



Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference
on Chemicals Management
First meeting
Belgrade, 15–18 November 2011

Draft report of the work of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first meeting

Addendum

I. Implementation of the Strategic Approach (*continued*) (*agenda item 5*)

A. Evaluation of and guidance on the implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach

Addition of activities to the Global Plan of Action

1. With a view to finding a way forward on the issues discussed, the Working Group agreed to form a committee of the whole, to be chaired by Mr. Barry Reville (Australia), to consider the issues further.
2. The committee's consideration of the item is set out in the annex to the present report.
3. [*To be completed*]

B. Financial and technical resources for implementation

1. Update on the Quick Start Programme

4. Following the Working Group's consideration of other items on the agenda that could have a bearing on the Quick Start Programme, the President requested the secretariat to prepare a draft recommendation requesting the International Conference on Chemicals Management to adopt a resolution to amend the requirements of resolutions I/4 and II/3 to ensure that financial commitments for Quick Start Programme trust fund projects would be permitted until November 2013 and that disbursements of funds might continue until activities under all projects in the portfolio had been completed.
5. Following the introduction of the draft resolution by the representative of the secretariat, the President requested the formation of a group of friends of the President to review the draft resolution and make further recommendations with a view to its finalization.
6. Subsequently, the group of friends of the President finalized its work and submitted a new draft resolution to the Working Group intended to amend the time limit of the disbursement of funds under the Quick Start Programme.

7. [To be completed]

2. Financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach

8. Following an introduction to the item by the representative of the secretariat, the representative of the Global Environment Facility provided clarification regarding some aspects of the note by the secretariat on financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/OEWG.1/6), and the representative of WHO supplemented the information provided in the note on its analysis of the burden of disease attributable to chemicals.

9. The representative of UNEP then reported on progress in the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, as outlined in the outcome document of the process (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/17). He provided an overview of the process, explaining that it had been launched by the Executive Director of UNEP and first announced at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, in May 2009. The process aimed to assess the current situation on financing for the sound management of chemicals and wastes at the national level with a view to improving it. The consultative process had been informed by a widely shared perception that a gulf existed between what was required for the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the financial means necessary to implement it. The outcome document of the consultative process set out the views and contributions of participants based on discussions at five meetings. While it did not represent a consensus document, it described numerous areas of common understanding and presented an integrated approach for financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes, which participants had recognized as representing the best way forward. On behalf of UNEP he expressed his deep appreciation to the representatives who had co-chaired the meetings of the consultative process and those Governments and other entities that had provided financial support.

10. In the ensuing discussion, all the representatives who took the floor stressed their commitment to the Strategic Approach, with some describing the ways in which they supported its implementation. They also welcomed the work undertaken as part of the consultative process. Several said that an integrated approach to financing throughout the chemicals and wastes cluster, as proposed in the outcome document of the process, was important. One representative suggested that the secretariat could develop a factual summary of the process for consideration by the Conference at its third session. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the time was not yet ripe to engage in a detailed discussion of the outcome document of the process and that it would be better to consider the matter in detail at the third session of the Conference, after its consideration by the UNEP Governing Council at its twelfth special session. In that regard, he proposed that the Working Group should encourage the Executive Director to include in his recommendations to the Governing Council specific ideas on how the outcomes of the process could play a role in the implementation of paragraph 19 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, on the financial arrangements for the Strategic Approach.

11. One representative, while welcoming the actions proposed in the note by the secretariat, said that it was unnecessary to request the secretariat to assess the relevance to financing the implementation of the Strategic Approach of the progress and outcomes of the consultative process and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

12. Many representatives called for secure funding for the Strategic Approach, with one suggesting that more attention should be paid to in kind contributions given the global economic uncertainty, another that merely ensuring the involvement of industry in financing would not prove sufficient and a third that there was a need to take full account of the broad scope of resources made available through a variety of mechanisms. It was also said that the financing of the Strategic Approach should bear in mind existing substantial financial commitments and the discussions relating to financing should build upon those sound foundations. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, pointed out that the sources of financing tapped to date had not proved sufficient for the full implementation of the Strategic Approach and therefore welcomed the additional funding allocated by the Global Environment Facility under the fifth replenishment, urging the Facility to continue to support the Strategic Approach. He also called for attention to be paid to the practical difficulties faced by developing countries and laid emphasis on the role to be played by industry in sound chemicals management.

