

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT (SAICM)

(Adopted by Council on 28 March 2008)

THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to Article 5a) of the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960 and to Article 18 a) iii) of the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation;

Having regard to the commitments to chemicals management as expressed in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the 2000 Bahia Declaration on Chemical Safety of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and other recent international conventions and decisions related to managing chemicals sustainably;

Having regard to the goals articulated by that World Summit in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, to achieve, by 2020, the use and production of chemicals in ways that lead to the minimisation of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;

Having regard to the challenges related to reducing the risks of chemicals identified in 2001 in Objective 4 of the OECD Environmental Strategy for the First Decade of the 21st Century, as well as to the 2006 Strategic Vision of the Environment Policy Committee and the proactive outreach strategies of both the OECD Environment Policy Committee and the Chemicals Committee;

Having regard to the commitment by Ministers, Heads of Delegation and representatives of civil society and the private sector to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) at the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in Dubai in February 2006, through the adoption of the Dubai Declaration and the Overarching Policy Strategy, and to its implementation, as well as the call to intergovernmental organisations to support this implementation and to consider the development of their own actions plans;

Having regard to the recommendation in the Dubai Declaration to use and further develop the Global Plan of Action as a working tool and guidance document for SAICM;

Recognising the stated needs in that Overarching Policy Strategy, which include ensuring that the tools to generate and apply science-based information on the hazards and risks of chemicals are available for all countries, as well as clear and accessible information on chemicals themselves; enhancing co-operation and coherence to make efficient use of resources at all levels through harmonised approaches and principles; and avoiding duplication of effort by taking due account of the instruments and processes that have been developed to date;

Recognising that OECD Member countries are faced with the same needs and have been working together under the framework of OECD over the past several decades toward meeting these needs by developing and using a large number of internationally recognised standards, tools and approaches for management of the risks of chemicals and pesticides;

Recognising the desirability of working together with certain non-Member Economies to implement many of the objectives of SAICM and of addressing the needs of other non-Member Economies based on the tools, instruments and overall experience developed in OECD in the framework provided by the Organisation;

Recognising the co-ordinating function of the Inter-organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) through which OECD co-operates, avoids duplication of its work on chemicals management with the work of other intergovernmental organisations working in this field and promotes synergies, where possible and appropriate;

Recalling the consideration of SAICM by other intergovernmental organisations, notably United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Labour Organization (ILO);

DECIDES THAT THE OECD SHALL:

- make implementation of the SAICM objectives, as set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy, an integral part of its Chemicals Programme, in particular through work on those elements of the SAICM Global Plan of Action for which OECD is an actor;
- assist Member countries in their efforts to implement SAICM and work with non-Member Economies in SAICM implementation;
- continue to co-operate and co-ordinate with other relevant intergovernmental organisations with regard to successful and timely implementation of SAICM;
- make the outputs of its Chemicals Programme as accessible, relevant and useful as possible to non-Member Economies and other interested stakeholders, distributing them widely and free of charge; and
- inform each future meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management of the progress made by OECD in SAICM implementation.