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Strategic Approach  
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English

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**4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach  
to International Chemicals Management**

Kuala Lumpur, 27 March 2014.

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda\*

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: Emerging policy issues  
and other issues of concern**

**Draft resolutions on Lead in Paint, Endocrine Disrupting  
Chemicals and Highly Hazardous Pesticides, submitted  
International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)**

**Note by the secretariat**

The secretariat has the honour to circulate in the annexes to this present note, draft resolutions on Lead in Paint, Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and Highly Hazardous Pesticides, submitted by the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), for the consideration of participants.

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\* SAICM/RM/AP.4/1

**Annex I Submission by IPEN**

**Resolution on lead in paint by participants in the Fourth Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 22-27 March 2014**

*We*, the participants in the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), convened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 22-27 March 2014:

*Taking into account* the resolution on lead in paint (SAICM III/2 B) adopted at the Third Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, Nairobi, Kenya, 17-21 September 2012;

*Taking into account* the resolution by the Fifth African Regional Meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the elimination of lead in paints, Pretoria, South Africa, 18-22 November 2013;

*Recognizing* that children who are exposed to lead suffer lifelong impacts, including decreases in intelligence, difficulties in school, increases in violent behavior, and reductions in workforce productivity;

*Recognizing* that a recent published study estimates that costs to some countries of the Asia-Pacific region attributed to reduced labor productivity due to early childhood lead exposure is US\$699.9 billion per year, which is equivalent to 71.64% of the total global estimates at US\$977 billion for low and middle income countries;

*Acknowledging* UNEP's 2011 Study on the Possible Effects on Human Health and the Environment in Asia and the Pacific of the Trade of Products Containing Lead, Cadmium, and Mercury which notes that lead in elevated concentrations is still commonly used in paints in developing countries in the Asia and Pacific regions;

*Recognizing* that the continued production, import and export, sale and use of enamel decorative paints containing lead, especially for applications likely to contribute to childhood and occupational lead exposure, are not consistent with the sound management of chemicals;

*Recognizing* the fact that some countries in the Asia-Pacific region have adopted laws and regulations eliminating the use of lead in enamel decorative paints and established controls on paint used in products such as toys;

*Recognizing* the fact that some paint manufacturers have discontinued the use of lead in enamel decorative paints and reformulated their products using non-lead alternatives at a similar price and with similar colors and performance characteristics;

*Recognizing* that IPEN and its partner groups in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand are undertaking a lead paint elimination project with support from the European Union and in collaboration with SAICM stakeholders from the government, paint industry, academe and the healthcare sector,

*Recognizing* that the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, a joint undertaking of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, organized the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action on 20-26 October 2013, to highlight countries and partners' efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning and urge further action to eliminate lead paint; and

*Recognizing* that further action is required to realize paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, particularly on phasing out lead in paints and in other sources of human exposure, in order to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead, and on strengthening monitoring and surveillance efforts and treatment of lead poisoning:

1. *Encourage* governments in Asia-Pacific region who have not yet done so to promulgate their national regulatory frameworks to prohibit the manufacture, import, export, distribution, sale and use of paints containing lead and products coated with lead paints, especially for applications and products likely to contribute to childhood exposure,
2. *Invite* governments, civil society organizations and the private sector in the Asia-Pacific region to contribute to the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint throughout its focal areas of work and undertake responsive activities, nationally or regionally;
3. *Encourage* SAICM stakeholders in Asia-Pacific to support the annual International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action through activities that will create awareness and facilitate effective action;
4. *Invite* the United Nations Environment Programme, Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, donors, civil society organizations, and others to support efforts to test paints on the consumer market for lead content in Asia Pacific countries where little or no data are available;
5. *Encourage* governments to support initiatives to establish voluntary, third-party, independent paint certification and labelling programmes to enable consumers to identify paints on the market with no added lead;
6. *Request* the United Nations Environment Programme to consider organizing a Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paints (GAELP) regional training workshop for Asia-Pacific in 2015 at which multistakeholder participants can receive information, training and advice on how to eliminate lead paint and how to deal with the legacy of old lead paint, especially in residential houses, schools, hospitals, playgrounds and other facilities frequented by children that are coated with lead paint;
7. *Request* the World Health Organization and donors to assist government and non-government efforts to conduct biomonitoring and clinical studies on the effects of lead on human health, particularly on children under the age of six, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the health care sector to diagnose and manage lead poisoning cases, including treatment guidelines and the effectiveness of interventions; and
8. Request the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to convey the present resolution to the participants of the Open-ended Working Group and the Fourth Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

References:

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1206424/>

<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/LeadCadmium/PrioritiesforAction/LeadPaints/FocalAreasofWork/GAELP/tabid/106381/Default.aspx>

## Annex II

### **Draft resolution on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)**

Participants in the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia – Pacific regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, convened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 23 to 27 March 2014;

*Recognizing* the potential adverse effects of endocrine disruptors on human health and the environment and the need to protect humans, and ecosystems and their constituent parts that are especially vulnerable, as set forth in, inter alia, paragraph 14 (b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach;

*Recognizing also* the special vulnerability of children during critical periods of development to endocrine disrupting chemicals, and the scarcity of information on which endocrine disrupting chemicals are found in consumer products, food, environmental media, and human and wildlife tissues in the Asia – Pacific region;

*Considering* the special needs that the Asia – Pacific region may increasingly have in coping with endocrine disrupting chemicals throughout their complete lifecycle and the costs of inaction;

*Noting* the concerns of chemical exposures due to agriculture, the need for information on endocrine disrupting pesticides, and the large number of agricultural workers in the Asia – Pacific region;

