

## The Responsible Care Global Charter and Global Product Strategy in the Context of the UN Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

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### Situation / Trends

- ➡ Science is evolving in ever-lower detection threshold
  - ↻ Fear of low-dose health effects
  - ↻ Biomonitoring triggers regulations
- ➡ National laws, regulations and international treaties are becoming more severe in their treatment of chemicals
  - ↻ UN is negotiating a multi-year strategy on chemical management
- ➡ Activist groups continue their tactics of public campaigns
  - ↻ impose greater control on chemicals
  - ↻ phase-out of chemicals of concern => precautionary principle
- ➡ Market reactions
  - ↻ product de-selection

## **Governments and NGOs concern**

- ❖ lack of data / information on marketed chemicals
- ❖ lack of knowledge regarding the risks connected with the respective use of chemicals
- ❖ lack of knowledge regarding the use of chemicals across the value chain
- ❖ insufficient management measures in place
- ❖ reluctance of industry to substitute dangerous chemicals and to act accordingly based on the precautionary principle
- ❖ information on chemical risks are not public
- ❖ use of “dirty technologies” in developing countries

## **UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum Cartagena, 12-15 February 2002 decides**

- ➔ That there is a need to further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management and endorses the IFCS Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action Beyond 2000 as the foundation of this approach
- ➔ Request the Executive Director, together with IFCS and IOMC, to convene an open-ended consultative meeting involving representatives of all stakeholder groups, ....., to contribute to the further development, ....., of a strategic approach to international chemicals management

## WSSD Johannesburg, 26 Aug. - 4 Sept. 2002 Action Plan

### **Further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management**

based on the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)

**by 2005**

and urge that UNEP, IFCS, other international organisations dealing with chemicals management, and other relevant international organisations and actors closely co-operate in this regard, as appropriate.

## WSSD Johannesburg, 26 Aug. - 4 Sept. 2002 Action Plan - Agreement on Chemicals -

23. Renew the commitment, as advanced in Agenda 21, to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development and for the protection of human health and the environment, inter alia, **aiming 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 using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures as well as science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**, and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance.

## Opportunities – Industry’s view

- ❖ Rational, risk-based regulatory policies and programs
- ❖ Greater consistency in national regulatory requirements
- ❖ Cooperative partnerships of public and private sectors
- ❖ Improvement in capabilities for handling chemicals safely (capacity building)

## What was at stake? Industry’s view

Threat of

- ❖ Revised precautionary principle (cuts science and risk analysis out of the regulatory process)
- ❖ Growing inconsistency in national regulatory requirements
- ❖ Extreme governmental actions – bans and phaseouts
- ❖ Continued deficiencies in capabilities for handling chemicals safely

## Outcome of the SAICM process 2006

### *Dubai Declaration*

#### **High Level Declaration**

Political commitment of government and stakeholder (including private sector)

#### **Overarching Policy Strategy**

Key long-term strategic elements and principles to achieve the Johannesburg goal 2020

#### **Global Plan of Action**

Working tool and guidance document for national governments to set priorities in chemicals management

## SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS)

### **Main Elements**

- ❖ Risk Reduction
- ❖ Knowledge and Information
- ❖ Governance
- ❖ Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation
- ❖ Financial Considerations
- ❖ Implementation and Taking Stock of Progress

## SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS)

### Key Principles

- ❖ sound science risk based decision making
- ❖ precautionary approach based on Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration (UN-CED, 1992) (risk based)
- ❖ socio-economic aspects in risk management
- ❖ substitution – if risk cannot be managed
- ❖ recognition of voluntary industry programs
- ❖ call for partnership approach with industry
- ❖ chemical safety across the value chain

## ICCA's contribution to the implementation of SAICM

- ❖ The Responsible Care Global Charter (RG-GC)
- ❖ The Global Product Strategy (GPS)

Approval by the ICCA Board of Directors                      1 October 2005

Public Launch at the UN International  
Conference on Chemicals Management                      5 February 2006

## Key messages at the ICCA side-event Dubai 5 February 2006

- ... bring our industry up to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and make it ready to meet public expectations
- GPS and the Charter are consistent with SAICM and are built upon the chemical industry's long standing record of improving product stewardship
- ... do more and better for chemical safety throughout the supply chain
- ... learn from scientific progress as well as from public perception to up date our Knowledge and adopt our practice
- ... manage information flows to ensure chemical safety and organise public access to information to build confidence in chemicals and chemistry

## RC – Global Charter

### 5 Enhance the Management of Chemical Products Worldwide – Product Stewardship

- ❖ The ICCA will establish a strengthened global programme to evaluate and manage chemical related risks and benefits by developing a unified product stewardship management system approach
- ❖ Work in partnership with upstream suppliers and downstream users to collaborate on improved processes for the safe and effective use of chemicals (value chain approach)

## RC – Global Charter

### 6 Champion and Facilitate the extension of RC along the Chemical Industry's Value Chain

- ❖ ... commit to increase dialogue and transparency with their business partners and other stakeholders and to expand knowledge and understanding of the management of chemicals
- ❖ ... work in partnership with governments, multi-lateral and non-governmental organisations ...

## The 4 pillars of GPS

1. Industry commitment
2. Concrete actions across the product chain
3. Governance structure and performance indicators
4. Advocacy/communication process



## 9 Key elements of the strategy

- ❖ Global Product Stewardship Guidelines
- ❖ Management system approach
- ❖ Tiered Process – Risk Characterization/Management
- ❖ Information Flow across the Product Chain
- ❖ Cooperation with Inter-Governmental Organizations
- ❖ Public Access to Information
- ❖ Implementation of the ICCA Research Strategy
- ❖ Communication Externally/Internally
- ❖ Strengthen Convergence of Regulatory Approaches

## Global Industry Commitments

### Summary

- ❖ Accelerate implementation of the ICCA Global Chemicals Management Policy
  - Gather available scientific data
  - Characterize chemical risks in a tiered approach
    - take appropriate risk management action
- ❖ Share appropriate health and safety related information appropriately
- ❖ Cooperate with governments and other stakeholders in a partnership approach
  - Emerging issues from sound science
- ❖ Invite Intergovernmental Organisations to enhance their partnerships with the chemical industry and promote product stewardship

## RC-GC / GPS / SAICM



Continuous improvement of chemical safety  
globally

<b>S</b> trategic <b>A</b> pproach to <b>I</b> nternational <b>C</b> hemicals <b>M</b> anagement (SAICM)  2006	<b>G</b> lobal <b>P</b> roduct <b>S</b> trategy (GPS)  2005	<b>R</b> esponsible <b>C</b> are <b>G</b> lobal <b>C</b> harter (RC-GC)  2005
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„... to achieve by the year 2020 that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimisation of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment

## Responsible Care Global Charter and Global Product Strategy as contribution to the SAICM (OPS) implementation



### Risk Reduction

#### *RC-GC*

- ❖ Utilize clean and safe technology
- ❖ partnership across the value chain
- ❖ minimise waste
- ❖ assess product stewardship practices

#### *GPS*

- ❖ complete risk characterisations and risk management recommendations for chemicals in commerce
- ❖ global product stewardship guidelines
- ❖ management system approach for implementation

## RC-GC, GPS and OPS (continue)

### Knowledge / Information

#### *RC-GC*

- ❖ continuously improve EHS Knowledge and performance of technologies, processes and products
- ❖ help/assistance across the value chain
- ❖ share best practices through information network
- ❖ increase dialogue and partnership
- ