

REPORT ON SAICM IMPLEMENTATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (2009- 2012)

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1. Current Status of SAICM Implementation in the Region

We can summarize the status panorama in the following points:

The impact of actions carried out around SAICM on national chemicals management policies in countries in the region has not been significant enough to transform the institutional framework in order to allow progress toward reaching the 2020 goal. Although most Latin American and Caribbean governments have developed activities related to some of the elements of the implementation of the SAICM Global Plan of Action, the number and scope of these activities is uneven throughout the region. These activities include first time development or updating of national chemicals inventories, contaminated sites inventories, the ban of some highly hazardous pesticides (HHP) in some countries, strengthening chemicals management institutions, projects to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling or GHS, the implementation of discussion or diagnostic workshops on some of the new regulatory themes, and even a Regional SAICM Implementation Plan for Central America, among other actions. In recent years, some of these actions have even received support from the Quick Start Program with backing from UNITAR, UNIDO, and UNDP agencies (see complete list in SAICM/ICCM. 3/INF/16). Without disavowing the positive contribution of many of these activities, these actions however have not been sufficient to have a significant impact on national chemicals management policies to transform the institutional framework so that they may move towards reaching the general objective of SAICM and thus meet the 2020 goal. This goal aims to produce and use chemicals so that the adverse effects on health and the environment are significantly reduced.

On the other hand, efforts to implement the Chemical Safety agenda with a cross-sectional approach and a coordinated and effective participation of other authorities involved in the chemical products life cycle have hardly yielded results. In practice, the SAICM theme is considered to be an issue that is mainly the responsibility of the technical authorities in charge, usually environmental authorities. Besides, the national SAICM implementation plans do not include policies with clear goals.

Public budgets allocated to the Chemical Safety agenda are insufficient. This results from the fact that the so-called “gray agenda” regarding chemicals management ranks extremely low within the priority policies of the environmental agenda. It ranks even lower in the national development plans, compared to the importance granted to the commitments to adapt and mitigate climate change or the green agenda linked to biodiversity protection. Low public

investment in the chemical safety agenda is also the result of restrictions that the macroeconomic policies adopted by some countries have imposed on public expenditure, particularly those countries that continue pursuing a neoliberal ideology and an economic growth model oriented to continue to privilege foreign investment protection regimes.

No proposals exist for the private sector to contribute fiscal participation towards public expenditure in chemicals management. On the other hand, no fiscal measures have been promoted in the region to increase private sector taxation by the main users of chemicals and those who are responsible for environmental pollution. It would be important to explore successful experiences articulating priority chemical substance reduction policy goals selected by volume and toxicity, taxes on chemical substance use and the creation of an independent fund to support an institute specializing in toxic chemicals use reduction. This institute would provide services to industry in order to achieve input substitution, redesign processes and output as well as higher efficiency. Would be useful to examine for example the experiences of the state of Massachusetts and the Toxic Use Reduction Institute in the United States, among others examples worldwide.

Deepening the critique of the dominant modes of production and consumption and the search for alternatives. The original source of the chapter dedicated to chemicals management in Agenda 21 adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit highlighted the unsustainability of the dominant modes of production and consumption. Today, 20 years later, the dominant production and consumption modes are still unsustainable. This is aggravated by a financial crisis that attempts to be rescued through transferring millions of dollars from the public treasury in specific plans recommended by dominant financial institutions. Thus the population is forced to pay through the restriction of the social, economic and environmental rights acquired in recent decades. However, this imposition no longer affects only Latin American countries under neoliberal policies, but these policies are also being imposed on European countries and peoples as well as the United States and the American people. Restrictions to public expenditure will also bring negative consequences by restricting development support and the contribution of donor countries to multilateral environmental conventions, including SAICM.

It is not only a question of mainstreaming SAICM themes and Chemical Safety into the national development plans, but also of asking what kind of “development” should be promoted and what macroeconomic policies should be established in order to reach “development,” reduce the great income inequality in the region, and strengthen the domestic market. In this sense, civil society organizations are questioning both the neoliberal policies and the extraction model based on the exportation of raw materials, such as oil or valuable minerals to the international market without sufficient assessment of its social, environmental and health impact, and without answering of who will mainly benefit from these investments.

The results of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development turned out to be highly limited, since rather than delving more deeply into the causes of the global environmental crisis, the increase in social inequality and poverty in the world by incorporating financial aspects, these were ignored and a “green economy” was promoted in terms of a new arena of nature commodification and the promotion of “green” businesses unrelated to a global transformation project of the dominant economy.

On the other hand, it would also be important to consider proposals for greater control over financial transactions with taxes aimed at reducing financial speculation and increase credits and investment support in cleaner production projects.

2. What is Missing in SAICM Implementation in the Region?

Governance

To strengthen and broaden citizen participation in chemicals management throughout their life cycle in the local, state and national spheres in order to update and implement the SAICM National Plan. Except for rare exceptions, there are no ongoing civil society participation structures capable of developing and carrying out SAICM activities with the participation of health and environmental protection organizations, consumers and local social organizations.

Greater coordination as well as the participation of local and regional authorities (state or provincial authorities, depending on how they are referred to in each country) is required in the national committees or national working groups dedicated to discussing SAICM and in the National SAICM Implementation Plan activities. The reinforcement of citizen participation mechanisms at a local level is also required.

It is important to notice that in the context of Rio + 20 the governments of Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay urge increased commitments on Principle 10 on access to information, justice and public participation, and state their commitment to drafting and implementing a Plan of Action 2012-2014, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). In their statement request ECLAC (CEPAL in Spanish) to act as the technical secretariat, and to conduct a study on the best practices and requirements on access to information, justice and participation on environmental issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. I don't know the status of this request but this may represent an opportunity to include chemical management and policy in this study. For more info see <http://sids-liisd.org/news/ten-latin-american-and-caribbean-countries-commit-to-drafting-plan-of-action-on-principle-10/>

Phasing-out Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP)

Highly hazardous pesticides promoted by production strategies based on single-crop farming are still being used in the region with serious impacts on worker and community health, affecting biodiversity, scarce strategic resources like water and encouraging a dependence on fossil fuel consumption. This situation is aggravated by the promotion of herbicide-resistant genetically-modified crops, such as transgenic glyphosate- and 2, 4-D-resistant soybeans. It is necessary to promote policies and programs that change pest control strategies to rely more heavily on agro-ecology-based proposals, a reduction in energy costs in transportation that favor both the domestic market and the local supply chains, as well as prevent water pollution, rather than merely responding to the demands of the global market.

Proposals to modify the FAO Code of Conduct must be supported in order to include the possibility of substituting highly hazardous pesticides (HHP) defined by criteria that not only consider higher acute toxicity (1a and 1b in the WHO classification), but also by criteria related to chronic health effects, like cancer, harm to reproductive development, and greater environmental concerns like those included in the Stockholm and the Rotterdam Conventions. The List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides HHP developed by the Pesticide Action Network in Germany is a useful tool for a first diagnosis. See http://www.pan-germany.org/download/PAN_HHP-List_1101.pdf . This list can be compared to the list of pesticides registered in the country, thus obtaining a hazard profile for the authorized HHP. This profile should be complemented with information on current use and location in top national priority areas. Knowledge of both volume and location of highly hazardous pesticides must be recognized as a public right since it has so far been confidential information that only the pesticide chemical industries can access.

It is essential to recover the proposals of the 2010 International Assessment of Agriculture Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), which has been the broadest and most rigorous agricultural assessment so far. It highlights the imperative need to make radical changes in agricultural policies and business practices, as well as to count on the support of small farmers to create the vigorous, fair and sustainable food systems that the world needs. The IAASTD Report highlights the contributions made by agro-ecology to assessing agricultural system multifunctionality, productivity, resilience, sustainability and equity vis-à-vis the challenges of environmental crises and the environmental pressures agriculture faces in the twenty-first century. See www.agassessment.org and the Pesticide Action Network information sheets at: <http://www.panna.org/science/agroecology/science> as well as the Latin American Scientific Society on Agro-Ecology (Sociedad Científica Latinoamericana sobre Agroecología / SOCLA) <http://www.agroeco.org/socla/>

Institutional Reform to Achieve an Integral Effective Policy on Chemical Safety

According to the *Bahia Declaration*, *Chemical Safety* can be understood as a preventive approach to health and environmental harm caused by chemicals. Several assessments consider that some countries need to create a general law on chemicals that allows more efficient management control throughout the life cycle; or that other countries must create unique public agencies to supervise the life cycle so as to avoid overlapping functions and regulatory gaps.

