



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة · 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT · PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Secretariat for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

1 March 2006

Excellency,

On 6 February 2006 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). SAICM will provide a policy framework for international efforts to achieve the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation's goal that, by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

In order to facilitate implementation of SAICM it will be important for each Government to designate an official national focal point. Paragraph 23 of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy provides as follows:

“To sustain an integrated approach to managing chemicals, each Government should establish arrangements for implementing the Strategic Approach on an inter-ministerial or inter-institutional basis so that all concerned national departmental and stakeholder interests are represented and all relevant substantive areas are addressed. To facilitate communication, nationally and internationally, each Government should designate a Strategic Approach national focal point to act as an effective conduit for communication on Strategic Approach matters, including invitations to participate in meetings and information dissemination. The Strategic Approach national focal point should be a representative of the country's inter-ministerial or inter-institutional arrangements, where such arrangements exist.”

[The Permanent Representative to the United Nations]

Cc: Government participants in the International Conference on Chemicals Management (by e-mail)

In its resolution 1, the International Conference on Chemicals Management called on "... Governments to designate national Strategic Approach focal points and communicate the details of the focal points to the Strategic Approach Secretariat... as soon as possible."

The SAICM Secretariat thus invites your Government to nominate its official SAICM national focal point. It is recommended that the nomination be decided following a process of consultation with relevant ministries such as agriculture, environment, health, industry and labour, existing focal points such as those for the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and pertinent multilateral agreements (for example the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Montreal Protocol) and other stakeholders.

To ensure coordination, the nomination should be communicated officially through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs using the enclosed form, which should be forwarded to the SAICM Secretariat at the address below as soon as possible and not later than **28 April 2006**.

SAICM Secretariat
c/o Chemicals Branch, DTIE,
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Fax (41 22) 797 34 60

For further information, please contact the SAICM Secretariat, telephone (41 22) 917 83 34, fax (41 22) 797 34 60, or e-mail saicm@chemicals.unep.ch, or consult the website: www.chem.unep.ch/saicm.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Maged Younes
Head
Chemicals Branch, DTIE
United Nations Environment Programme