13. The Working Group agreed to convene a group of friends of the President, to be co-facilitated by Mr. Arthur Nogueira (Brazil) and Mr. Greg Filyk (Canada), to discuss a procedure for dealing with financial matters at the current meeting.

14. [To be completed]

C. New and emerging policy issues

1. Emerging policy issues

(a) Lead in paint

15. Following an introduction by the representative of the secretariat, the representatives of UNEP and WHO, the lead agencies for work on lead in paint, summarized developments since the second session of the Conference. They described the establishment of a global partnership that had come to be known as the “Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint”, the proposed target of which was to eliminate lead paint by 2018, and the work performed to date under the partnership, proposing an international lead poisoning prevention day of action with an initial focus on the elimination of lead paint. He said that the Alliance had benefited from the experience of other similar partnerships, such as the successful Partnership on Clean Fuels and Vehicles.

16. In the ensuing discussion, all the representatives who spoke expressed appreciation for the Global Alliance and the work carried out thereunder, with one suggesting that the Alliance stood as a good example of enhanced engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach. Some welcomed the work being carried out to develop a business plan articulating clear milestones for progress in achieving a global phase-out of lead in paint in time for consideration by the Conference at its third session. One representative encouraged further contributions to and assistance with the Alliance, with one saying that government involvement and resources allocated to date had proved inadequate to the task, and the pace of progress needed to be picked up. In that regard, he called for testing of paint in at least 50 additional countries before the third session of the Conference to provide a good baseline for any decisions that the Conference might take.

17. Several representatives described activities undertaken in relation to lead in paint. One said that his network of industry associations was prepared, working in conjunction with other stakeholders, to sponsor an industry workshop in Africa supporting awareness of the need to reduce the risks posed by lead, specifically through the reformulation of paint containing lead. It would seek to engage qualified industry experts and secure necessary funding, working collaboratively with various stakeholders. A number of representatives called for additional action to phase out the use of lead and one, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, introduced a conference room paper setting out a draft resolution on that subject.

18. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed interest in the idea of an international lead poisoning prevention day of action, but sought more information about it. Another asked how the Global Alliance would tie in with the partnership on lead and cadmium established by the UNEP Governing Council in section I of its decision 26/3 of 24 February 2011, and whether the clearing-house mechanism of the Strategic Approach had been used to make available information on the possibility of replacing lead or cadmium with less hazardous substances or techniques, as envisaged in that decision. In response, the representative of the secretariat clarified that the secretariat was recruiting an information officer for the clearing-house mechanism, but had secured funding for one year only.

19. One representative questioned whether it was necessary for the Conference to adopt a new resolution on lead in paint, expressing the belief that the mandate set forth in resolution II/4 B was sufficient and would allow the Global Alliance to continue its work. Another, however, said that the new resolution proposed in document UNEP/SAICM/OEWG.1/9 was useful and could lead to the Conference better mobilizing action by Governments. A third pointed out that draft resolutions on lead in paint had been prepared by a number of regions and should be considered in tandem with the resolution proposed in the note by the secretariat providing a progress report on the implementation of resolution II/4 B on lead in paint (UNEP/SAICM/OEWG.1/9).

20. One representative drew attention to paragraph 22 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, which stated that the implementation of the Strategic Approach could begin with an enabling phase to build necessary capacity, as appropriate, to develop, with relevant stakeholder participation, a national implementation plan for the Strategic Approach. He suggested that all emerging issues being discussed could form part of that implementation plan in order to have a clear vision of the implementation of the Strategic Approach by 2020. He also noted that paragraph 24 (h) of the Strategy stated that one of the functions of the Conference was to work to ensure that the necessary financial and technical resources were available for

implementation, suggesting that it was therefore impossible to begin implementation unless such resources were available.

