

# US Government Perspective on The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

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# SAICM OVERVIEW

- SAICM is a landmark agreement on international chemicals cooperation
  - Multi-stakeholder process
  - Multi- sector involvement (agriculture, health, environment, labor...)
  - Non-binding mechanism
- Tool to work towards the Johannesburg 2002 goals on chemicals
  - *“...that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment...”*
- Voluntary forum
  - Free exchange of views
  - Facilitates international discussion on chemicals

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT (ICCM) OVERVIEW

- First session of ICCM (ICCM1) held in Dubai in 2006
  - Attended by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations
  - Work during this session lead to the finalization and adoption of SAICM
  - Focus of ICCM1 was negotiating foundational texts
- Second session of ICCM (ICCM2)
  - Geneva, May 11-15, 2009
  - Wide attendance from many sectors, economies anticipated
  - Industry will participate as well
  - Focus will be on implementation of SAICM and activities

# ICCM2 OUTLOOK

- Finish left-over issues from ICCM1
  - Rules of procedure, define functions of the bureau, etc.
  - Reporting
- Engage senior decision makers on chemicals
  - Ministerial roundtables, financing, etc.
- Discuss pertinent issues
  - Side events on chemicals issues, full day discussion on “emerging policy issues”, etc.

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## Possible Priorities for ICCM2

- Establish rules of procedure
- Enhanced regional networks
- Financial support for chemicals management
- Promote USG side events
  - Regional approaches to SAICM implementation, mercury partnerships, Managing PFCs

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## Possible Priorities for ICCM2; Cont.

- Exchange views on emerging issues
  - Nanotechnology
  - Global phaseout of lead in paint
  - E-Waste
  - Chemicals in products

# Beyond ICCM2

- Expect an increase in interest in chemicals management
- Prepare for upcoming events:
  - Next CSD cycle in 2010-2011 likely to focus on chemicals
  - ICCM3 in 2013

# MORE INFORMATION

- Information on SAICM text, contributions, focal points, and upcoming meetings available on line at:

<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/>