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**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for Certain
Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in
International Trade
Conference of the Parties
Fifth meeting**

Geneva, 20–24 June 2011

Item 5 (f) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
technical assistance**

**Draft strategic plan for strengthening party capacity to provide
import responses and notifications of final regulatory action for
industrial chemicals**

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its decision RC-4/9, on national and regional delivery of technical assistance, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade requested the Secretariat to support, subject to available resources, the activities proposed by the Secretariat in its programme for the regional and national delivery of technical assistance for 2009–2011, which included a proposal for the “development of a targeted programme to address the sound management of industrial chemicals focusing on the legal, regulatory and administrative infrastructure and framework required to support national multisectoral industrial chemicals management programmes”. It also requested the Secretariat to focus its technical assistance activities on issues and needs identified by developing countries and countries with economies in transition and to pay particular attention to the needs of parties in meeting the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the Convention.

2. In accordance with decision RC-4/9, the Secretariat has prepared a draft strategic plan for strengthening the capacity of parties to the Convention to provide import responses and notifications of final regulatory action for industrial chemicals, which is set out in the annex to the present note.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

3. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

(a) To consider and approve the draft strategic plan for strengthening party capacity to provide import responses and notifications of final regulatory action for industrial chemicals under the Convention, as part of the delivery of technical assistance for the biennium 2012–2013 and beyond;

(b) To invite parties and other interested stakeholders to promote and contribute to capacity-building activities related to the strategic plan.

* UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/1/Rev.1.

Annex

Draft strategic plan for strengthening party capacity to provide import responses and notifications of final regulatory action for industrial chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention

I. Situational analysis

A. Background and mandate

1. The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade establishes an international mechanism for regulating trade in the pesticides and industrial chemicals that are listed in its Annex III. The Convention conditions the movement of those chemicals on the prior informed consent of the parties over whose territories they are to be shipped. It also permits parties to refuse or limit the movement of Annex III chemicals over their territories, through a document known as an “import response”. A “decision guidance document” is prepared for each chemical to guide the parties in deciding whether to allow its movement over their territories.

2. The Convention covers chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by parties to the Convention. Of the 40 chemicals already listed in Annex III, 11 are industrial chemicals. In addition, the Convention’s Chemical Review Committee has recommended that another three industrial chemicals should be listed in Annex III.

3. Paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Convention provides, among other things, that each party that has adopted a “final regulatory action” to ban or severely restrict a chemical “shall notify the Secretariat in writing of such action”. In addition, paragraph 2 of Article 10 states: “Each Party shall transmit to the Secretariat, as soon as possible, and in any event no later than nine months after the date of dispatch of the decision guidance document referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 7, a response concerning the future import of the chemical concerned”.

4. The entry into force of the Convention in 2004 and the progressive inclusion of industrial chemicals in its Annex III notwithstanding, the absence or insufficiency of regulatory programmes for industrial chemicals in many developing countries translates into a lack of tools for effectively protecting human health and the environment from the potentially harmful effects of industrial chemicals.

5. In the light of that situation, by its decision RC-4/9 the Conference of the Parties, emphasizing the importance of achieving effective and coordinated delivery of technical assistance on targeted thematic issues, requested the Secretariat to implement the activities described in a programme on the sound management of industrial chemicals proposed by the Secretariat. It also requested the Secretariat, in delivering technical assistance:

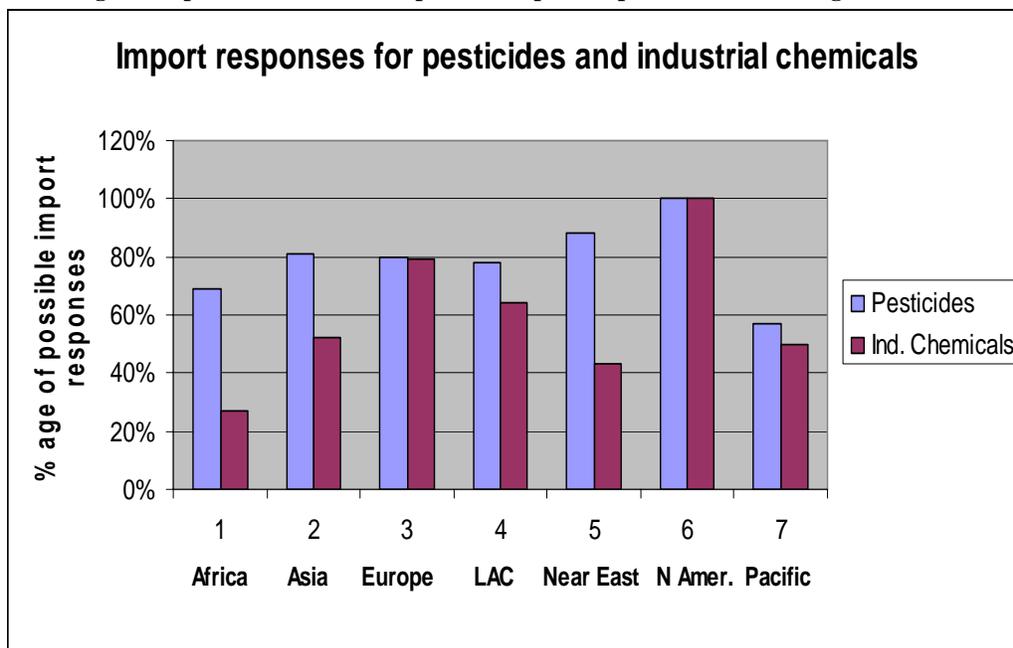
(a) To focus on issues and needs identified by developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(b) To pay particular attention to the needs of parties in meeting the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the Convention.

B. Import responses and the need for industrial chemicals management

6. As noted above, paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the Convention requires each party to transmit to the Secretariat an import response for each chemical listed in Annex III to the Convention. Between June 2000 and December 2010, parties submitted a total of 837 import responses pertaining to industrial chemicals to the Secretariat. Of the developing countries in Africa, 45 per cent submitted responses, which accounted for 27 per cent of the total number of responses submitted. Figure I shows the percentage of parties that submitted import responses from each geographical region.

Figure I
Percentage of responses received of all possible import responses from each region



7. In addition, there was a significant disparity between the number of import responses for pesticides and the number for industrial chemicals submitted by parties in Africa, Asia and the Near East.

8. During national and subregional workshops to examine implementation plans, many parties indicated that they needed to improve their national regulatory frameworks to meet the objectives of the Convention for industrial chemicals. Some of the specific needs that they identified are:

- (a) Legislation on the sound management of industrial chemicals;
- (b) National chemicals policy frameworks and national coordination;
- (c) Capacity to undertake hazard and risk assessments;
- (d) Processes for making decisions on risk management for selected chemicals;
- (e) Increased public awareness of and information on the potential risks posed by hazardous industrial chemicals.

9. Maximizing safety and minimizing the risks posed by industrial chemicals are key to sustainable development for countries and to the success of the chemicals industry worldwide. While pesticides are controlled by many national, regional and international schemes, the regulation of industrial chemicals has lagged behind and developing countries often face limited capacity and knowledge when it comes to assessing and managing the risks that they pose.

C. Global industrial chemicals management landscape

10. There are currently some 40 international chemical safety and risk management programmes and initiatives. Table 1 lists some examples.

Table 1
Programmes and initiatives on the sound management of chemicals in developing countries and countries with economies in

