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REPORT OF THE SCOPING MEETING FOR THE STUDY OF STAKEHOLDER NEEDS FOR INFORMATION ON CHEMICALS IN PRODUCTS
17-18 December 2009, Geneva

Background

1. The sound management of chemicals is one of the key challenges to achieving sustainable development. This is recognized by the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) that has as 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". Among the detailed objectives that are set out in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) is one addressing knowledge and information (OPS 15) that states, inter alia:

> "(b) To ensure, for all stakeholders: (i) That information on chemicals throughout their life cycle, including, where appropriate, **chemicals in products**, is available, accessible, user friendly, adequate and appropriate to the needs of all stakeholders. Appropriate types of information include their effects on human health and the environment, their intrinsic properties, their potential uses, their protective measures and regulation."

2. The Global Plan of Action that accompanies the Overarching Policy Strategy, includes three activities of particular relevance:

> *108. Articles and products containing hazardous substances should all be accompanied by relevant information for users, workplaces and at disposal sites.*
>
> *111. For all chemicals in commerce, appropriate information detailing their inherent hazards should be made available to the public at no charge and generated where needed with essential health, safety and environmental information made available. Other information should be available according to a balance between the public's right to know and the need to protect valid confidential business information and legitimate proprietary interests.*
>
> *112. Undertake awareness-raising for consumers, in particular by educating them on best practices for chemical use, about the risks that the chemicals they use pose to themselves and their environment and the pathways by which exposures occur.*

3. There has recently been growing interest and understanding of the release of and possible exposure to potentially harmful chemicals contained in articles and commercial products, such as personal computers, textiles, toys and costume jewellery. Information exchange was one of the key factors to enable stakeholders to properly manage hazardous chemicals and reduce risks to human health and the environment. The need for better communication throughout the product chain had been identified and the overall aim of the current initiative is to enable adequate management of chemicals throughout the life-cycle. In February 2009 an Informal Workshop on Stakeholders' Needs for Information on Chemicals in Articles highlighted the continuing lack of substantial availability of information on chemicals content for a wide range of products and sectors. Subsequently at the second

session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in May 2009 chemicals in products was recognized as an emerging policy issue. The Conference decided to implement a project addressing the need to ensure that information on chemicals, including chemicals in products, is available and appropriate to the needs of all stakeholders. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was invited to lead and facilitate the development and implementation of the project.

I. Opening of the Meeting

4. The scoping meeting for the study of stakeholder needs for information on chemicals in products was held at the International Environment House II in Geneva, Switzerland from 17 to 18 December 2009. The meeting was opened by Mr. Per Bakken, Head, Chemicals Branch, UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) on Thursday 17 December 2009 at 8.50 a.m.

5. Mr. Bakken welcomed participants to Geneva and thanked the Government of Sweden for its generous support towards the convening of the meeting. He said that recently, attention had been drawn to a variety of problems linked with chemicals in products. The issue was vast and required focused work. Hence the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in May 2009 recognized the issue of chemicals in products as an emerging policy issue and the Conference decided to implement a project, which it invited UNEP to facilitate. Towards executing the Project, UNEP had sent a survey to all SAICM focal points requesting them and their stakeholders to define their needs, priorities and experience with chemicals in products information systems. In considering the results of that survey, the current meeting might make recommendations regarding priority products or sectors and major stakeholder needs to be considered in the next analytical phase of the project. The meeting might also provide advice on existing information resources, identifying needs and gaps and which elements of those systems were particularly useful or important; identify key questions that should be addressed during the implementation of the analytical phase; and provide ideas and advice regarding possible case studies to be carried out. The latter goal would assist to focus and increase the understanding of the particular needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. He concluded by saying that the outcome of the meeting would provide direction to the analytical phase of the project where in-depth research would link stakeholder needs to existing information systems in identified priority areas. Mr. Bakken also made a note about a related initiative in UNEP Chemicals addressing needs for guidance to ensure sound chemicals management in different industrial sectors and the possibility of future linkages to this project.