In institutional and regulatory adjustments, it is important to apply the general principles of prevention, and substitute the chemicals of highest concern. If the idea is to keep on marketing the products, then the burden of testing must be transferred to the producer rather than to the public sector. This would be an adaptation of the “*no data no market*” principle used in REACH European legislation.

It is also necessary to reinforce the national capacity to carry out an independent assessment of hazardous properties and the potential risks of both chemicals themselves and chemicals in products in order not to exclusively depend on information provided by industry.

The revision of the legislative framework regarding themes related to responsibility and damage repair in case of accident and polluted sites must be broadened in order to ensure clean sites and

care for victims, themes that are also linked to access to environmental justice, which is included below.

Broaden Access to Public Information throughout the Life Cycle of Chemical Substances

Within the labor sphere it is necessary to strengthen access to hazardous material data safety sheets as well as worker participation in commissions ensuring appropriate protection and accident prevention. It is worrisome that these conditions deteriorate above all in countries that adopt the so-called “flexibilization measures” in labor contracting conditions, thus weakening worker organizations and labor authorities capacity to inspect and correct the problems.

With regard to the development of pollutant environment release and transfer registers by industrial sources (PRTR), these registers must be updated with new available scientific information in order to expand both the list of chemical substances that must be declared and the tolerance thresholds. Access to environmental information must be broadened to include the more hazardous chemicals in relation to use, volume, type and location. Highly hazardous pesticides must be included, linking them to goals regarding pesticide use reduction in ecosystems and communities where there is greater negative impact.

Phasing-out Persistent and Bioaccumulable Toxic Chemicals that Cause Chronic Harm to Health, and Greater Support to the Production of Cleaner Chemicals

Governments face limitations not only in developing a hazardous chemicals use inventory based on data provided by industry, but also in designing policies that promote both use reduction and substitution in order to allow a transition towards cleaner forms of production.

Greater participation of health authorities is required so that they can contribute with the toxicological information pertaining to each chemical to the national inventory of chemical substances, including acute toxicity and chronic effects (carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, reproductive effects, affection to both the nervous system and the immune systems, among others). Epidemiological information must also be included focusing on the most polluted sites or places with a higher incidence of chronic diseases of concern.

Some citizen organizations in industrial corridors have obtained updated and regular information from epidemiological surveillance registers regarding certain chronic diseases per location, particularly cancer. This allows that diseases can be located geographically and the development of geo-referenced maps. However the information about the industrial use of these carcinogenic chemicals is not required by authorities, so is a gap in the information in order to develop programs to reduce their use and to substitute them in industrial processes for cleaner forms of production.

Reduction Strategies in Residue Generation with a “Zero Waste” Approach

The increasing generation of solid waste in cities continues to be a serious environmental problem that is being faced through false solutions such as incineration and similar technologies (gasification and pyrolysis) in waste-to-energy projects that generate new pollutants. A change of strategy is required in order to promote chemicals management that emphasizes on reducing waste generation, adequate waste separation at source, and reuse and recycling measures. This change of strategy must be accompanied by compulsory measures of extended producer

responsibility (EPR) throughout the product life cycle so that waste recollection and management costs are not transferred to local authorities and consumers, promoting product re-design for greater reuse and recycling, as well as the hazardous chemicals and materials substitution.

Effective Access to Justice and Enforcement and Environmental Justice

Unless legislation is enforced with and appropriate surveillance and sanctioning mechanisms are created, it is not enough to improve the regulatory aspect in chemicals management throughout their life cycle. Greater efforts are required to fight environmental corruption and impunity. Autonomous justice administration bodies must be strengthened with effective reporting mechanisms in the labor, environmental, public health and chemical emergency response spheres.

Environmental justice must be strengthened and a fight must be waged against the unequal distribution of environmental impacts by human activities where the poorest and most vulnerable sectors end paying the highest costs and their health and their environment deteriorate.

