World Health Organization

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**
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# The role of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond

## Draft resolution proposed by Canada, France, Germany, Thailand, USA and Uruguay

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on the role of the health sector in the sound management of chemicals,[1]

RECOMMENDS to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly,

(PP1) Recalling resolution WHA59.15 (2006) in which the World Health Organization welcomed the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2006 with its overall objective to achieve "the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment," as inspired by paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development;

[(PP1bis. bis.) Reaffirming its commitment to the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference "The future we want", in which all States Members of the United Nations committed to promoting sustainable development policies;]

[(PP1bis) Further recalling paragraph 213 of the outcome document "The future we want," from the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development which states "we reaffirm our aim to achieve by 2020 sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse impact on human health and the environment as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation";]

[(PP1ter) Recalling also, paragraph 214 of "The future we want" which calls for "the effective implementation and strengthening of the Strategic Approach to International

[1] Document EB138/18.

Chemicals Management as part of a robust, coherent, effective and efficient system for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle";]

(PP2) Noting the limited time remaining to make progress toward the 2020 goal, and the urgent need for practical action and technical cooperation within the health sector, as well as with other sectors;

(PP3) Acknowledging that chemicals contribute significantly to the global economy, living standards and health but that unsound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle contributes significantly to the global burden of disease, and that much of this burden is borne by developing countries;

(PP4[1]**)** [Noting that 25% of the global burden of disease is thought to be linked to environmental factors, including chemicals exposures.[2]] Also noting that it has been estimated that in 2004, 4.9 million deaths and 86 million disability-adjusted life years were attributable to exposures to selected chemicals, such as lead exposure,[3] accounting worldwide for 143 000 deaths per year with the highest burden in developing regions, including an estimated 600 000 new cases of intellectual disability in children.[4] Recognizing due to the complex nature of the issue, disease burden information is only available for a very small number of chemical exposures and people are exposed to many more chemicals in their daily lives;

(PP5) Concerned about acute, chronic and combined adverse effects that can result from exposure to chemicals and waste and that the risks are often unequally distributed and can be more significant for some vulnerable populations, especially women, children, and, through them, future generations;

(PP6) Underlining the need to address the social, economic, and environmental determinants of health to improve health outcomes and achieve sustainable development;

(PP7) Underscoring the importance of protecting health and reducing health inequities, including by the reduction of adverse health impacts from chemicals and waste, by adopting health-in-all policies and whole-of-government approaches, as appropriate;

(PP8) Recalling the World Health Organization's long standing recognition of the importance of sound chemicals management for human health, the key role of the World Health Organization in providing leadership on the human-health aspects of the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, and the necessity of health sector participation in and contribution to these efforts as set out in WHA59.15 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management; WHA63.25 (2010) on improvement of health through safe and environmentally sound waste management; WHA63.26 on improvement of health through sound management of obsolete pesticides and other obsolete chemicals; WHA67.11 (2014) on public health impacts of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds; and WHA68.8 (2015) on addressing the health impact of air pollution;

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[1] Will be updated. New data expected in March 2016.

[2] Document EB138/18.

[3] Prüss-Ustün et al. Environmental Health 2011, 10:9. http://www.ehjournal.net/content/10/1/9.

[4] Document EB138/18.

(PP9) Recalling further the health related outcomes of the Second, Third and Fourth sessions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management which drew attention to the need for greater involvement of the health sector and resulted in adoption of a Strategy for strengthening engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach[1] which details the key roles and responsibilities of the health sector in sound chemicals management;

[(PP9bis) Recalling paragraph 1 of ICCM Resolution IV/1 adopted by the Fourth Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management which endorsed the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal as a voluntary tool that will assist in the prioritization of efforts for the sound management of chemicals and waste as a contribution to the overall implementation of the Strategic Approach, and mindful of the invitation in paragraph 5 to "the organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and of the United Nations Environment Management Group that have not already done so to issue, where possible by 1 July 2016, a declaration signalling their commitment to promote the importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste both within and outside their organizations, including the actions planned within their own mandates to meet the 2020 goal";]

(PP10) Acknowledging with appreciation the World Health Organization's extensive activities in this regard including but not limited to supporting countries to implement the International Health Regulations in relation to chemical incidents, the establishment in 2013 of the Chemical Risk Assessment Network, participation in the development of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) Toolbox for Decision Making In Chemicals Management, joint leadership of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, and engagement with relevant chemicals and waste-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements;

(PP11) Also acknowledging initiatives undertaken at the national and regional level, and through other bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, as well as the [principles and provisions of the] relevant multilateral agreements including, but not limited to, the Stockholm Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Basel Convention and the Minamata Convention, and the important contribution that these initiatives make to protecting health from harmful chemicals and waste;

(PP12) Concerned that, despite these efforts, more progress has to be made towards minimizing the significant adverse effects on human health that may be associated with chemicals throughout their life cycle, including waste;

[(PP12bis) [Reaffirming the importance of] / [recognising the essential role that] provision[s] of adequate and sustainable financial resources, technical assistance and transfer of

[environmentally-sound alternative technologies] / [technology]

from developed to developing countries

[1] Strategy: SAICM/ICCM.3/20 and Resolution: SAICM/ICCM.3/III/4.