	<i>Partner organization</i>	<i>Role and objectives</i>	<i>Current initiatives</i>	<i>Linkage to the Rotterdam Convention</i>
1	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	Global treaty for the elimination of persistent organic pollutants	Training workshops on guidelines for updating national implementation plans, new persistent organic pollutants, persistent organic pollutants in articles and products, and the sound management of industrial chemicals	National implementation plans facilitate foundational chemicals management and thus contribute to and enhance the implementation of the Convention
2	Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics	Supports the building of national capacity for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles	Facilitates global action, guidelines and programmes to reduce and eliminate risks posed by chemicals	Guidelines on legal and economic instruments
3	KEMI (Swedish Chemicals Agency)	Carries out development cooperation activities on the sound management of chemicals in countries	Strengthening of capacity for the sound management of chemicals in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals	Encourages compliance with chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements
4	German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)	Assists countries to meet their obligations under international conventions on chemical safety	Carries out a variety of training and capacity-building activities through public-private partnerships	Chemical safety training features the multilateral environmental agreements as essential tools for sound chemicals management
5	United Nations Institute for Training and Research	Has a programme to strengthen capacity for sound chemicals management	Project activities related to the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the chemicals and wastes conventions	Training activities support the implementation of the Convention
6	United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Promotes sustainable industrial development in countries	Generation and dissemination of knowledge and provision of technical support for project implementation	Chemical safety projects provide guidance on formulating policies on multilateral environmental agreements
7	World Health Organization	Establishes a scientific basis for the safe use of chemicals and strengthens national capabilities and capacities for chemical safety	Evaluation of risks to human health and the environment posed by chemicals. Harmonization of risk assessment methodologies. Evaluation of the safety of chemicals in food. Poisoning prevention and management. Capacity-building for sound management of chemicals. Public health management of chemical incidents	Chemical evaluations inform national risk assessment and management. Training on human health risk assessment and management for chemicals subject to the prior informed consent procedure Toolkit on human health risk assessment

	<i>Partner organization</i>	<i>Role and objectives</i>	<i>Current initiatives</i>	<i>Linkage to the Rotterdam Convention</i>
8	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals	Strengthens cooperation and coordination in chemical safety	Facilitates and coordinates international action to achieve the 2020 goal for chemicals management of the World Summit on Sustainable Development	Formulates guidance materials on chemical safety issues agreed by all nine participating organizations, focusing in particular on capacity-building materials in support of the Strategic Approach. Developing a toolbox for decision-making in the sound management of chemicals (comprising risk management tools)
9	United Nations Development Programme	Provides support for the integration of sound chemicals management into national development and poverty reduction strategies based on the Millennium Development Goals	Strengthening the role of environmental agencies and non-governmental stakeholders	Development of guidance materials on legal and other issues related to the sound management of chemicals
10	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	Stimulates economic progress and world trade	Risk management programme supports efforts to manage risks posed by chemicals and to harmonize risk assessment methods and management activities	Training and development of guidance materials on environmental risk management
11	International Labour Organization	Ensures decent working standards through recommendations and conventions on chemical safety	Establishment of international safety standards for working environments involving chemicals	Development of guidance materials on the safe management of some chemicals subject to the prior informed consent procedure (e.g., asbestos)
12	International Council of Chemical Associations	The chemical industry, through the International Council of Chemical Associations, is committed to the safe life-cycle management of chemicals	Aims to harmonize information-sharing and promote a tiered process for evaluating risk assessments and risk management for chemicals in trade	Major stakeholder in chemical safety issues and decision-making on chemicals subject to the prior informed consent procedure at the national level
13	Center for International Environmental Law - chemicals programme	Works to strengthen and use international law and institutions to protect the environment and promote human health	The chemicals programme is engaged in developing legal frameworks and promoting public participation in negotiations under the chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements	Promotes the development of integrated legislation that involves public-private partnerships
14	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	Administers the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction	Provides for international cooperation between parties in the pursuit of chemistry for peaceful purposes	Capacity-building activities and technology transfer enhance the implementation of obligations under the Convention

	<i>Partner organization</i>	<i>Role and objectives</i>	<i>Current initiatives</i>	<i>Linkage to the Rotterdam Convention</i>
15	International Pesticides Elimination Network	A global network of public-interest organizations that share a commitment to achieving a toxic-free future in which chemical production, use and disposal do not harm people or the environment	International projects build the capacity of non-governmental organizations, raise awareness of chemical issues, generate information about chemicals in the environment and communities and promote sound chemicals management regimes	Awareness-raising with regard to obligations under the Convention and training activities on monitoring and evaluation of chemicals
16	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal	Global treaty for the sound management of hazardous and other wastes	Guidelines developed for environmentally sound management of chemical wastes, e.g., persistent organic pollutant wastes and DDT.	Development of legal materials and guidelines that contribute to and enhance the implementation of the Convention

11. Industrial chemicals management covers a wide range of hazardous chemicals that do not fall within the purview of the Convention. To contribute to the effective management of industrial chemicals, therefore, the Convention should support and enhance the efforts of other lead organizations and institutions that have already taken steps to develop materials and establish projects and are currently providing technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to establish frameworks for the sound management of industrial chemicals.

II. Vision

12. The exchange of information between parties to the Convention is aimed at achieving the Convention objective of protecting human health and the environment from certain hazardous chemicals. If the objective of the Convention is to be achieved, parties must have the capacity to provide import responses and notifications of final regulatory action for chemicals listed under the Convention.

13. The vision of the strategic plan is therefore for the Convention to partner with other international institutions to create the means by which developing countries and countries with economies in transition can strengthen their capacity to manage industrial chemicals.

III. Goals

14. The strategy focuses on strengthening the capacity of parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to assess and manage risks, prepare and communicate import responses and take decisions on final regulatory action for hazardous industrial chemicals that are listed under the Convention in accordance with the prior informed consent procedure.

15. The aim of the strategy is to provide parties with the capacity to carry out hazard and risk assessments on specified chemicals and, based on the results of those assessments, decide on the risk management action to reduce the risk to human health and the environment. There are two specific goals to be attained as part of the overarching goal, which are described below.

A. **Goal 1: Contribution to the preparation of a toolbox that provides countries with information and a process for strengthening their capacity for industrial chemicals management**

1. **Focus**

16. Many initiatives exist to support countries in establishing frameworks for industrial chemicals management. They include the preparation of tools with which to carry out hazard assessments and risk assessments, to take risk management decisions on hazardous industrial chemicals and to provide information on the capacity required to do so. Many of these activities are not focused on the requirements of the Convention, and are instead concerned with industrial chemicals management more generally.

17. The strategic plan aims to promote structured collaboration with existing initiatives and to enable the Secretariat to work with other stakeholders to establish a toolbox that countries can use to evaluate their national situations and develop frameworks for the sound management of industrial chemicals. Measurable objectives, including strategies and corresponding roles and responsibilities to guide and evaluate progress towards this goal, are outlined below.

2. **Objectives**

18. Goal 1 of the strategic plan includes five objectives, which are outlined below:

(a) *National cohesion*: The aim is to introduce a process that each country can employ to establish a sustainable national committee for the management of industrial chemicals that will take, review and update decisions on roles, responsibilities and priorities with regard to establishing a national framework for the management of industrial chemicals;

(b) *Legislative and regulatory framework*: The aim is to establish a process to be used by each country to evaluate national legislative and regulatory measures and policies and to upgrade them with a view to enabling and supporting the taking of risk management decisions on the management of hazardous industrial chemicals. The adoption of appropriate national legal frameworks, including legislative and regulatory measures, should also enable and support the implementation of industrial chemicals management in practice;

(c) *National situation analysis*: The aim is to establish a process by which each country can collect data and prepare a national report describing its industrial chemicals management situation. The report would complement the updating or development of a national profile on chemicals management based on the methodology devised by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. The information provided in the national report could also contribute to the development of a national implementation plan;

(d) *Implementation plan*: The aim is to establish a process to be used by each country to prioritize and establish consensus on the issues within a national implementation plan with a view to achieving a sound framework for industrial chemicals management within the context of the national development of each country;

(e) *Compilation of existing tools and development of new or adapted tools*: The aim is to prepare a toolbox filled with the various tools created by collaborating international and, as appropriate, regional agencies, that countries could employ in a tiered approach to achieving and strengthening the management of industrial chemicals at the national level according to their needs and resources.

3. Strategies

19. The five objectives under goal 1 will be achieved through the five strategies described below:

(a) *Selecting pilot countries to gain experience*: This strategy involves selecting pilot countries to test the processes that will be included in the toolbox. A sound basis for testing can be achieved by selecting pilot countries from all United Nations regions with differing levels of development and capacity;

(b) *Accepting a designated institution within each pilot country to supervise the project*: This strategy involves establishing a lead agency in each country to make the arrangements for the pilot study. This can be achieved through discussions with and the involvement of the ministers and directors of the relevant ministries and agencies, linked through the efforts of the Convention official contact points and designated national authorities in the pilot country;

(c) *Contracting international experts to drive the activities in the pilot countries*: This strategy involves using consultants to support the work to be undertaken in each pilot country. This can be achieved by selecting experts who are internationally recognized in the subject of industrial chemicals management and have extensive experience working in a similar field in the region and in providing training in industrial chemicals management;