It would be convenient to see collaboration possibilities between SAICM and the *Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice* with different groups of interest in Latin America in order to strengthen this aspect of chemical and environmental governance.

Controlling and Limiting the Expansion of Large-Scale Mining

The growth of large-scale metal mining exploration and exploitation projects is one of the main sources of territorial environmental conflict in the region, not only because of the extension of the affected surfaces and impact on the use and pollution of scarce strategic resources such as water, but also because of the use of toxic chemicals like cyanide and the release of mercury into the environment. The enormous volumes of material removed in the extraction and thermal treatment processes during mineral refining are responsible for the release of mercury as a by-products. Conflicts increase when the ancestral rights of indigenous communities over their territory are infringed as well as when this infringement places fragile ecosystems at risk. An extractivist growth model is not environmentally sustainable and generates greater social inequality as well as environmental conflicts in the region.

With regard to the impact of cyanide use in large-scale gold mining, see *El cianuro, la cara tóxica del oro* (Cyanide: Gold's Toxic Face) written by William Sacher from Canada at:

<http://es.scribd.com/doc/54235978/Cianuro-cara-Toxica-Del-Oro>

See Observatory of Mining Conflicts in Latin America (Observatorio de Conflictos Mineros en América Latina / OCMAL) at: <http://www.conflictosmineros.net/> and the Mexican Network of People Affected by Mining (Red Mexicana de Afectados por la Minería / REMA) at:

<http://rema.codigosur.net/>

3. Inventory of NGO Activities Supporting SAICM Implementation

Civil society organizations affiliated to the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) have carried out various activities related to the national implementation of the SAICM Global Plan of Action, summarized in the following table:

SAICM Objective	NGO Activity and Results	Names of the NGOs	Country
Risk Reduction	Public information national and regional campaign on the harmful effects of the pesticide endosulfan on health and the environment from 2009 to 2011 and dissemination of information on alternatives, in coordination with IPEN and PAN through their participation in the POPS Review Committee (POPRC). Result: phasing-out or ban on endosulfan importation and use in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Support for nomination and listing of endosulfan for elimination in the Stockholm Convention in April 2011. See www.rap-al.org	RAPAL	Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay
	Substitution of mercury-based medical devices in the health sector. Result: an increasing number of hospitals have substituted the use of mercury for digital thermometers and aneroid sphygmomanometers and some public health systems have implemented a mercury-free purchasing policy.	Health Without Harm (Salud Sin Daño)	Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico, Nicaragua
Knowledge and Information	Quarterly publication of a journal called <i>Revista Enlace</i> that includes news and fact sheets regarding different highly hazardous pesticides (HHP), for example endosulfan, carbendazim, methomyl, methamidophos, acephate, iprodione, atrazine, among others. This results in greater technical support in proposals for phasing-out highly hazardous pesticides. See www.rap-al.org	RAPAL	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay
	Dissemination of the brochure <i>An NGO Guide to SAICM</i> prepared by IPEN and issued in Spanish in November 2008.	IPEN	GRULAC and SAICM national meetings in 2010 and 2011

	<p>2010-2011 Participation in the Global “Mercury-Free: You, Me and the Babies” Campaign with the dissemination of the Spanish version of the book “An NGO Introduction to Mercury Pollution,” prepared by IPEN throughout Latin American countries, and the brochure on IPEN Views on a Global Mercury Treaty. See: http://ipen.org/hgfree/materials/</p> <p>Organization of national brochures and collective petitions to ban mercury thermometers. In Brazil (100 NGOs), triptych handouts and collective letters to support negotiations towards a Mercury Convention launched by the UNEP.</p>	<p>IPEN members in Latin America, RAPAL</p> <p>APROMAC</p> <p>CAATA</p>	<p>Latin America</p> <p>Brazil</p> <p>Mexico</p>
	<p>Participation in the project coordinated by IPEN Arnika with GRS on the market analysis of some mercury-based products and mercury-free alternatives. March 2010. Batteries, skin-lightening creams, thermometers and dental amalgams were analyzed. See report at: http://ipen.org/hgfree/materials/</p>	<p>APROMAC</p> <p>CAATA</p>	<p>Brazil</p> <p>Mexico</p>
	<p>Mercury. Preparation of 18 information sheets on environmental and health risks from mercury exposure plus other discussion themes in negotiating the UNEP call for a Mercury Convention.</p>	<p>AAMMA</p>	<p>Argentina</p>
	<p>Participation in a study on measurement of mercury levels in fish located near sources of environmental mercury pollution with IPEN and BRI support. Hair samples were collected to measure mercury concentration in exposed populations. Results will be revealed in the second semester of 2012.</p>	<p>RAPAL Costa Rica and IRET</p> <p>CAATA and Ecología y Desarrollo Sostenible en Coatzacoalcos, A.C.</p> <p>Altervida RAPAL-Uruguay</p>	<p>Costa Rica</p> <p>Mexico</p> <p>Paraguay Uruguay</p>