*Also noting* the concerns of exposures to endocrine disrupting chemicals in consumers and workers, considering the rapid growth of many countries in the Asia-Pacific region;

*Further recalling* resolution III/2 F on endocrine disrupting chemicals adopted by the International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM) at its third session;

*Welcoming* the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and World Health Organization's (WHO's) report, *State of the Science on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012*;

*Welcoming* the workshop on EDCs organized by the SAICM secretariat in cooperation with UNEP, WHO, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and its key objective of awareness-raising and information sharing for Asia – Pacific countries on issues related to endocrine disrupting chemicals;

1. *Invite* UNEP and WHO to develop a report on EDCs with regional input that is targeted to the situation and needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition including the Asia – Pacific region and which includes the following elements, subject to available resources:
  - (a) Identification of priority EDCs and sources of exposure for Asia – Pacific countries including, *inter alia*, products, food and water, wastes, and pesticides;
  - (b) Survey of bio-monitoring and other available information regarding current levels of exposure to EDCs and information gaps;
  - (c) Available sources of data on substances with endocrine disrupting properties, and challenges faced by all stakeholders with respect to accessing and using available data;
  - (d) Existing legislation and policies by governments and entities engaged in development finance, as well as gaps in measures, to protect human health and the environment from EDCs, especially workers, women, and children;
  - (e) Stakeholder needs on information regarding EDCs in products throughout their life-cycle including research carried out in the Chemicals in Products Project under the Strategic Approach;
  - (f) Examples of best practices in reducing the use of EDCs, including safer substitution, non-chemical alternatives and risk-management, if any; and

- (g) Capacity needs of stakeholders for reducing the risks of EDCs.
2. *Encourage* the formation of a multi-stakeholder working group with representation from all United Nations regions to develop the above report to be considered by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session.
3. *Recommend* a robust series of awareness-raising activities on EDCs, as referred to in resolution III/2 F, of ICCM3 take place in the Asia – Pacific region in regional languages, which include the following elements, subject to available resources:
- (a) Dissemination of existing lists of EDCs including pesticides and substances with endocrine disrupting properties already listed in the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;
  - (b) Information on uses and health effects of EDCs and, if available, examples of corresponding lists of safer alternatives for these uses, including non-chemical alternatives;
  - (c) Information on environmental contamination and human body burden of EDCs in the Asia – Pacific region;
  - (d) A tool-kit of resources and guidelines for national assessment of production, import and export, use, and disposal of EDCs, including private sector obligations, with particular attention to the use and disposal phase; and
  - (e) Collecting the above and other relevant information on EDCs in the Asia – Pacific region in an on-line clearinghouse.
4. *Recommend* the case-studies referred to in resolution III/2 F of ICCM3 include five topics; pesticides and the four topics of focus under the Chemicals in Products Project (textiles, children's products, building products, and electrical and electronic products) and that the case studies be available for consideration at the fourth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and include the following elements, subject to available resources:
- (a) Identification of EDCs implicated by each topic, and the health effects to which these EDCs are linked;
  - (b) Exposure of women, children, and workers to EDCs under each topic;
  - (c) Gaps in existing legislation, policies, guidelines and practices that prevent adequate regulation of, and reduced exposure to EDCs; and
  - (d) Best practices in substitution of EDCs and needs assessment for substitution and regulation.
5. *Encourage* all stakeholders to provide all available data using the Strategic Approach clearinghouse on the endocrine disrupting properties of all substances in commerce, including mixtures of substances, and to enable access to this data by stakeholders in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, while respecting confidential business information.
6. *Invite* governments in a position to do so to provide financial resources for activities on EDCs.

### Annex III

#### **Draft resolution on Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)**

Participants in the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia – Pacific regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, convened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 23 to 27 March 2014;

*Recognizing* the serious risk to human health and the environment from the use of highly hazardous pesticides through their life cycle;

*Considering also* the recommendation of the Food and Agricultural Organization, that governments in developing countries should speed up the withdrawal of highly hazardous pesticides from their markets;

*Noting* the concerns of chemical exposures due to agriculture and the large number of agricultural workers in the Asia – Pacific region;

*Considering* the special vulnerabilities and needs of Small Island Developing States;

*Recalling also* the strong support for action on highly hazardous pesticides expressed at the third session of the International Conference on Chemical Management and the support for intercessional work on this topic;

1. *Invite* the Food and Agricultural Organization to develop an information paper on safer alternatives to HHPs, including ecosystem-based approaches, which is targeted to the situation and needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition including the Asia - Pacific region.
2. *Encourage* countries in the Asia - Pacific region to perform surveys of HHPs including the following elements:
  - (f) Regional Coordination Committee of the Asia - Pacific region develops a simple questionnaire on HHPs for distribution to SAICM national focal points in the region;
  - (g) SAICM national focal points coordinate with relevant agencies to survey HHP substances registered and prohibited in the country;
  - (h) Countries may wish to start with surveys of HHPs listed in WHO Class Ia and Ib, and Rotterdam Convention Annex III and the Stockholm Convention but include other substances from lists utilizing the criteria from the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management;
3. *Recommend* the Regional Coordination Committee of the Asia - Pacific region utilize the HHP surveys to collect success stories on HHP phase-outs, including information on alternatives and strategies for implementation.
4. *Encourage* development of an on-line clearinghouse of HHP registrations, restrictions, and prohibitions in the Asia - Pacific region utilizing information from the HHP surveys and other available updated information, in different languages of the region.
5. *Invite* governments and organizations in a position to do so to provide financial and in-kind resources for activities on HHPs.