

Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

Introduction

Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (GC10.SACEP) was held in Kathmandu Nepal on 25th of January 2007.

Attendance

The meeting of the GC10.SACEP was attended by Environment Ministers from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan and the Senior Officers from the eight member countries of SACEP viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Representatives from Asian Development Bank (ADB), Centre for Environmental Education (CEE) India, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) United State Embassy in Kathmandu and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) attended the meeting as observers.

Decision 9.2.4: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

The Governing Council of SACEP

Recalling Paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development on 4 September 2002, and paragraph 56 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 2005, in which the development of a strategic approach to chemical management was endorsed by heads of State and Government,

Welcoming the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), consisting of the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action, as adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 6 February 2006,

Acknowledging the establishment of a “Quick Start Programme” to support initial enabling capacity building and implementation activities for the Strategic Approach in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition,

Recalling decision 23/9, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on 25 February 2005, at its twenty-third session, held in Nairobi, Kenya, which requested the Executive Director, as a matter of high priority, to make appropriate provision for fulfillment of the organization’s responsibilities under the Strategic Approach and to make provision for activities to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the Strategic Approach, taking into account the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building,

1. *Endorses* the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as contained in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action;
2. *Urges* member countries to participate in national, sub-regional, regional and international efforts to implement the Strategic Approach;
3. *Encourages* the exploration of possible sub-regional approaches to the implementation of the Strategic Approach, holding of sub-regional consultations and the further development of a sub-regional action plan for South Asia;
4. *Urges* the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the United Nations Development Programme, FAO, the World Bank and the other bilateral and multi-lateral donor agencies to give priority to the needs of South Asian countries, when developing activities to support implementation of the Strategic Approach within the work programmes and mandates of those organizations;
5. *Requests* the Director General to incorporate the implementation of Strategic Approach into SACEP's work programme.