	<p>September 2011. Presentation of the epidemiological report of cancer morbidity and mortality by department from 2003 to 2008. Generated by the Cancer Register of the Santa Fe Province with geo-referencing, and GPS map location. The report was presented to the Health Ministry of the Santa Fe Province. As a result, the Health Ministry presented a second report locating cases in each of the cities in Gran Rosario. See: http://www.tallerecologista.org.ar/sitio/noticias-sec.php?sec=282 and a study of the province: http://www.tallerecologista.org.ar/sitio/noticias-sec.php?sec=282</p>	<p>Taller Ecologista, and Taller Permanente de la Mujer del Cordón Industrial de la Cd. de Rosario.</p>	<p>Argentina</p>
	<p>Weekly information on SAICM-related themes in a special one-page section in a Venezuelan national newspaper (called <i>Tal Cual</i>) since 2007, radio programs and interviews, a 22-week course for journalists and NGOs with legal and technical elements regarding the human right to a healthy environment recognized by the Monte Avila University. See: www.aguaclara.org</p>	<p>Aguaclara Foundation</p>	<p>Venezuela</p>
<p>Governance</p>	<p>Participation in different institutional consultation mechanisms for capability assessment or discussions on the National SAICM Implementation Plan or specific themes such as the National Profile of Chemicals, Pesticides and Mercury.</p>	<p>AAMMA-ISDE Alianza por una Mejor Calidad de Vida- RAPAL Chile RAPAM- RAPAL Mexico. Fronteras Comunes Mex.</p>	<p>Argentina Costa Rica Chile Mexico Paraguay</p>

	Participation in 2012 in the working group with scholars, industry and environmental authorities to update the Pollutant Emission and Transfer Register (Registro de Emisiones y Transferencia de Contaminantes / RETC). As a result, a proposal to improve regulations of an increasing number of chemicals was developed, and reporting thresholds were reinforced.	Fronteras Comunes. Mex Unión de Científicos Comprometidos con la Sociedad (UCCS). Mex	Mexico
	The information campaign in Chile regarding highly hazardous pesticides helped ban endosulfan, aldicarb and other organochlorine pesticides (chlordecone, Alpha-HCH, Beta-HCH, pentachlorobenzene and related isomers). Published in the Official Gazette, No. 8,232, January 2012.	Alianza por una Mejor Calidad de Vida- RAPAL Chile	Chile
	Participation in the Zero Waste Regulation Follow-up Commission for reducing waste generation at a municipal level in Ciudad de Rosario. See regulation at: http://www.basuracero.org/sitio/base.php?sec=8	Taller Ecologista	Argentina
	Participation in the Federal Resolution 362/2005 Permanent Monitoring Group on used or polluted lubricant oil management issued by the National Environment Council (Consejo Nacional del Ambiente / CONAMA). This NGO produced manuals on used lubricant oil management and provided consultation services, workshops and a piece of research in 2009-2010 to identify state of compliance. GPA Items: 2, 12, 45, 67, 70, 72, 76, 78, 119, 120, 121, 122, 163, 166,186, 187, 188, 190, 191, 193, 194, 196, 197, 199, 204, 205, 224, 231, 236, 241, 258, 273	APROMAC- TOXISPHERA	Brazil

Skill Development	Promotion workshops on agro-ecological pest control alternatives and the risks of exposure to highly hazardous pesticides.	RAPAL	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay
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4. NGO Actions in SAICM New Regulatory Themes

Lead in Paint

Participation of two NGOs: APROMAC from Brazil and CAATA from Mexico in an IPEN-coordinated study titled “Lead in New Decorative Paints: A Global Study,” disseminated internationally in August 2009 as part of the Eliminate Lead Paint Global Campaign. See: http://www.ipen.org/ipenweb/work/lead/lead_paint.html Results continued to be disseminated throughout 2010.

