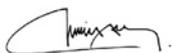
## Foreword

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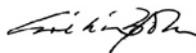
The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management is a landmark initiative in international cooperation to protect human health and the environment. Its development was endorsed by Heads of State and Government at their summits in Johannesburg in 2002 and in New York in 2005. Adoption of the Strategic Approach by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 6 February 2006 followed a consultative process involving representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society from all relevant sectors, including agriculture, environment, health, industry and labour.

The Strategic Approach provides a policy framework to guide efforts to achieve the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal that, by 2020, chemicals will be produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health. It acknowledges the essential contribution made by chemicals to modern societies and economies while at the same time recognizing the potential threat to sustainable development if chemicals are not managed soundly.

In presenting the texts of the Strategic Approach and the resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, we should like to express our thanks and congratulations to all those who contributed to their development. The Strategic Approach represents a global commitment to protect our environment and future generations from chemical hazards. It now remains for all stakeholders to ensure that the aspirations of the Strategic Approach are fulfilled in its implementation. We wish them every success in this important endeavour.



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President of the International  
Conference on Chemicals  
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Minister of Housing, Territorial  
Planning and Environment  
of Uruguay



H. E. Viveka Bohn,  
President of the Preparatory Committee  
for the Development of a Strategic  
Approach to International Chemicals  
Management,  
Environment Ambassador for Sweden

## Contents

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<b>Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Overarching Policy Strategy</b> .....	<b>10</b>
I. Introduction .....	10
II. Scope .....	11
III. Statement of needs .....	11
IV. Objectives .....	14
A. Risk reduction .....	15
B. Knowledge and information .....	16
C. Governance .....	18
D. Capacity-building and technical cooperation .....	19
E. Illegal international traffic .....	20
V. Financial considerations .....	21
VI. Principles and approaches .....	23
VII. Implementation and taking stock of progress .....	24
Appendix to the Overarching Policy Strategy .....	29
<b>Global Plan of Action</b> .....	<b>31</b>
Executive summary .....	31
Introduction .....	31
A. Measures to support risk reduction .....	34
B. Strengthening knowledge and information .....	35
C. Governance: strengthening of institutions, law and policy .....	35
D. Enhancing capacity-building .....	36
E. Addressing illegal international traffic .....	36
F. Improved general practices .....	36
Table A. Possible work areas and their associated activities .....	37
Table B. List of possible work areas and their associated activities, actors, targets/timeframes, indicators of progress and implementation aspects .....	38
List of acronyms and abbreviations used in table B .....	106

**Resolutions adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first session .....107**

I/1. Implementation arrangements ..... 107

    Table 1: Staffing table ..... 111

    Table 2: Strategic Approach secretariat budget ..... 112

I/2. Tribute to the Government of the United Arab Emirates ..... 115

I/3. Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety ..... 115

I/4. Quick Start Programme ..... 116

    Appendix I Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: strategic priorities and institutional arrangements for the Quick Start Programme ..... 117

    Appendix II Terms of reference for the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management ..... 119

## Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management

We, the ministers, heads of delegation and representatives of civil society and the private sector, assembled at the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai from 4 to 6 February 2006, declare the following:

1. 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;
2. Significant, but insufficient, progress has been made in international chemicals management through the implementation of chapter 19 of Agenda 21<sup>1</sup> and International Labour Organization Conventions No. 170 on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work and No. 174 on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, as well as in addressing particularly hazardous chemicals through the recent entry into force of 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 and the adoption of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;
3. The private sector has made considerable efforts to promote chemical safety through voluntary programmes and initiatives such as product stewardship and the chemicals industry's Responsible Care programme;
4. Non-governmental public health and environmental organizations, trade unions and other civil society organizations have made important contributions to the promotion of chemical safety;

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