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**Recommendations on hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products by participants in the GRULAC regional meeting on implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Kingston, Jamaica, 8 - 9 March 2010**

Participants in the GRULAC 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 inputs, products, or wastes containing harmful substances, or 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);<sup>1</sup>

Reaffirming Resolution II/4 D of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its Second Meeting in May 2009

*Reaffirming* with the African region of e-waste as an emerging policy issue and that the fate and sound management of chemicals during the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment and products constitute important elements of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM);

*Taking note* the MERCOSUR Policy Agreement on the Environmental Management of Universally Generated Special Residues and Post -Consumption Responsibility, agreed by the Ministers of Environment of Argentina, Brazil Paraguay and Uruguay in March 29, 2006, on the establishment of national measures for post-consumption responsibility of producers and importer and that its implementation will be guided by the principles of Prevention, Cooperation, Public Access and Participation, and the Precautionary Principle;<sup>2</sup>

Recognizing the project on e-waste undertaken by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America

*Recalling*, the Nairobi Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste, which called, inter alia for the promotion of clean technology and green design for e-products, including the phase-out of hazardous substances used in production and included in components and the promotion of product stewardship and extended producers responsibilities in the life-cycle management of electronic and electrical products;

*Noting* the on-going Secretariat of Basel Convention E-waste Africa project funded by the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom, Norway and NVMP, the Dutch Recyclers Organization;;

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<sup>1</sup> SAICM/RM/AP.1/3 Annex V

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

<sup>2</sup> Acuerdo sobre Política MERCOSUR de Gestión Ambiental de Residuos Especiales de Generación Universal y Responsabilidad Post Consumo del MERCOSUR, Anexo IV de la I Reunión Extraordinaria de Ministros de Medio Ambiente, 29 de marzo de 2006, Curitiba, Brasil. (MERCOSUR/REMMAM/ACTA No 01/06)

<http://aplicaciones.medioambiente.gov.ar/archivos/web/MERCOSUR/File/Acta%20RE.pdf>

<http://www.medioambiente.gov.ar/archivos/web/MERCOSUR/File/ANEXO%204%20POST%20CONSUMO.pdf>

*Noting with appreciation* Resolution II/4 D of ICCM2 for a workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

*Welcoming* the agreed 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, recycling and disposal, in particular in the context of the requirements of the Basel and Stockholm conventions;<sup>3</sup>

1. *Calls upon* the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions to continue arrangements to hold the workshop in accordance with Resolution II/4 D of ICCM2, as E-waste continues to be an important environmental problem in the region; and the Workshop should cover among other issues the design, and manufacture of electrical and electronic products; and the repair, refurbishment, and disposal of near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products and take into account the following issues:

- (a) green design and the eventual phase-out of, harmful substances contained in electrical and electronic products;
- (b) legislative and voluntary extended producer responsibility and free take-back programs in countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region, including provisions for employment generation and poverty alleviation in the informal sector;
- (c) transparency with respect to information on hazardous substances contained in electrical and electronic equipment and products in the workplace and communities around disposal sites; and the tracking through final disposal of wastes and second-hand products by recyclers and manufacturers;
- (d) use of internationally recognized Accreditation and Certification standards for Recycling that ensure compliance with the Basel Convention as well as provide measures for full protection of the environment and human health;
- (e) protection of workers and community health all throughout the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products from manufacture to recycling and disposal;
- (f) development and application of harmonized tariff codes, model legislation, and international recycling guidelines and standards to better identify and control near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products and wastes; and to improve cooperation and strengthen organizations working to better enforce the Basel Convention and other rules regarding the control of transboundary movement of such waste and products in cooperation with customs officials and others;
- (g) development of effective policy and regulatory framework to address contaminated sites; and to prevent open dumping and burning of electrical and electronic wastes;
- (h) effective ban on the transboundary movement and measures to address illegal traffic in E-waste from developed countries to countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region;

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<sup>3</sup> SAICM II/4 Emerging policy issues

- (i) further capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially least developed countries, for the environmentally sound management including recycling of near-end-of-life and end-of-life electrical and electronic products and wastes;
  - (j) capacity building to promote the safety of workers in the relevant sector through training workshops in repair, refurbishment, dismantling/disassembling, and recycling of electrical and electronic products including the identification of hazardous and toxic components in electrical and electronic equipment, including components that are recyclable;
  - (k) establishment of appropriate and relevant demonstration and pilot projects that advance the objectives of the workshop;
  - (l) intense awareness-raising activities and projects for all major stakeholders sectors including the general public, informal sector, politicians, civil society, industry and government;
  - (m) financial resource options, to provide assistance to countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region to implement targeted activities including cleanup of sites contaminated by ewaste.
2. *Request* the workshop to engage in multi-stakeholder consultations 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;
3. *Encourage* synergy with the SAICM chemicals in products emerging issue (CiP Project) especially in respect of information on chemicals and toxics within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products.
4. *Invite* Governments, public and private organizations as well as donors to provide financial and in-kind resources for the successful organization of the workshop, including financial support especially for the participation of stakeholders from countries of Latin America and the Caribbean region;
5. *Request* the IOMC organizations and secretariats of SAICM, Stockholm, and Basel conventions to assist with fundraising efforts for the workshop.
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