In Brazil, high lead levels were found in oil paint manufactured by the main commercial brands. The NGOs’ collective petition demanding compliance with the national legislation on oil in paint was based on these first public results in the field. See: <http://www.apromac.org.br/saicm.htm> In Mexico, the first study ever on residential use of oil paints found that 100% of the 20 samples of the main commercial brands contained lead in concentrations exceeding the levels allowed in the United States (90 ppm). One of the samples had the highest level ever in Latin America. See: Press Bulletin December 8, 2009 at: <http://www.caata.org>

During the second semester of 2012, UNEP support is expected to fund a IPEN study on lead on paint, measurement lead in paint for domestic use available in the market, with the participation of different organizations affiliated to IPEN in Uruguay, Argentina and Chile.

These activities will help to publically disseminate this SAICM emerging issue and to attain a more precise diagnosis of lead content in commercial paint. This is expected to raise public awareness of the exposure risks for consumers and their families, and to contribute to the paint industry, governments and various civil society organizations carrying out activities and concrete commitments to put into practice the commitment set out in the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint. This project is headed by UNEP and WHO, and IPEN plays a very active role globally. The activities to be implemented during the second semester of 2012 will depend on fund availability.

Nanotechnology

The Latin American Network on Nanotechnology and Society (Red de América Latina en Nanotecnología y Sociedad / ReLANS) has been the NGO in the region that has been most

actively involved in this new emerging issue. Guillermo Foladori, one of the co-directors, was invited to participate as an expert in the UNITAR regional workshop on nanotechnology held in Panama in June 2011. This workshop raised awareness among governments in the region prior to SAICM's formal regional consultation held during the days that followed.

Later on, the following booklet, "*Social and Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*" was produced with IPEN support and in collaboration with CAATA from Mexico. The booklet, originally in Spanish, was later translated into English and Portuguese. It highlights the recommendations of the GRULAC countries to the Third International Conference on Chemicals Management (Tercera Conferencia Internacional sobre Gestión de Sustancias Químicas / ICCM3). It has been widely distributed at the most significant congresses on nanotechnology in the region, among the Latin American and Caribbean governments, and among worker organizations, above all those belonging to UITA.

In Mexico the booklet dissemination work included a conference, a press release and a paper presented at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in collaboration with the Society of Socially-Committed Scientists (Unión de Científicos Comprometidos con la Sociedad / UCSS).

The booklet version for African countries is currently being completed with the collaboration of a well-known scholar in the region. The brochures can be downloaded and consulted free of charge at the IPEN webpage. In English at: http://www.ipen.org/pdfs/Nanotechnology_en.pdf and in Spanish at: http://www.ipen.org/pdfs/Nanotecnologia_es.pdf

Toxic Chemicals in Products

Fronteras Comunes de México prepared a brochure titled *Toxic Chemicals in Your Home No. 2* with accessible information on lead and mercury content in different products, chemical pesticides for household use, Triclosan and the presence of toxic chemicals, such as PBDEs and PFOS in electronic devices. Fronteras Comunes also participates in the national Advisory Body of the Mexican Secretariat of the Environment (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente / Semarnat). The dissemination of this brochure will contribute towards the discussion of this new regulatory theme within SAICM. It will also be disseminated among different citizen organizations through workshops organized by this NGO among citizen organizations.

Environmental Pharmaceutical Persistent Pollutants

AAMMA representing the International Medical Society for the Environment (Sociedad Internacional de Médicos por el Ambiente / ISDE) proposed that this theme be included as a new regulatory theme in the SAICM open-ended working group meeting held in Belgrade in 2011. (See SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/9). It refers to releasing non-degradable drugs that may be toxic into the environment, the increasing use of which by the population represents chronic exposure. These pollutants can easily cross through residual water treatment systems thus impacting rivers and seas, which in the case of antibiotics may cause antibacterial resistance. Pharmaceutical residues in drinking water mixed with other substances may affect fetal development.

