

## **Final Resolution [xx]: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)**

Participants in the 4<sup>th</sup> Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, convened in Mexico City, Mexico, from 19 to 22 August 2013;

*Recognizing* the potential adverse effects of endocrine disruptors on human health and the environment and the need to protect humans, and ecosystems and their constituent parts that are especially vulnerable, as set forth in, inter alia, paragraph 14 (b) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach;

*Recognizing also* the special vulnerability of children during critical periods of development to endocrine disrupting chemicals, and the scarcity of information on which endocrine disrupting chemicals are found in human and wildlife tissues in the Latin American and Caribbean region;

*Considering* the special needs that the Latin American and Caribbean region may increasingly have in coping with endocrine disrupting chemicals throughout their complete lifecycle and the costs of inaction;

*Noting* the concerns of chemical exposures due to agriculture, the need for information on endocrine disrupting pesticides, and the large number of agricultural workers in the Latin American and Caribbean region;

*Further recalling* resolution III/2 F on endocrine disrupting chemicals adopted by the International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM) at its third session;

*Welcoming* the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and World Health Organization's (WHO's) report, *State of the Science on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012*;

*Welcoming* the workshop on EDCs organized by the SAICM secretariat in cooperation with UNEP, WHO, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and its key objective of awareness-raising and information sharing for Latin American and Caribbean countries on issues related to endocrine disrupting chemicals;

1. *Invite* UNEP and WHO to develop a report on EDCs with regional input that is targeted to the situation and needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition including the Latin American and Caribbean region and which includes the following elements, subject to available resources:
  - (a) Identification of priority EDCs and sources of exposure for Latin American and Caribbean countries including, *inter alia*, products, food and water, wastes, and pesticides;
  - (b) Survey of bio-monitoring and other available information regarding current levels of exposure to EDCs and information gaps;
  - (c) Available sources of data on substances with endocrine disrupting properties, and challenges faced by all stakeholders with respect to accessing and using available data;
  - (d) Existing legislation and policies by governments and entities engaged in development finance, as well as gaps in measures, to protect human health and the environment from EDCs, especially workers, women, and children;

- (e) Stakeholder needs on information regarding EDCs in products throughout their life-cycle including research carried out in the Chemicals in Products Project under the Strategic Approach;
  - (f) Examples of best practices in reducing the use of EDCs, including safer substitution, non-chemical alternatives and risk-management, if any; and
  - (g) Capacity needs for reducing the risks of EDCs.
2. *Encourage* the formation of a multi-stakeholder working group with representation from all United Nations regions to develop the above report to be considered by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session.
3. *Recommend* a robust series of awareness-raising activities on EDCs, as referred to in resolution III/2 F, of ICCM3 take place in the Latin American and Caribbean region in regional languages, which include the following elements, subject to available resources:
- (a) Dissemination of existing lists of EDCs including pesticides and substances with endocrine disrupting properties already listed in the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;
  - (b) Information on uses and health effects of EDCs and, if available, examples of corresponding lists of safer alternatives for these uses, including non-chemical alternatives;
  - (c) Information on environmental contamination and human body burden of EDCs in the Latin American and Caribbean region;
  - (d) A tool-kit of resources and guidelines for national assessment of production, import and export, use, and disposal of EDCs, including private sector obligations, with particular attention to the use and disposal phase; and
  - (e) Collecting the above and other relevant information on EDCs in the Latin American and Caribbean region in an on-line clearinghouse.
4. *Recommend* the case-studies referred to in resolution III/2 F of ICCM3 include five topics; pesticides and the four topics of focus under the Chemicals in Products Project (textiles, children's products, building products, and electrical and electronic products) and that the case studies be available for consideration at the fourth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and include the following elements, subject to available resources:
- (a) Identification of EDCs implicated by each topic, and the health effects to which these EDCs are linked;
  - (b) Exposure of women and children to EDCs under each topic;
  - (c) Gaps in existing legislation, policies, guidelines and practices that prevent adequate regulation of, and reduced exposure to EDCs; and
  - (d) Best practices in substitution of EDCs and needs assessment for substitution and regulation.
5. *Encourage* all stakeholders to provide all available data using the Strategic Approach clearinghouse on the endocrine disrupting properties of all substances in commerce, including mixtures of substances, and to enable access to this data by stakeholders in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, while respecting confidential business information.
6. *Invite* governments in a position to do so to provide financial resources for activities on EDCs.