(d) *Establishing roles and responsibilities and determining priorities for an implementation plan through workshops*: This strategy involves holding meetings with all relevant stakeholders in each pilot country to reach consensus on the procedures to be followed and how those procedure and activities will be carried out. This can be achieved by:

- (i) Undertaking a pre-scoping mission to hold discussions with high-level personnel in the relevant ministries and agencies;
- (ii) Holding an initial workshop of stakeholders to establish roles and responsibilities, to gather data and to provide information about processes and tools for the development of a sound national industrial chemicals management system;
- (iii) Undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the national situation with regard to the management of industrial chemicals;
- (iv) Establishing a contract with a suitable expert (or group of experts) to carry out a legal study of the status of legislative and regulatory frameworks in the country;
- (v) Holding a second workshop to consider the national situation based on a national industrial chemicals management profile (to be prepared), as appropriate, and to develop a national plan for the management of industrial chemicals, including priorities, and the process to be followed for the implementation of that plan;

(e) *Collaborate with and build on related activities undertaken by international and, as appropriate, regional institutions*: This strategy involves cooperating and collaborating with all other international institutions making efforts to support countries in building capacity for the management of industrial chemicals. This can be achieved by:

- (i) Having representatives of such institutions participate in the pilot country workshops;

- (ii) Involving such institutions in the Secretariat's work;
- (iii) Using and building on the work of such institutions to support the Secretariat's activities;
- (iv) Working with such institutions to avoid duplication and overlap and to ensure that the objectives of the Convention are considered and served in their activities.

4. Relationship between objectives and strategies

20. The relationship between the objectives and the strategies is shown in table 2. To facilitate evaluation, measurable indicators for the objectives will be developed before the first phase of the implementation of the strategy.

Table 2

Relationship between the objectives and strategies for the preparation of a toolbox to strengthen national capacities for industrial chemicals management

Strategies	Objectives				
	National cohesion	Legal framework	National profile	Implementation plan	Toolbox
Selecting pilot countries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Accepting a lead agency to direct the pilot project	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contracting international experts to drive the activities		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Establishing roles and responsibilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Collaborating with partners			Yes	Yes	Yes

5. Roles and responsibilities

21. The objectives and strategies outlined above will be implemented through activities detailed in workplans carried out by the Secretariat, the pilot country, consultants and key supporting partners. Table 1 gives a summary of current initiatives by partners and their linkages with the Convention.

B. Goal 2: Increase in import responses and notifications of final regulatory action based on implementation of capacity-building and increased awareness of industrial chemicals

1. Focus

22. Many developing countries and countries with economies in transition have received some support aimed at improving the management of industrial chemicals but have not shown the expected results. It is critical that all countries establish activities and plans to increase capacity and establish the legal frameworks necessary for regulating industrial chemicals within the context of their national development. Equally, they must show the political will required to stimulate and sustain the efforts being made.

23. The focus of this goal is on providing incentives for countries to move forward and on introducing a programme that can provide the motivation – nationally, regionally and globally – to bring about sustainability in satisfying parties' obligations to transmit to the Secretariat import responses and notifications of final regulatory action. Measurable objectives, including strategies and corresponding roles and responsibilities to guide and evaluate progress towards this goal, are shown below.

2. Objectives

24. Three objectives are outlined below that promote increased awareness, stimulation and motivation to support the attainment of the goal above:

(a) *Capacity-level and country-specific guidance:* The aim is to allow each country to assess its state of development based on the national situation with regard to the management of industrial chemicals so as to establish its current capacity level and to enable and guide its further strengthening;

(b) *Donor support:* The purpose is to provide donors with groups of countries to which financial and technical support can be provided, with defined activities and established conditions for obtaining the desired results. The groups will include countries from the same regions that have similar levels of development so as to enhance information exchange and cooperation;

(c) *Increased awareness:* A global review of progress will be undertaken at a global forum using the toolbox and the regional groups. The forum will promote countries' efforts and raise awareness among officials and the public in general of the benefits of industrial chemicals management, while continuing to promote such management and to motivate countries to implement their national management plans.