[in line with their commitments in the relevant provisions of the Chemicals conventions] / [plays in enabling them for sound management of chemicals];]

[(PP12ter) Emphasizing the importance of bringing into force the Minamata Convention as soon as possible;]

(PP13) Welcoming the outcome of the World Health Organization's survey of the Priorities of the health sector towards achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management[1] which builds on the Strategy for strengthening engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach;

(PP14alt) Recognizing paragraph 1 of the Dubai Declaration, which states that "the sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment, and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development";

(PP15) Welcoming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Target 3.9 to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030, and further recognizing Target 12.4 to achieve, by 2020, the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with internationally agreed frameworks, as well as other goals and targets relevant to health aspects of chemicals and waste management, such as Target 6.3 on the improvement of water quality;

(PP16) Convinced that the achievement of sound chemicals and waste management throughout their life cycle requires a multisectoral approach within which the health sector has a critical role in achieving the 2020 goal and in setting priorities for chemicals and waste for the post-2020 period;

[(PP16bis) Stressing on the importance that chemical producers and suppliers should make information on chemical exposure, hazards and safer alternatives available to distributors, workers, consumers and users at all levels in the supply chain so that chemicals may be produced, used and discarded safely in an environmentally sound manner. Chemical producers should work with users and civil society organizations to identify chemical risks that can be managed by using safer alternatives and processes while still providing needed capabilities in a cost effective way;] (= para 68 of the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance document, SAICM/ICCM.4/6)

[(PP16ter) Recognizing that developing countries may experience greater challenges towards achieving the 2020 goal, and their progress will depend in part on the availability of financial resources from the private sector and bilateral, multilateral and global agencies or donors;] (= drawn from para 21 of the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance document, SAICM/ICCM.4/6)

[(PP16quad) Highlighting that relevant stakeholders should contribute to national institutional strengthening of the chemicals and waste cluster, taking steps in particular to

[1] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/11.

implement the integrated approach to financing, including through mainstreaming and ensuring defined roles and responsibilities for industry. Stakeholders should also contribute by providing and accessing resources, where possible, under the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, agreed upon by the United Nations Environment Assembly in June 2014;]

[(PP17) Aware of the need to strengthen the role of the health sector so as to ensure its contribution to multi-sectoral efforts to meet the 2020 goal and beyond, and that this would be facilitated by the development of a global road map outlining concrete actions for the health sector,]

(OP) 1. URGES Member States:[1]

(1) to engage proactively, including by strengthening the role of the health sector, in actions to soundly manage chemicals and waste at the national, regional and international level to minimize the risk of adverse health impacts of chemicals throughout their life cycle;

(2) to develop and strengthen, as appropriate, multisectoral cooperation at the national, regional and international level to minimize and prevent significant adverse impacts of chemicals and waste on health, including within the health sector itself;

(3) to take account of the Strategic Approach's orientation and guidance toward the 2020 goal, including the health sector priorities, as well as the Strategy for strengthening engagement of the health sector, [Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern,[2] ] and to take immediate action where possible to accelerate progress toward the 2020 goal;

(4) to encourage all relevant stakeholders of the health sector to participate in the Strategic Approach and to ensure appropriate linkages with their national and regional Strategic Approach focal points, and to participate in the reports on progress for the Strategic Approach;

(OP1.4bis) [to strengthen individual, institutional and networking capacities at the national and regional levels to ensure successful implementation of the Strategic Approach;]

OR

[to strengthen networking capacities at national and regional levels;]

[1] And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

[2] **Emerging Policy Issues:** lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants; **Other Issues of Concern:** Perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) and the transition to safer alternatives, and highly hazardous pesticides".

