

# SAICM

PNUMA / OMS

## Strategic Approach to the International Management of Chemicals

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# SAICM

- Chemicals play an integral part in modern society and provide important materials for a wide variety of industrial and consumer products that contribute towards higher living standards throughout the world.
- However, indiscriminate production, usage and disposal of chemicals pose serious risks to human health and the environment.



# What is the objective of SAICM?

The objective for SAICM, is to achieve the goal that “by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on health and the environment.”



# SAICM was based upon previously negotiated plans

This strategic approach was based upon previously negotiated plans for international chemicals management, in particular

- **Agenda 21, the Earth Action Plan** adopted at the **Rio Summit in 1992**, and
- **The Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action Beyond 2000** adopted by the **IFCS**



# SAICM

- UNEP in 2002 recognized that a concerted global effort is required to develop sound policies for managing chemicals.
- The resulting SAICM initiative aims to develop a coherent global framework to better manage the production, use and disposal of chemicals.



# SAICM

- **The SAICM was developed through a consensus process and is the result of with the active and intensive stakeholder participation** including national governments, international organizations, trade unions, public interest NGOs, business, and other civil society organizations, who share responsibility for its implementation.
- The SAICM process was launched in November 2003 and culminated in the International Conference on Chemicals Management ("ICCM") in February 4-6, 2006 in Dubai.



# What is SAICM?

- The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management ("[SAICM](#)") is a blueprint for achieving safe production and use of chemicals worldwide by 2020.



# SAICM includes:

- a **non-legally binding** public commitment,
- **global policy strategy**, and
- **plan of action**

to guide authorities, industry and civil society for safely managing chemicals.



# Key elements of SAICM

- SAICM represents a moral and ethical commitment of governments and other stakeholders;  
**it is not a treaty and is not legally binding.**



# Key elements of SAICM

- SAICM applies to the management of a broad range of substances produced by human activity, including industrial and household products, food additives, pesticides, fertilizers, unintentional byproducts, and persistent organic pollutants (POPs).



# Key elements of SAICM

- While SAICM is **global**, much of its **focus is on developing countries** and economies in transition where the need to develop the technical and regulatory infrastructure for chemical safety is especially acute.



# Key elements of SAICM

- **Significant financial and technical resources** will be required to enable these countries to successfully implement the SAICM.



# SAICM Documents

- Draft High Level Declaration
- Draft Overarching Policy Strategy
- Draft Global Plan for Action



## SAICM encompasses three key elements to meet the 2020 Goal

- High Level Declaration is a statement of commitment by the various stakeholders of SAICM;



## SAICM encompasses three key elements to meet the 2020 Goal

- The Overarching Policy Strategy contains the scope, statement of needs, fundamental objectives, financial considerations, implementation, principles and approaches of SAICM;



## SAICM encompasses three key elements to meet the 2020 Goal

- The Global Plan of Action contains a range of concrete measures that acts as a guide on the actual execution of SAICM.



# SAICM encompasses three key elements to meet the 2020 Goal

- The scope of chemicals covered by the SAICM broad and non-exhaustive.
- In essence, SAICM would complement and help integrate the more than 50 regional and international agreements on chemicals and waste management.



# Groups of chemicals that might be prioritized

Groups of chemicals that might be prioritized for assessment and related studies include:

- persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic substances (PBTs);
- very persistent and very bio-accumulative substances;
- chemicals that are carcinogens or mutagens
- chemicals that adversely affect the reproductive, endocrine, immune or nervous systems;



# Groups of chemicals that might be prioritized

Groups of chemicals that might be prioritized for assessment and related studies include:

- persistent organic pollutants (POPs);
- mercury and other chemicals of global concern;
- chemicals produced or used in high volumes;
- chemicals subject to wide dispersive uses;
- and other chemicals of concern at the national level.