II. Organizational matters

A. Agenda

6. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

Opening

Project background

Presentation of the results of the Survey on priorities for the investigation phase of the Project on Chemicals in Products

Existing systems and initiatives in Chemicals in Products information systems

Working group sessions

Conclusions and Recommendations

B. Organization of Work

7. The meeting undertook its work in plenary and in working groups.

C. Officers

8. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Babajide Alo (Nigeria) and Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz (Sweden).

D. Attendance

9. The meeting was attended by government participants from the following countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Cambodia, Canada, Comoros, Denmark, Germany, Indonesia, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Sweden, United States of America and Zambia.

10. The meeting was attended by participants from the following intergovernmental organizations: European Commission, Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme and World Health Organization.

11. The meeting was attended by participants from the following non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and academia and research institutes: Argentine Society of Doctors for the Environment, Challenge Optimum S.A., Chemie Pharma Schweiz (SGCI), Consumer Electronics Association, Eco-Accord, European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, International Council of Chemical Associations, International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics and Monica Becker and Associates.

III. Project Background

12. Introducing the agenda item, Ms. Lissinger-Peitz said the current meeting was the first opportunity to discuss chemicals in products since the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The meeting would decide on next steps, on prioritization of sectors and determine a direction for further analytical work on the process. Mr. Alo expressed his appreciation to the Government of Sweden for its continued support for the issue especially as it continues to be an important issue to developing countries and countries with economies in transition and thanked UNEP for pushing forward the agenda of chemicals in products. He said the goal of the meeting was to identify the stakeholders, their needs and the key issues to take forward and particularly to consider the collated report and the outcomes of the global survey of SAICM Focal Points on the needs for information on chemicals in products.

13. The representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the Chemicals in Products project: overview of activities planned for the intersessional period between the second and third sessions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3). He noted the workplan for the project had been reviewed by the Steering Group. He underlined that the key issues would be to formulate priorities, based on the results and analysis of the survey, to examine initiatives underway through existing information systems and to define the course of activities planned for the period between sessions of the Conference. The activities described include a proposed workshop on the issue planned for mid-2010, where recommendations for further actions on chemicals in products will be developed in preparation for the SAICM Open-ended Working Group scheduled for August 2011 after which final recommendations for cooperative actions will be developed for consideration by ICCM3 to be held in 2012.

14. Ms Monica Becker made a presentation on the outcomes of the survey to define stakeholder needs, priorities and experience with chemicals in products information systems: Survey of SAICM Focal Points on the Need for Information on Chemicals in Products. Subsequently the meeting also heard a presentation by Ms. Beatrice Kogg of the International Institute for Industrial Environment Economics entitled Overview of Selected Information Systems Targeting Chemicals in Products.

15. In the ensuing debate it was noted that current information systems, in particular registration and classification systems, were vast and varied. To ensure a focused project to provide information for stakeholder use on CiP, some key areas in the lifecycle of a sector might need prioritization. From the survey it was noted that stakeholders had identified children's products including toys; food containers and food packaging; computers, cellular phones and other electronic goods; construction materials;

clothing and apparel, including shoes, leather and textiles; electrical goods and household appliances; batteries; and cosmetics and personal care products as the first eight priorities. While further analysis had been undertaken on the reasons for choosing those priorities, lack of time had precluded all sectors from being thoroughly analyzed. Referring to the statistical analysis on the number of responses it was recalled that some non-governmental organizations had pooled their reply in a single response and caution was therefore urged when determining percentiles and priorities. Several responses to the survey had been received after the original deadline and had not been included in the analysis. Those and other additional responses that might be received could provide a more detailed picture of priorities and concerns.

IV. Existing systems and initiatives in Chemicals in Products information systems

16. Under the agenda item, the meeting heard three presentations as follows: GHS – the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals by Ms. Rosa Garcia Couto, United National Economic Commission for Europe; Chemical Disclosures: Importance of the Joint Industry Guide to the Electronics Industry by Mr. Parker Brugge, Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability Consumer Electronics; and Post-Manufacturing Traceability of Chemicals in Products: Features and Benefits by Mr. David Balme, Challenge Optimum.