(5) to encourage health sector participation in the inter-sessional process established through the Fourth Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, including in the third meeting of the Open Ended Working Group;

(6) to continue and, where feasible increase support, including financial [or] / [and] in-kind scientific and logistical support to the WHO Secretariat's regional and global efforts on chemicals safety, as appropriate;

(7) to pursue additional initiatives aimed at mobilizing national and [DEL:, as appropriate,] international resources, including for the health sector, for the sound management of chemicals and waste;

(OP1.7bis) [to enhance cooperation aimed at strengthening the capacities of developing countries for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes and transfer of cleaner and safer technologies to those countries;]

[(OP1.8.) to fulfil their commitments regarding providing new and additional financial resources, establish and enhance, as appropriate, arrangements for providing technical assistance and technology transfer and capacity building to developing countries, in line with relevant provisions under different chemicals conventions] (= para 12, 14 Stockholm, para 16 of Rotterdam, Preamble of Basel)

(OP) 2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) [to develop, in consultation with Member States,[1], bodies of the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders, a road map for the health sector at the national, regional and international level towards achieving the 2020 goal and beyond, taking into account the overall orientation and guidance of SAICM and building on WHO's existing relevant work, as well as the SAICM Health Sector Strategy, and with particular emphasis on the following areas:]

(a) health sector participation in and support for the establishment and strengthening of relevant national legislative and regulatory frameworks;

(b) to support the establishment or strengthening of national, regional or international coordinating mechanisms as appropriate for multisectoral cooperation, and in particular enhancing engagement of all relevant health sector stakeholders;

(c) to strengthen communication and access to relevant, understandable and up-to-date information to increase interest in and awareness of the importance to health of the sound management of chemicals and waste, particularly [for vulnerable populations] / [the most [affected] / [exposed] populations, particularly] [women, children, and through them, future generations];

[1] And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

(d) to participate in bilateral, regional or international efforts to share knowledge and best practices [and technological information] for the sound management of chemicals, including the World Health Organization's Chemicals Risk Assessment Network;

(e) to participate actively in ongoing work on the Strategic Approach's Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern;

(f) to encourage implementation of the Strategic Approach's Strategy for strengthening engagement of the health sector, including review of its own role to the extent that it is a user of chemicals and a producer of hazardous waste;

(g) to mainstream gender as a component in all policies, strategies and plans for the sound management of chemicals and waste, considering gender differences in exposure to and health effects of toxic chemicals while ensuring participation of women as agents of change in policy and decision making; and

(h) to strengthen efforts on implementation of the updated health sector priorities, such as those identified in the recent WHO health sector survey:

(i) Devising better and standardized methods to determine impacts of chemicals on health, to set priorities for action and to evaluate the effectiveness of policies and progress of the Strategic Approach;

(ii) Formulating strategies aimed at prevention of ill-health and disease caused throughout the life course by chemicals, including strategies directed specifically at the health of children and workers;

(iii) Building capabilities of countries to deal with poisonings and chemical incidents and emergencies;

(iv) Promoting alternatives to highly toxic and persistent chemicals;

(v) Filling of gaps in scientific knowledge;

(vi) Elaborating globally harmonized methods for chemical risk assessment;

(vii) Actions to improve ability to access, interpret and apply scientific knowledge.][1]

(OP2.1.1bis) to build on and enhance implementation of actions pursuant to resolution WHA63.25 on improvement of health through safe and environmentally sound waste management and to develop a report on the impacts of waste on health, the current work of the WHO in this area, and possible further actions that the health sector, including WHO, could take to protect health;

[1] As per SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/11.

(2) to continue to exercise and enhance the leading role of WHO in the Strategic Approach to foster the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle with the objective of minimizing and, where possible, preventing significant adverse effects on health [and to continue supporting the work of the [SAICM] secretariat in WHO areas of expertise];

[(2ter alt) to work to improve available data to complement the proposed indicators for Target 3.9 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;]

(3) to continue current efforts to engage the health sector in chemicals management and make progress in chemical safety in particular in the implementation of the International Health Regulations;

(4) to support Member States by providing technical support, including at the regional and country level, for strengthening the role of the health sector towards meeting the 2020 goal, including by enhancing capacities at individual, institutional and networking levels and dissemination of evidence-based best practices;

(OP2.4bis) [to foster dissemination of alternatives to highly toxic and persistent chemicals on the condition that there is sound scientific proof that those alternatives significantly minimize health risks throughout the life cycle;]

(5) to set aside adequate resources and personnel for the work of the Secretariat, in line with the Programme Budget 2016–2017 and the Twelfth General Programme of Work 2014–2019 [and taking into account the recent calls at ICCM4 and UNEA1 on staffing support for SAICM];

(6) [to present to the Seventieth World Health Assembly a road map outlining concrete actions to enhance health sector [engagement] / [contribution] towards meeting the 2020 goal and beyond as well as a progress report on the preparation of the report requested in 2.1bis.]

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