3. Strategies

25. The objectives relating to the second goal will be achieved through the four strategies described below:

(a) *Establishing guidelines on building a national framework for sound industrial chemicals management tailored to a country's level of development:* This strategy involves working with international partners to define and introduce processes and parameters by which countries can assess their status with regard to the management of industrial chemicals. Using the economic development index devised by the World Bank based on the country analysis and also using the guidance for the national processes, each country will be able to gain access to the toolbox from a particular position of development to begin capacity-building and to establish a framework for sound industrial chemicals management tailored to its current level of development;

(b) *Grouping countries:* This strategy involves grouping the countries of each region according to their levels of development. Countries in the same groups will be encouraged to work together to increase their capacities and to emulate the achievements of the countries in other groups at similar levels. The aim is to generate interest and confidence on the part of the donor community so as to ensure sustainable financial support for the implementation of the national plans;

(c) *Global forum:* This strategy involves holding a global meeting of the groups of countries every two years to review the progress made and to make recommendations for further action. In addition to the countries, the meetings would be attended by all partners in the international community and provide a venue for donors to meet recipients and to gain insight into issues, assess past activities, consider success stories and renew or establish commitments. The increased awareness gained from the meeting would enhance political commitment and foster support from the public in general;

(d) *Internet promotion:* This strategy involves the use of selected internet sites to promote industrial chemicals management based on simple and effective messages and highlighting the chemicals covered by the Convention and the final regulatory actions applicable to them. Limited requests will be made to major internet sites globally to allow short messages intended to promote industrial chemicals management in the six official languages of the United Nations. This request will be jointly prepared with key international partners and donors to improve the strategy's image, credibility and value.

4. Relationship between objectives and strategies

26. The relationship between the objectives and the strategies under goal 2 is shown in table 3. To facilitate evaluation, measurable indicators for the objectives will be developed before the first phase of the implementation of the strategies.

Table 3

Relationship between the objectives and strategies for increasing import responses and notifications of final regulatory action based on implementation of capacity-building and increased awareness of industrial chemicals

Strategies	Objectives		
	Tiered structure	Donor support	Increased awareness
Establishing guidelines for the tiered structure	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grouping countries	Yes	Yes	Yes
Global meeting		Yes	Yes
Internet promotion	Yes	Yes	Yes

5. Roles and responsibilities

27. The Secretariat will play a pivotal role in the implementation and coordination of the strategies above. There are, however, other partners who will be critical to these strategies' success. Their relationship to the initiatives foreseen under the Convention are described in table 1.

IV. Concept, implementation and time frame

A. Definitions

28. For the purpose of the present strategic plan, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Pilot phase*: The initial phase, launched to gain experience of the process to be used by countries to establish frameworks for industrial chemicals management;

(b) *Implementation phase*: The phase in which all countries initiate the process for establishing frameworks for industrial chemicals management;

(c) *Toolbox*: The mix of tools to be used by countries to establish frameworks for industrial chemicals management. This consists of chemicals management tools such as hazard assessments, risk assessments and risk management, which will allow step-wise (tiered) implementation (basic, standard or sophisticated) adapted to a country's resources and needs, in addition to background information on sound industrial chemicals management systems and guidance on how to develop a country-specific industrial chemicals management system;

(d) *Capacity level*: The various levels at which countries will be classified based on their current industrial chemicals management analysis and needs and goals to establish the relevant framework for industrial chemicals.

B. Concept

29. The strengthening of the capacities of parties that are developing countries and countries with economies in transition to establish frameworks for industrial chemicals management is a multi-stakeholder process that will be implemented by the parties with support from the Secretariat in collaboration with key intergovernmental partners. The mechanism involves the following components:

(a) *Institutional and legal capacity*: Adequate resources in terms of available human resources and infrastructure are needed to lay a solid foundation on which to establish and implement a framework for industrial chemicals management. What constitutes adequate resources will depend on the need to develop the relevant national legal and institutional measures, infrastructure and other relevant supporting policies;

(b) *Hazard and risk assessment capacity*: Parties also need an adequate understanding of and access to relevant tools and knowledge to carry out, at the national level, scientific hazard and risk assessments on industrial chemicals that are consistent with international procedures, processes and standards;

(c) *Risk management capacity*: An appropriate political, legal, institutional, scientific, social and enforcement regime is also needed to enable countries to make informed decisions about whether to ban or severely restrict specific industrial chemicals.