17. In the ensuing debate, many participants discussed the relevance to information systems on chemicals in products of the Globally Harmonized System of Labelling and Classification of Chemicals, which communicates hazard information. Some participants urged that more efforts be made to sensitize countries to adopting the Globally Harmonized System as a first step to obtaining information on chemicals. It was noted that the United Nations Institute for Training and Research had conducted several capacity building activities on the Globally Harmonized System. It was stressed that an information system on chemicals in products should ensure that it complemented the Globally Harmonized System and not duplicate it.

18. The Joint Industry Guide to the Electronic Industry focused on sharing of information along the supply chain and the provision of standardized and harmonized data. Over fifty criteria were currently used to evaluate products. Priority was given to regulated substances relevant to the electronics industry throughout the supply chain; however the guide did not limit itself to data on regulated substances. The Joint Industry Guide was publicly available and updated annually, although information exchanged through the Guide was intended for use between industry partners and is not currently designed for public disclosure. It was noted that cooperation with other countries to broaden the scope of the Joint Industry Guide would be welcomed.

19. Turning to post-manufacturing traceability of products it was noted that currently the system received interest mainly from companies with luxury goods to fight against counterfeiting. The system provided the choice of different tagging systems (optical and radio-frequency identification - RFID) with different cost implications. The traceability tag could be used to make available information on the type and concentration of chemicals in the products and so opportunities for optimizing end-of-life treatment existed. The information on the tag itself could, for example, include information on recycling. However if parts of the disassembled product were recycled the traceability would be lost unless sub-tagging was introduced, which would increase the cost for tagging the product (currently approximately US$0.05 - US$0.5 per tag unit).

20. All presentations made during the meeting have been placed on the UNEP Chemicals Branch website and are accessible at http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/cip/infooncip/.

V. Working Group Sessions

21. Introducing the agenda item Ms. Lissinger recalled the process that had led to the current meeting. She reiterated that the project covered a large and important topic requiring focus on key areas to achieve a positive outcome with the limited resources available. Discussions in the working groups would be guided by a set of key questions to determine priority sectors and existing information systems, stakeholders and their needs, and issues to be addressed in the analysis phase and recommendations for possible case studies. The working groups would be informed by the survey results, the recommendations from the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals

Management and the relevant text from the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy. She said all questions might not be answered at the current meeting that was still in a scoping phase but that a first exchange of views could be held. She also indicated that up to three (3) case studies for the priority product sectors will need to be suggested by the working groups and the needs of different regions, countries, stakeholders and stages of the supply chain must all be taken into account in developing these case studies. She urged that discussion should help identify priorities on which to focus the project to enable a constructive outcome to be submitted to the Conference at its third session.

22. Reporting back to plenary the three groups noted that in the interest of time they had focused on certain issues. All groups stressed that the information provided must be stakeholder driven and the information needs will vary and therefore must be analyzed from stakeholder to stakeholder. Industry was urged to buy-in to the process to provide information on chemicals in products. All groups also emphasized the need to avoid duplication of efforts already underway in other forums.

23. The outcome of the three working groups established by the meeting is attached as annex I to the current report.

VI. Conclusions and Recommendations

24. Following the presentation of the outcome of the working groups the meeting elaborated general conclusions. It was noted that the meeting had served the purpose of awareness raising on the issue of information systems for chemicals in products. It had also provided direction for the second phase of the project in terms of priority sectors, stakeholder needs and the need to cover all regions.

25. The meeting agreed on a list of six priority sectors as given in annex II to the current report, which were in line with the priorities in the survey responses. The rationale for selecting these sectors for priority consideration under the project is listed in annex II: many of the concerns noted are tied to the presence of chemicals in products in each of the priority sectors. This rationale and prioritization recognizes that there may be insufficient time and resources to accomplish work in all sectors prior to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The meeting stressed the importance of tailoring each project to stakeholders needs within each sector. It was noted that all stakeholders should be made aware of the benefits of the project when developing case studies as this would facilitate their engagement and commitment to the project and even encourage the establishment of partnerships. It was also emphasized that regional concerns should be taken into account when developing case studies.

26. Noting several cases of ongoing complimentary work it was urged that duplication of effort be avoided which would also ensure effective use of resources. An awareness of current work in the domain was essential taking into account national and regional initiatives, to draw experience from existing efforts and to identify gaps. In that respect it was recalled that the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics was working on a study that would assist in providing a better understanding on existing information systems.

