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Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

Participants in the GRULAC regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), convened in Kingston, Jamaica, from 8 to 9 March 2010,

Mindful of the overarching goal articulated in Paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;

Recognizing the potential benefits, new opportunities, as well as hazards, risks, and ethical and social issues posed by nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials;

Considering the special needs that Latin American and Caribbean countries and other developing countries and countries with economies in transition may have in coping with manufactured nanomaterials and wastes containing such materials;

Recalling the Dakar Statement on Manufactured Nanomaterials adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its sixth session, held in Dakar from 15 to 19 September 2008;

Further recalling resolution II/4 E on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials adopted by the International Conference on Chemical Management at its second session, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009,

1. *Recommend* that the report on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials referred to in resolution II/4 E of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, shall include developments and recommendations on:
 - (a) The critical role of the precautionary approach in addressing the issue of nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials throughout their life cycle;
 - (b) The need for the producers to provide appropriate information about the presence of manufactured nanomaterials and their potential risks prior to market introduction in order to inform consumers especially in developing countries about potential risks through product labelling and, as appropriate, websites and databases;
 - (c) The ethical and social risks and benefits of manufactured nanomaterials, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
 - (d) Elements of regulatory framework needed to achieve safe management of manufactured nanomaterials, including interim measures such as national codes of conduct leading to global codes of conduct;
 - (e) The consultation of workers and their representatives when developing occupational health and safety programs and measures in relation to manufactured nanomaterials;
 - (f) Mechanisms and best practices to ensure national capacity building in countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region for the disposal of nanomaterials and handling of waste containing manufactured nanomaterials in the context of current knowledge;
 - (g) The involvement of the health sector in decisions and policy-making on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.
2. *Recommends* that wastes containing nanomaterials are not transferred to countries that lack the capacity to adequately manage them.

3. Invite countries and organizations to establish partnerships, with consideration of financial support, to assist countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region to build consumer awareness and scientific, technical, legal, and regulatory policy expertise related to the risks of manufactured nanomaterials.
4. Also *Recommend* that the report on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials to be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session includes both differing and consensual points of view.
5. *Encourage* the formation of a multi-stakeholder working group with representation from all United Nations regions to develop the report to be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session.
6. Calls on the Regional UNEP office, in cooperation with the OPS/WHO regional office for the Americas to organize a workshop to assess the current status of development of nanotechnology in the region, including in terms of research and manufacturing and use, as well as to exchange information on the current state of the science in relation to health and environmental risks, taking into consideration and in coordination with related activities.

ADVANCE