21. The discussions on the Working Group's resolution of the sub-item are described under section (e) below.

(b) Chemicals in products

22. Following an introduction by the representative of the secretariat, the representative of UNEP, the lead agency for work on chemicals in products, summarized developments since the second session of the Conference. She explained that the focus had been on the availability of information on chemicals and products. Considerable effort had gone into the work for a number of product sectors and coordination was good within some sectors but not across them. In-depth studies in specific sectors had found that information was not flowing well through the supply chain; there was a need for a clearer understanding of the reasons for providing information, and concern about business confidentiality. The outcome of the workshop on the project held from 16 to 18 March 2011 was a number of elements to be included in recommendations for consideration at the third session of the Conference. The major recommendation was to develop a voluntary framework to facilitate the flow of information on chemicals in products.

23. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives expressed appreciation for the work carried out to date and endorsed the submission of the recommendations to the Conference. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that there were significant gaps in information on chemicals in products throughout their life cycle, and that continued global cooperation was needed to foster product safety and safe recycling. Improved access to and availability of information on chemicals in products would support the other emerging policy issues currently being discussed.

24. Several representatives pointed out that the chemicals in products project had been successful in bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, and lauded what they described as the essential involvement and commitment of the private sector and industry in particular.

25. Many representatives expressed concern that the term "framework" did not accurately capture the desired outcome, proposing alternative terms such as "code of conduct" or "cooperative action". They said that it was important to discuss that aspect with a view to achieving tangible results and clarifying the focus for primary efforts. Against that backdrop, two representatives called for clarification of the role of the technical working group referred to in the recommendation, and a further two representatives stressed the importance of building on existing information systems and developing new ones by fostering responsible management but without creating a heavy administrative burden.

26. The discussions on the Working Group's resolution of the sub-item are described under section (e) below.

(c) Hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

27. Following an introduction by the representative of the secretariat, the representative of the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the African Region, speaking on behalf of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, introduced the report of the international workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products held in Vienna from 29 to 31 March 2011 (SAICM/OEWG.1/INF/7), summarizing the discussions at and recommendations arising from that workshop.

28. In the ensuing discussion, all the representatives who spoke expressed appreciation for the work undertaken, with one saying that the issue provided a perfect example of Strategic Approach commitment to tackling the life cycle of chemicals. One suggested broadening the scope of the activities in a similar manner to the European Union directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment.

29. One representative said that, while the issue might be described in the current forum as emerging, it was nothing new for workers. She called for attention to be paid to worker safety throughout the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and for collaborative action with all stakeholders, particularly the International Labour Organization. Trade unions stood ready to cooperate with Strategic Approach stakeholders in that connection.

30. One representative said that many of the recommendations set out in the note by the secretariat providing a progress report on hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (SAICM/OEWG.1/11) should be retained and that the key messages from the workshop could be annexed to any omnibus resolution to be drafted. Several, however, said that the recommendations were overly detailed and could be shortened, that some were repetitive and that they overlapped with the scope of work of the Basel Convention and should be either harmonized or eliminated. One said that the work performed under the auspices of the Strategic Approach complemented and added value to that performed under the Basel Convention. Another expressed concern as to whether further action as part of the Strategic Approach might detract from work being carried out in other forums, saying that the Basel Convention should be the main forum for international cooperation on, among other things, international cooperation on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and capacity-building.

31. The representative of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions described work being performed under the Stockholm Convention in relation to substances listed in the annexes to that convention. She welcomed the suggestion that work under the Strategic Approach should take into account that performed by other bodies and that such work should focus on areas where the Strategic Approach might be more effective.

32. The discussions on the Working Group's resolution of the sub-item are described under section (e) below.

(d) Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

33. Following an introduction by the representative of the secretariat, the representative of UNITAR, the lead agency for work on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, summarized developments in that work.

34. The representative of Switzerland, speaking as promoter of the proposal to include nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials as an area of work in the Global Plan of Action, drew attention to further activities that had taken place since the second session of the Conference. She said that the work undertaken supported the argument that the Strategic Approach was the appropriate instrument for addressing nanotechnology at the global level.

35. All the representatives who spoke expressed support for the proposal on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and further work on the issue, and several, speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed thanks to UNITAR, OECD and donor countries for their assistance and the organization of regional awareness-raising workshops on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. A number of representatives expressed interest and willingness to discuss the subject in more detail at the expert level.

36. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for the generation and sharing of risk data in relation to nanomaterials to be used for capacity-building and the filling of information gaps. He advocated the integration of nanomaterials into chemical management programmes and the development of technical guidelines and standards at internationally recognized levels.

37. Another representative emphasized the important role of the Strategic Approach in informing developing countries on the potential benefits and risks of nanomaterials and commended the progress made hitherto towards implementing resolution II/4 E on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. Several representatives agreed that the Strategic Approach was a suitable framework for international cooperation on nanomaterials and, in particular, for providing support to developing countries. It was important and relevant in its ability to respond to emerging issues. One representative drew attention to the further work required on the health and safety knowledge base. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, recommended that full use should be made of the results of other global initiatives, and he, and others, also noted the importance of avoiding duplication of other work on nanotechnology.

38. The discussions on the Working Group's resolution of the sub-item are described under section (e) below.

(e) **Way forward**

39. The Working Group agreed that the committee of the whole previously established would also consider the matter at issue. The committee's consideration of the item is set out in the annex to the present report.

40. [To be completed]

2. Managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives

41. Following an introduction by the representative of the secretariat, the representative of OECD, speaking as lead agency for work on perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, provided an overview of work carried out since the second session of the Conference to support the implementation of resolution II/5.

42. All the representatives who spoke welcomed the information provided and the work undertaken on the issue by all those involved. One, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed particular thanks to OECD for its assistance in hosting a brainstorming workshop in Beijing in September 2011. A number of representatives voiced support for the global perfluorinated chemicals group established to replace the OECD perfluorinated chemicals steering group and pledged to participate therein. One representative said that the group's terms of reference provided for the participation of observers, which she described as a welcome step in ensuring that the process was open to all interested parties.

43. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, voiced strong support for the Stockholm Convention, while noting that as the instrument restricted only one class of perfluorinated chemicals – perfluorooctane sulfonates and related substances – it was important to continue work in that area, particularly in closing existing knowledge gaps, but at the same time it was necessary to avoid duplication of efforts. Referring to the terms of reference of the global perfluorinated chemicals group, another representative suggested that the definition of perfluorinated compounds used therein should be amended to “long-chain perfluorinated compounds” as used elsewhere, to include perfluorocarboxylic acids, perfluoroalkyl sulfonates and their precursors. The representative of OECD undertook to re-examine the terms of reference in the light of the comments made.

44. Several representatives welcomed the expansion of the work and the global perfluorinated chemicals group beyond the scope of OECD and the involvement of UNEP, noting that information from non-OECD countries had hitherto been lacking. One representative stressed that developing countries were hampered by insufficient pollution controls, lack of monitoring and legal regulations, and inadequate technical and financial support to monitor and manage perfluorinated chemicals.

45. The Working Group agreed that the committee of the whole previously established would also consider the matter at issue. The committee's consideration of the item is set out in the annex to the present report.

46. [To be completed]

3. Nominated new emerging policy issues

(a) **International cooperation to promote awareness, understanding and action in respect of endocrine-disrupting chemicals**

47. Following an introduction to the item by the representative of the secretariat, the representative of UNEP, which had nominated the issue, said that the objectives of the proposal were to improve stakeholders' understanding of the risks posed by endocrine-disrupting chemicals to human health and ecosystems, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and to promote actions to reduce those risks. Building on existing work in the field, activities would include the provision of up-to-date information and scientific expert advice to policymakers; awareness-raising and information exchange; support for capacity-building at the national level; and the creation of an international network of scientists, risk managers and others particularly concerned with issues pertaining to endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

48. In the ensuing discussion, most of the representatives who spoke voiced support for the proposal. Many regarded exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals to as a major global concern in view of their potential impact on future generations and the environment. One said that an inclusive and participatory global approach to tackling the problem under the Strategic Approach would help to address the unmet

need for effective international processes highlighted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development; and would also help to achieve the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy and other core documents with regard to protecting vulnerable population groups – especially unborn babies, newborn infants and young children – and ecosystems through risk reduction, access to knowledge and information, capacity-building and technical cooperation.