27. Some participants stressed that in developing countries and countries with economies in transition the lack of regulatory systems at the national level could affect development of information systems. It was suggested that even if products were regulated, different stakeholders sometimes sought additional information. It was also suggested that as some countries have limited capacity to determine chemicals in products, the development of some form of product-labelling scheme would be of great assistance. Of particular concern was the provision of information on safe handling and disposal of products containing harmful chemicals, an observation which was also drawn clearly from the survey responses.

28. Several participants suggested that producers should take on greater responsibility in information gathering and increase efforts to release or disclose that information to interested stakeholders. The meeting suggested that the private sector be encouraged to establish a forum where different industry sectors could get together to exchange experience on information systems and propose ways to increase provision of information to relevant stakeholders. This would be in addition to creating an information network for different industry sectors that might also serve to harmonize

different information systems and to increase the development of information system in those industry sectors not yet possessing such systems.

29. In response to a request for information on the proposed workshop to be held in mid-2010, the representative of the secretariat said the workshop would make use of the results of the current meeting and further work to obtain a greater understanding of existing information systems and stakeholder needs. The workshop would also develop proposals and recommendations on the information systems in the priority areas agreed by the meeting.

30. The final conclusions and recommendations of the meeting are attached as annex II to the current report.

VII. Closure of the Meeting

31. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 3 p.m. on Friday 18 December 2009.

Annex I

Reports of the Working Groups

The reports of the working groups are reproduced hereunder as they were submitted to the secretariat and therefore remain in the original format in which they were submitted.

GROUP 1 REPORT

Q1. Taking into consideration the priorities and associated rationale identified by the needs survey, the working groups are requested to identify and order the five top priority sectors to be considered for the analysis phase of the project and to outline:

Sectors of high priority:

- Children's products, toys
- Cosmetics and personal care
- Electrical and Electronic goods
- Food packaging
- Clothing, apparel

Q1-Bullet 1: Why are the sectors of high priority

Q1-Bullet 2: Are there some sub-sectors in the priority sectors that the group feels should serve as good examples for the analysis phase of the project?

Subsectors of specific relevance, with arguments related to why they should be prioritized:

- Children's products, toys
    - Lead in toys is related to lead in paints which is related to other SAICM initiatives
- Cosmetics and personal care products
    - Bleaching products are of high relevance to many countries in the African region, this is also a mercury containing product)
- Electrical and Electronic goods
    - Computers, laptops, electronics, which are products with a short lifetime, meaning they will have a higher environmental impact,
- Food packaging
    - Plastics, this is where most of the contaminants can be found
- Clothing suggested
    - E.g. PFCs a certain group of chemicals considered to be of high concern
    - Suggestion to focus on fibres; not always clear what chemicals textile fibres contain.

Q2: Taking into consideration information systems (e.g. those identified through the needs survey:

Q2- Bullet 1: Are there any chemicals information systems known to be in use and associated with the above priority sectors (or sub-sectors) and information categories?

Chemicals information systems known to be in use, associated with identified priority sectors

- Electronic Joint Industry Guide (JIG) for the electronic industry can be a relevant case study, Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) system.
- Toys: healthy stuff, Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) database, this is a database where it is possible for instance to search for products found to contain lead
- Good guide – personal care products
- Chemicals in products systems not related to a specific product group:

- Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) candidate list from 2011, notification requirements for SVHC. Producer also has to notify its customers and respond to consumer request within 45 days. The chemicals cut across sectors
- RAPEX (Rapid alert system for non food consumer products), obligation to report if found product based (only covers products where there is an identified risk)
- IUR: US Inventory Update (register of all medium and high volume chemicals produced or imported to the US, requirement to report every 4 years, includes indication if the chemical is used in consumer products and children's products
- Consumers need to be presented with information that they can understand: Focus on what is most important, focus on those chemicals that are most important to the consumer)

Q2 - Bullet 2: Are there systems that appear to hold a special potential for adaptation to enable the transfer of appropriate chemicals information to the needs of relevant stakeholders

