

Recommendations on hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products by participants in the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Beijing, 23 – 26 November 2009

Participants in the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM),

Mindful that preventing harm to human health and the environment from wastes containing harmful substances or wastes that lead to the formation of harmful substances is an important element of achieving the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM);¹

Recognizing that near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products are a growing concern as a result of dumping in developing countries, which results in the illegal transboundary movement of their hazardous constituents such as heavy metals and brominated flame retardants;²

Further recognizing that the increased amount of electronic waste due to domestic consumption will have an impact on health and the environment unless soundly managed;

Aware that there is a lack of capacity to handle electronic waste in an environmentally sound manner in almost all developing countries and countries with economies in transition especially least developed countries and small island developing States, leading to the release of hazardous substances causing harm to human health and the environment;³

Recalling that it is important to consider product stewardship and extended producer responsibility aspects in the life-cycle management of electronic and electrical products;⁴

Noting with appreciation the plan for a workshop on electronic waste to be held in the margins of the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group meeting of the Basel Convention scheduled for May 2010;⁵

Welcoming the agreed upon objectives for the workshop including identifying and assessing where issues relating to the sound management of chemicals arise during the lifespan of electrical and electronic products, including the design of such products, green chemistry,

¹ SAICM/RM/AP.1/3 Annex V

<http://www.saicm.org/documents/meeting/asiapacific/may%2007/documents/AP1%203%20report.pdf>

² SAICM II/4 Emerging policy issues

English: <http://www.saicm.org/documents/iccm/ICCM2/ICCM2%20Report/ICCM2%2015%20FINAL%20REPORT%20E.pdf>

Chinese: <http://www.saicm.org/documents/iccm/ICCM2/ICCM2%20Report/ICCM2%2015%20FINAL%20REPORT%20C.pdf>

³ SAICM II/4 Emerging policy issues

⁴ SAICM II/4 Emerging policy issues

⁵ SAICM II/4 Emerging policy issues

recycling and disposal, in particular in the context of the requirements of the Basel and Stockholm conventions;⁶

Request that the workshop cover both the manufacture of electrical and electronic products and the repair, and disposal of near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products and take into account relevant Rio Principles;

Encourage workshop recommendations on

- (a) green design and the phase-out of, where feasible, those harmful substances contained in electrical and electronic products;
- (b) extended producer responsibility including for the provision of information on hazardous substances contained in electrical and electronic equipment;
- (c) protecting worker health all throughout the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products from manufacture to recycling and disposal;
- (d) developing shared standards in classifying or identifying near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products and better cooperation and strengthening of bodies working to enforce illegal traffic including customs officials and others;
- (e) actions needed to address contaminated sites;
- (f) ensuring environmentally unsound technologies and products that are prohibited or controlled in developed countries are not transferred to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (g) ensuring national capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially least developed countries, for the disposal or recycling of near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products through international cooperation, including transfer of technology for disposal or recycling of those materials (IRA).
- (h) strengthening the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially least developed countries, to deal in an environmentally sound manner with electrical and electronic waste generated domestically and from illegal transboundary movements;
- (i) strengthening the control of transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste through Basel Convention mechanisms;
- (j) the provision of future training workshops, including for workers in repair, dismantling, and junk facilities, on the identification of hazardous and toxic components in electrical and electronic equipment, including components that are recyclable;

⁶ SAICM II/4 Emerging policy issues

(k) building on past programmes addressing electrical and electronic waste;

(l) demonstration projects;

3. *Encourage* the workshop to set up a small multi-stakeholder working group with representation from all United Nations regions to prepare recommendations for the SAICM Open-ended Working Group, and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session;

4. *Encourage* synergies with the chemicals in products project currently being undertaken by UNEP in follow-up to the second session of the Conference so that information about hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products is made available;

5. *Invite* consideration of the recommendations of the workshop by the SAICM Open-ended Working Group and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session.