49. Several representatives drew attention to the need to ensure that new initiatives were built on existing knowledge. One suggested that the report on endocrine disruptors by the International Programme on Chemical Safety could provide an authoritative evidence base; and another said that her country was willing to share information on its activities in screening, testing and assessing endocrine-disrupting pesticides and chemicals, and in supporting current international efforts to develop the necessary scientific principles.

50. Several representatives, however, cautioned against duplicating existing activities: the issue was included in the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action, and was already being addressed in various international venues and forums. One representative said that, since the Strategy had recognized the importance of endocrine disruptors, the Conference had already been called upon to promote cooperative action on the issue. Furthermore, the proposal did not make clear how the project would build on existing international efforts; and it failed to show how the proposed international network of scientists, risk managers and others would fit into the existing Strategic Approach procedures and mechanisms, which could also be used to promote the exchange of information and support related activities. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for careful consideration of the composition of the international network. Other representatives suggested that it should draw on existing scientific communities; that it should be build on existing initiatives of, for example, OECD and WHO; and that it should involve all stakeholders. One expressed his organization's willingness to participate in the international network and to contribute the cutting-edge science provided by its tripartite advisory groups of scientists and environmental practitioners from Governments, academic institutions, and industry and business. Another, however, opposed the creation of a separate international network, especially when the scientific and technical assessment of endocrine-disrupting chemicals was at such an early stage and the resources of Strategic Approach were so limited.

51. One representative called for particular emphasis to be laid on risk assessment and regulatory frameworks, and another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressed the need to avoid placing too great a burden on the financial and human resources of participating countries.

52. One representative said that it was premature to include the issue of endocrine-disrupting chemicals on the agenda of the third session of the Conference because the science was relatively new, validated test methods were under development, and scientific data were not yet available on most of the chemicals in question.

53. The discussions on the Working Group's resolution of the sub-item are described under section (c) below.

(b) Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants

54. Following an introduction by the representative of the secretariat, the representative of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment described environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as biologically active chemicals that posed a threat to biodiversity and human health if released into the environment. Such chemicals had been detected in surface and drinking water sources, and the cumulative effects of exposure could lead to enhanced endocrine disruption and antibiotic resistance. Priority actions included regional capacity-building for permanent monitoring of drinking-water sources and sewage; studies on the most persistent pollutants with the highest risk to aquatic organisms, even at very low concentrations; awareness-raising on the risks of such pollutants, and on the need to promote responsible disposal of leftover medicines and to reduce unnecessary prescription; and the creation of an international, multi-stakeholder network of scientists, medical professionals, pharmaceutical manufacturers and wastewater treatment facilities, among others, possibly under the leadership of WHO. Consideration of the issue by the Conference would help to foster a more proactive approach to prevention for the protection of health and the environment.

55. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives endorsed the proposal, but others questioned its scope. Some said that the range of actions was overly broad, which might undermine efforts to tackle the problem, and that the focus should be narrowed to specific areas of Strategic Approach competency. One

said that the Strategic Approach was not the appropriate forum to consider the safety of pharmaceutical products or the related health issues; that they should be dealt with in collaboration with UNEP, WHO and other specialized bodies; and that further work needed to be done to refine the proposal and activities accordingly. In response, the representative of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment said that the proposal was not intended to cover the threat of pharmaceutical products per se but that of chemicals released into environment, which could be considered to be waste.

56. One representative said that her organization did not believe it necessary to implement additional, specialized and costly treatment or monitoring of drinking water at the current time. A recent WHO technical report on pharmaceuticals in drinking water suggested that exposure to the very low concentrations detected were unlikely to result in appreciable adverse risks to human health, and recommended preventive measures, such as public awareness-raising on appropriate disposal of pharmaceuticals and conventional water treatment methods, in addition to approaches to address local issues in relation, among others, to pharmaceutical manufacturing locations. In response, the representative of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment said that the WHO report did not focus on the impacts of chemicals on biodiversity, especially on antibiotic resistance, and that further evidence was required to ascertain the long-term effects of small doses of pharmaceuticals in drinking water.