Identified systems holding potential for adaptation to enable transfer of CiP info to needs of relevant Stakeholders

EPEAT

CPSC – Consumer Products Safety Commission

JIG – can be one part but needs to be modified

Q3: Taking into consideration the information categories identified in the needs survey and the corresponding stakeholder groups and their needs and uses:

Q3-Bullet 1: Identify who are the major stakeholder groups to be considered for information on chemicals in products in general:

Major stakeholder groups to be considered for information on chemicals in general + main reasons:

- **Poison information centres** need full information about chemicals, to provide emergency response
- **Governments** policy makers and enforcing agencies (in order to give correct advice e.g. to consumers we need information in order to assess risks and construct regulations to make it safe, also get information to find alternatives, not just risk assessment but also risk management)
- **Consumers** need right information, so they can have a safe use and safe waste management.
- **Industry using products for further processing** (because they will be responsible for furthering and compiling information)
- **Retailers:** they are between the industry and the consumers, best channel to reach a high number of consumers
- **Consumer associations**
- **Recyclers, end-of-life management**

Q 3 – Bullet 2: Is there any special or key chemicals information that should be associated to the above priority sectors/sub sectors?

Key chemicals information that should be associated to above priority sectors/sub-sectors?

- Chemical identify present in the products, and concentrations, and if possible hazards associated with those products,
    - name of manufacture, location, batch etc. (useful if authorities need to withdraw a product from the market, maybe supply chain information) instructions for safe use, recommended field of application (question raised if this is necessary and feasible) maintained that it is important

- Physical properties of chemicals is important for consumers – is it toxic, is it flammable, in what time perspective also need to know if it is dangerous from brief contact or from long-term contact
- Instructions for safe disposal and end-of-life management to recyclers

Reflection: Government should not take over the responsibility to ensure that only safe products gets on the market, this is still the responsibility of producers

Q3-Bullet 3: Identify major points through the product life cycle where a product's chemical-content information can be associated with the product. Identify points in the life cycle where such information could potentially be lost.

Points in the product life cycle where chemicals-content information can be associated with the product.

- In the production phase, but with the caveat that basic information regarding chemicals needs to come from suppliers of chemical products

Identify major points through the product life cycle where such information could potentially be lost.

- Lost when leaving the factory
- As it travels downstream
- When products are reused or refurbished

KEY REFLECTIONS Q1 –Q3

KEY MESSAGE:

- Information must be stakeholder driven
- Information needs, need to be analysed stakeholder by stakeholder

REFLECTIONS:

- Important to know what is the purpose for providing this type of information? This is important, in part, to motivate the cost for industry to generate and manage this information.
- Industry can provide list of chemicals but it comes at a cost. There need to be a clear demand and a clear purpose for collecting.
- We need a system that benefits both government (general public) and industry.
- Content of chemical substance and their concentrations in products is the basic information from which all other information can be derived.

Q4: Identify key questions that should be responded to through the analytical phase, including those of case studies:

Q5: Discuss and suggest up to 3 case studies, preferably in different regions, analyzing stakeholders' needs and possibly against available information systems, for the priority product sectors

GROUP 2 REPORT

Priority sectors:

- Toys
- Construction materials
- Clothes
- Electronics, electrical goods, batteries (EEE)

All represent serious challenges

All have problems in different parts of the lifecycle.

TOYS – issues of concern

- Plastic, paint and wood
- Recycled plastics containing pollutants
- Producers (brand-owners) are lead-actors in the supply chains
- Supply chain structure different cases
    - Brand owners who control their supply chains
    - Companies that buy toys in fairs etc
- Producer-retailer interface likely to be crucial
- Consumers have limited interest in having detailed info
    - Labels, issued by credible actor
- Plastics grades: technical/analytical. Toys grade

Work by IFCS should be reviewed.