5. Case Study Examples of SAICM Implementation

Gradual Phasing-out or Elimination of Endosulfan in Latin American Countries and Listing Endosulfan in the Stockholm Convention for Global Elimination.

From 2009 to 2011, the Latin American Action Network on Pesticides and their Alternatives (Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas en América Latina / RAP-AL) carried out research, public dissemination and lobbying activities on the health and environmental effects of endosulfan and its substitution alternatives, particularly with agro-ecological alternatives. This information was sent to IPEN representatives and the Pesticide Action Network in the COPs Review Committee (POPRC) that recommended global elimination of endosulfan at the Fifth Assembly of States Parties held in April 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, and implementation of a program that includes alternatives, as well as non-chemical control alternatives.

Throughout the campaign, a broad alliance with scholars, producer and environmental organizations was achieved in different countries of the region. Awareness-raising workshops, national consultation meetings, and mass media dissemination work was carried out. Phase-out or ban on endosulfan was attained in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Stockholm Convention INC5 listed endosulfan for global elimination with a few temporary crop- and pest-specific exceptions. A follow-up of compliance with banning in all countries in the region is still pending, as is updating information on the non-chemical alternatives POPRC will be implementing.

The Latin American Network on Nanotechnology and Society (ReLANS) booklet on Nanotechnology

The booklet titled *Social and Environmental Implications of Nanotechnological Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* produced by ReLANS with CAATA collaboration is a contribution towards both public dissemination and debate on the development of nanotechnologies in the region. The booklet highlights the concerns of civil society organizations as well as the recommendations emerging from the regional consultation meeting on SAICM held in Panama in June 2011. This meeting supported the proposal of incorporating nanotechnology into the SAICM Global Plan of Action. This plan will be discussed at the ICCM3 to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2012.

The recommendations of the Latin American and Caribbean region point to implementing a precautionary approach throughout the whole life cycle of nanomaterials and products containing them; ensuring worker and consumer rights to information, the need for broader producer responsibility throughout the whole life cycle of nanomaterials and products containing them, the importance of a national and regional evaluation that is independent from industry, the new regulations needed for nanomaterial trade and transport, and multisectoral participation in this theme, particularly of both workers and the health sector.

Management of Used or Polluted Lubricant Oils in Brazil

A Brazilian NGO called APROMAC, initially on its own and later in coalition with Toxisphera has carried out pioneering public awareness-raising work as well as research for the appropriate management of used or polluted oils from vehicles, workshops, offices or supermarkets. Access to these activities is attained through participation in the *Federal Resolution 362/2005*

Permanent Monitoring Group on Used or Polluted Lubricant Oil Management issued by the Brazil National Environment Council (Consejo Nacional del Ambiente / CONAMA), which is still active. This resolution bans the incineration of used oils even when used as fuel for cement kilns. It stipulates that on a yearly basis, both the Ministry of the Environment and IBAMA should inform about the recollection of used and polluted oils and their transportation to re-refining plants per region. This resolution is based on an inter-ministerial command issued between the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Mines and Energy that defines yearly objectives per region.

In 2006, APROMAC prepared a *Basic Guide to Used or Polluted Oil Management* http://www.apromac.org.br/OLEO_LUBRIFICANTE_USADO_GUIA.pdf. Later, in 2008, it collaborated in the Environmental Audit Manual of Procedures, and in 2009 in the guidelines for the used or polluted oil management license developed by the Federal Resolution 362/2005 Permanent Monitoring Group. These two instruments currently in force can be found at: <http://www.sindirrefino.org.br/gmp/manuais-e-treinamentos>. Between 2009 and 2010, APROMAC and Toxisfera carried out a piece of research to assess the compliance status of Federal Resolution 362/2005 in Curitiba, State of Paraná in the south of Brazil, based on interviews with garage mechanics, as well as gas station and supermarket employees. Dissemination workshops have been carried out to strengthen the technical and legal capabilities of state-level environmental agencies and local citizen organizations.