57. One representative said that efforts to address environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants must not have a bearing on the treatment of diseases; another suggested that the proposal should be extended to cover the use and disposal of all human and veterinary pharmaceuticals; and another drew attention to that fact that the European Union granted authorization to market new pharmaceutical products strictly on the basis of a complete evaluation, and conducted regular risk assessments.

58. The discussions on the Working Group's resolution of the sub-item are described under section (c) below.

(c) **Way forward**

59. The Working Group agreed that the committee of the whole previously established would also consider the matter at issue. The committee's consideration of the item is set out in the annex to the present report.

60. [To be completed]

II. Health sector strategy (*agenda item 6*)

61. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat presented the note by the secretariat on a proposed strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/OEWG.I/15). She outlined the process followed for developing the proposed strategy in cooperation with WHO, and the six objectives of the strategy.

62. In the ensuing discussion, one representative said that the health sector had a unique role to play in sound chemicals management and voiced support for the development of a strategy to strengthen engagement. She voiced support for the development of an action plan for the proposed strategy that was capable of achieving specific, measurable and time-bound results. Another representative called for emphasis to be laid in the objectives on exchange of information on pharmaceutical products during their use, and for clear definitions of chemical and pharmaceutical products to avoid problems in implementation. A third, suggesting that the involvement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach in many countries was inadequate, urged cooperation with WHO, saying that it should work with member States to promote and disseminate the strategy. One representative drew attention to the regional scope of the health sector strategy under the leadership of WHO, saying that the key issue at the country level was national coordination, and that greater attention should be paid to renewed efforts to ensure full participation.

63. One representative drew attention to the positive involvement of private-sector organizations in the development of the proposed strategy. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressed the importance of a sound strategy for fostering cooperation between health and environment experts, and endorsed the priorities and objectives set out in the note by the secretariat. The secretariat should check the guiding principles for consistency with the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy and to avoid overlap. Further elaboration of the toxicovigilance concept should be undertaken ahead of the third session of the Conference.

64. Another representative, while voicing support for the strategy, sought confirmation that the draft had been revised to incorporate all the comments received to date. She requested an extension of the period for receipt of comments to allow for further input ahead of the third session of the Conference. Suggesting that the proposal in the strategy to develop case studies might not be suitable, she said that resources would be better used to identify pilot projects.

65. One representative outlined her organization's efforts to strengthen engagement. She said that it had been closely involved in developing the proposed strategy, referring to a number of initiatives to strengthen intersectoral initiatives such as through regional workshops with the participation of Strategic Approach and International Health Regulation focal points, among others, and voiced support for the proposal on the development of case studies.

66. Two representatives stressed the need for greater emphasis on financial and technical assistance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. One said that the strategy should be voluntary and, in view of the fact that circumstances differed by country, it should not lay down precise targets, activities and definitions.

67. One representative drew attention to a case study linking health surveillance to environmental and biomonitoring activities in her region, which would serve as the basis for an awareness-raising campaign on hot spots of obsolete pesticide stockpiles, and for recommendations to stakeholders involved.

68. *[To be completed]*

III. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*agenda item 7*)

69. *[To be completed]*

IV. Planned activities and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2013–2015 (*agenda item 8*)

70. *[To be completed]*

V. Preparations for the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (*agenda item 9*)

71. *[To be completed]*

VI. Other matters (*agenda item 10*)

72. *[To be completed]*

VII. Adoption of the report (*agenda item 11*)

73. *[To be completed]*

VIII. Closure of the meeting (*agenda item 12*)

74. *[To be completed]*

Annex

Draft report of the committee of the whole

1. The Open-ended Working Group established a committee of the whole to consider the agenda items referred to it by the Working Group. The committee of the whole was chaired by Mr. Barry Reville (Australia).