CONSTRUCTION

- Plastic and paints
- Indoor exposure (buildings where we spend most of our time)
- Demolition exposure
    - information management for long-lived products
- Schools and kindergartens, vulnerable groups
- New constructions
- Testing routines for new "alternative" materials

Keep an eye on work done in the SAICM project on lead in paint

CLOTHES

- Natural and artificial fibres
- Exposure in retail, use, washing (environmental pollution), and burning of waste
- Information challenge similar to toys
- Pesticide residues and additives
- Toxics and allergens
- Testing for new material and additives including nanomaterials

For nanomaterials, look at what the SAICM project is doing

EEE

- Mobiles and laptops
- End-of life treatment

Coordinate with SAICM project on chemicals in EEE

GROUP 3 REPORT

Note 1.

1. Reasons to focus on toys: Toys can contain toxic chemicals; children are vulnerable; children put toys in their mouth; children's systems are immature; toys are a necessity; developing bodies; endocrine system is immature and susceptible to chemicals; toys are produced abroad, not locally; toy consumption increasing; many countries lack regulatory control of toys; toys can be passed from one child to another; population ignorant about toxics in toys.

Developing Countries: parents in challenging circumstances do not question the safety of toys (e.g., chemical content); enforcement of toy standards a challenge.

Reasons not to focus on toys: Toy industry is very fragmented and difficult to follow. Products are from many countries and many manufacturers. May be difficult to be successful if we focus on this sector. Very complex and challenging.

2. Reasons to focus on food packaging: Limited information available on what is in food packaging. Exposure to consumer is high. Need to consider safe management of packaging waste, total life cycle of these products.

Developing Countries: big challenge getting information to consumers, small and medium-sized enterprises and others. Information is not accessible. Containers are not necessarily tested. Need regulatory regime to at least deal with regulated substances.

Reasons not to focus on this sector: Food containers and food packaging are managed in similar fashion to food. We have a lot of information on these products. We have a higher level of control on these products. There are international guidelines (e.g., prohibited materials), (however, they may not be followed). Need to consider the benefits of food containers/packaging, e.g., keeping food fresh. Exposure and risk is low for the benefit given to society. Very complex and fragmented market.

3. Reasons to focus on computers: Very important category, growing problem, brominated flame-retardants.

Developing Countries: Used products coming in - don't have capacity to test and used products can quickly become waste; no LCM systems for these products; but, we do not want to block computer products from entering the country so information can help deal with problem of e-waste.

Considered whether electrical equipment and large appliances be combined into category. Answer: No, electronics have a much shorter lifecycle, problem of heavy metals.

Considered whether batteries should be combined. Answer: ?? Batteries that are used in electronic equipment are integral to the product (in contrast to lead/acid car batteries that are stand alone) so could capture electronic batteries under electronics.

Reason not to focus: Very complicated.

4. Reason to focus on construction materials: In contact with these materials every day, particularly children in schools. Fewer manufacturers, less complex, increases the probability of success.

Considerations: Sector very broad. Need to focus. Choose subset of products that affect indoor air quality – materials covering interior surfaces (walls, floors, ceilings -- Carpets, textiles, coatings).

Developing Countries: Asbestos roof sheeting, still big demand, exposure is a problem when not intact (e.g., when removed). PVC. Not aware of danger.

5. Reasons to focus on cosmetics: Nano particles are in cosmetics and we don't know impact of those. Some countries have a list of "black list" of chemicals for cosmetics. Others do not. Some products have information on label in only one language and not in language of the country where it is sold in. In developed countries, they have organic and non-organic chemicals. Other countries do not. But even in organic cosmetics there are chemicals that are endocrine disruptors.

Group 3 also undertook an exercise to examine one sector in detail – Children's Products, including Toys

- Looked at the life cycle stages vs. key stakeholders, key chemicals of concern, existing information system, risk of losing information within different steps of the lifecycle stages

Key Stakeholders

Product Design – Corp. R&D, Designers, Particularly for OEMs

Production – Professional Associations, Labor, Unions, E & H Ministers, Corporate Functions, Recyclers (need information from the production stage)

Distribution – Retailers, Government (enforcement),

Product Use - Consumers, NGO, IGOs, Governments,

Product Recycling and Disposal – Local Authorities, Recyclers, Waste Disposers

Key Chemicals

Categories of CoC's – carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, heavy metals, phthalates, BPA, PAHs

Information Systems

Good Guide, Healthytoys.org, Arnika, CPSIA, EU Toy Directive, Canada's Toy Regulation, Canada Products , Toy Safety Certification Program, REACH, Canada's Chemical Management Plan, Basel Website, RAPEX

Risk of Losing Information

Packaging Stage – Risk of losing information when packaging is removed

Between Distribution and Use – Risk of losing info.