30. The needs identified in the areas above will be satisfied so as to strengthen capacity to allow participating countries to manage industrial chemicals on three tiers. The three tiers are:

(a) *Import response – interim decision*: Parties are able to review and make an interim response on chemicals subject to the prior informed consent procedure. This is the basic level that all parties should strive to attain;

(b) *Import response – final decision*: Parties are able to provide a final import response on chemicals subject to the prior informed consent procedure as the legislative and institutional requirements are now in place;

(c) *Final regulatory action*: Parties are able to take final regulatory action for chemicals subject to the prior informed consent procedure as the legal, scientific, human and institutional requirements are now in place.

C. Implementation

31. Two phases are involved in the implementation of the strategy. The implementation of the first pilot phase will be led by the Secretariat in collaboration with key partners, including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. The intention is that all the tools to complete the toolbox will be prepared and tested in pilot countries to gain experience with the process to be used by countries to establish frameworks for industrial chemicals management and to test the guidance and processes that will be included in the toolbox. The toolbox will then be adapted on the basis of the pilot experiences.

32. The second implementation phase will involve the toolbox being made available to all parties for them to initiate the process adopted and to support the strengthening of their capacity to establish frameworks for sound industrial chemicals management. It will be systematically implemented within a tiered structure based on the groups of countries established at various stages of development. Information-sharing and collaboration will be encouraged between countries in the same tier and from the same region with the support of the collaborating international institutions and donors. A global review of the process will begin at the launch of this phase in 2013 and continue every two years thereafter (see figure III).

D. Evaluation

33. Evaluations will be conducted regularly through two main mechanisms. First, a survey of parties will be conducted to provide feedback on the level of implementation and effectiveness of the strategy and to give recommendations on how best to go forward. Second, the Secretariat will commission an independent evaluation of the implementation of the strategy. Performance indicators will be established by the Secretariat in collaboration with the independent reviewer to support this evaluation.

34. The results of these evaluations will be presented to the Conference of the Parties at each subsequent meeting following the fifth meeting.

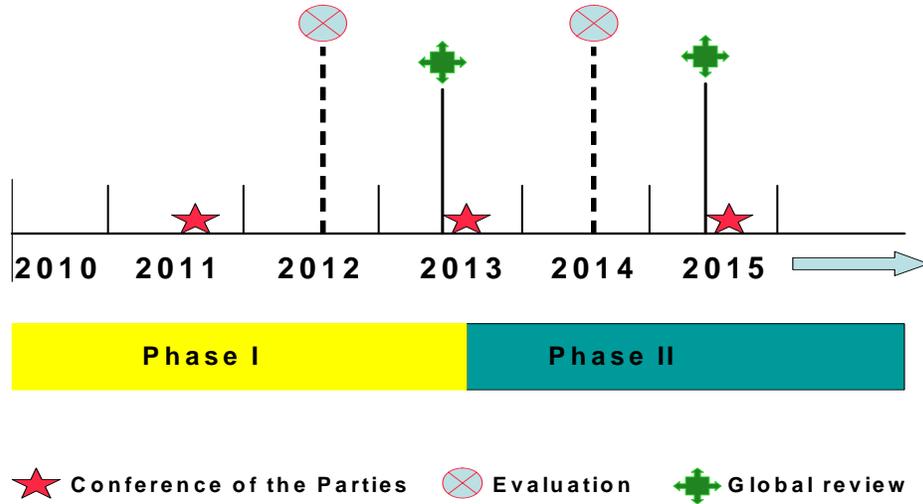
E. Funding

35. It is proposed that funding be established on a project-by-project basis through the voluntary budget of the Convention and independent support from collaborating organizations. The workplans developed by the Secretariat would cover only the activities being undertaken by the Secretariat but would be enhanced through cooperative and synergistic linkages with similar and relevant activities of other international and regional organizations.

F. Time frame

36. The schedule for the implementation of the first cycle of both phases is shown in figure III.

Figure III
Schedule for implementation of the industrial chemicals management strategy



37. The engagement of two countries in initial pilot projects to prepare national profiles and legal studies began in 2010 and will continue until 2013. The global review of the industrial chemicals management strategy in 2013 and every two years thereafter will take place at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.