I. Implementation of the Strategic Approach (*continued*) (*agenda item 5*)

A. Evaluation of and guidance on the implementation, review and updating of the Strategic Approach (*agenda item 5 (a)*)

Addition of activities to the Global Plan of Action

2. Taking up the matter following the discussions in plenary session, the committee expressed general support for the inclusion of the two proposals as legitimate Strategic Approach topics. Issues of concern included some of the language and a number of generalizations related to both proposals in document SAICM/OEWG.1/8, in addition to confusion in relation to the distinction between activities and areas of work under the Global Plan of Action. The UNEP Senior Legal Adviser explained that a new area of work might need to be created for any new activities that did not correspond to any existing areas. One representative drew attention to the difficulties that could arise in creating a new area of work, as it would involve having to reconsider all 36 existing areas.

3. The committee agreed to revisit the wording and structure of the proposed draft resolution.

4. [*To be completed*]

B. New and emerging policy issues (*agenda item 5 (c)*)

1. Emerging policy issues

5. In discussing the general presentation of the emerging policy issues, which would take the form of an omnibus resolution, the committee suggested that it would be useful to shorten the resolutions as much as possible.

(a) Lead in paint

6. Taking up the matter, the committee expressed general support for the draft resolution proposed by UNEP set out in document SAICM/OEWG.1/9. Issues of concern included whether there was a need to simplify the draft decision by removing some aspects; whether to include the target date of 2018 for elimination of lead in paint; the need to mention that, while national activities to eliminate lead in paint were important in their own right, they were also an enabling exercise in sound chemicals management and in implementing good practices; the lack of available data on lead in paint and the need to expand the information base to assist deliberations at the Conference; and the role of the Global Environment Facility in supporting action on lead in paint.

7. The committee agreed that interested representatives would revise the draft resolution to take account of the concerns expressed.

8. [*To be completed*]

(b) Chemicals in products

9. Taking up the matter, the committee expressed general support for the draft recommendation set out in document SAICM/OEWG.1/10. Issues of concern included the use of the term “framework”; the role, process and size of the technical working group proposed in the draft recommendation; the inclusion in the process of a capacity-building mechanism; how to ensure a free flow of information while protecting business confidentiality; the high complexity of project owing to the diversity of many product sectors; potential over-reliance on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals to the exclusion of other classification systems; and the relationship of the existing steering group to the technical working group.

10. The committee agreed that interested representatives would revise the draft resolution to take account of the concerns expressed.

11. *[To be completed]*

(c) Hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

12. Taking up the matter, the committee suggested that the proposed resolution should be shortened and that replication of the work of other instruments such as the Basel Convention should be avoided. It agreed that interested representatives would revise the draft resolution to take account of the concerns expressed.

13. *[To be completed]*

(d) Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

14. Taking up the matter, the Chair drew attention to a conference room paper setting out a draft resolution on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials for consideration and possible adoption at the third session of the Conference. While the committee expressed general support for the draft resolution, some concern was expressed as to the language used therein and it agreed that interested representatives would revise the draft resolution to take account of the concerns expressed.

15. *[To be completed]*

2. Managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives

16. Taking up the matter, the committee voiced concern at the potential duplication of work and whether sufficient attention had been paid to budgetary considerations. The representative of OECD suggested that comments on the terms of references of the global PFCs group and nominations to the group should be received as soon as possible.

17. *[To be completed]*

3. Nominated new emerging policy issues

18. Taking up the matter, one representative expressed serious concern about the level of resources that would need to be dedicated to the two new emerging issues, if adopted, and could not therefore support their adoption at the current time.

(a) International cooperation to promote awareness, understanding and action in respect of endocrine-disrupting chemicals

19. Taking up the matter, the committee voiced concern over the financial implications of implementing a new issue for national research budgets and the Strategic Approach budget; the question of whether those costs would undermine work on existing issues; and the need to take into account the people affected by endocrine-disrupting chemicals. The representative of UNEP said that arrangements would be made to ensure that the costs were covered by the proponent and other interested organizations, and that Strategic Approach focal points would not be required to take any direct action beyond participating in awareness-raising meetings and activities.

20. *[To be completed]*

(b) Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants

21. Taking up the matter, the committee expressed general support for the proposal but voiced concern as to whether pharmaceutical products fell within the scope of the Strategic Approach or were a matter for the health sector; whether the costs of implementing the proposal would undermine existing work, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and whether the proposal, as it stood, should be considered a current priority.

22. *[To be completed]*