Between Product Use and Recycling – Risk when product is disassembled

At recycling – information gap, no packaging with information on it

Annex II

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PRIORITY SECTORS

- Children's products including toys
  - Toys
- Computers, cellular phones and other electronic goods
  - Computers and mobile phones
- Clothing and apparel (including shoes, leather and textiles)
  - Natural and synthetic fibres
- Construction materials
  - Products causing indoor exposure
  - End-of-life reuse
- Cosmetics and personal care
- Food containers and food packaging
  - Plastic materials

RATIONALE FOR PRIORITIES

- Consumer health and safety
- Occupational safety and health
- Environmental concerns
- Vulnerable populations
- Developing country concerns
- Volume of product
- Transboundary nature of issue
- Global nature of issue
- Recycling and end-of-life concerns

STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

- Key stakeholders are different at different stages of the product lifecycle
- Provision of information needs to be stakeholder driven
- Governments should not be placed in a position that requires them to take over producer responsibility

LIFE-CYCLE INFORMATION ISSUE

INFORMATION NEEDS OF THE DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS CHANGE ALONG THE LIFE-CYCLE; THERE IS THEREFORE A NECESSITY TO HAVE AN ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION NEEDS OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS ALONG THE ENTIRE LIFECYCLE.

viz:

Product design

Production

Packaging

Distribution

Product use

Recycling and Disposal

ISSUES PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION DURING ELABORATION OF THE CASE STUDIES

DIFFERENT SECTORS WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE ANALYTICAL PHASE INCLUDING DURING THE CASE STUDIES

ENSURE COMPLEMENTARITY AND COMPATIBILITY TO ON-GOING WORK IN OTHER FORUMS

SECTOR CONSIDERATIONS:

A. CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS INCLUDING TOYS:

TOYS

Plastic, paint and wood

- Recycled plastics containing pollutants
- Producers (brand-owners) are lead-actors in the supply chains
- Supply chain structure different cases
    - Brand owners who control their supply chains
    - Companies that buy toys in fairs etc
- Producer-retailer interface likely to be crucial
- Consumers have limited interest in having detailed info – labels, issued by credible actor
- Plastics grades: technical/analytical. Toys grade
- Consider potential benefits to industry (partnerships), as well as benefits to other involved stakeholders
- Look to existing reporting systems (RAPEX) – consider as well the impact such information availability has had on the development of the legislative basis

B. CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

PRODUCTS CAUSING INDOOR EXPOSURE & END-OF-LIFE RE-USE

Plastic and paints

- Indoor exposure (buildings where we spend most of our time)
- Demolition exposure – info management for long-lived products
- Schools and kindergartens, vulnerable groups
- New constructions
- Testing routines for new “alternative “ Materials

C. CLOTHING AND APPAREL:

NATURAL FIBRES AND SYNTHETIC FIBRES

- Toxics and allergens
- Exposure in retail, use, washing (environmental pollution of chemicals contained in the fibres), and burning of waste
- Information challenge similar to toys
- Pesticide residues and additives
- Testing for new material and additives including nanomaterials

D. COMPUTERS, CELLULAR PHOES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC GOODS:

COMPUTERS AND MOBILE PHONES

- End-of life treatment
- Inclusion of recycled materials (plastics as a raw material)
- Look to existing efforts (e.g. work under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants)

E. COSMETICS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

- Specific activities may be underway with respect to content of nanoparticles, mercury and other heavy metals
- The Scoping Meeting is requested to forward appropriate case study examples to UNEP

F. FOOD CONTAINERS AND FOOD PACKAGING:

FOOD PACKAGING, IN PARTICULAR PLASTICS

- Developing country concerns, especially end-of-life management strategy (addressed in other forums?)
- There may be ample regulations for the sector however concerns may remain for the chemicals in products issue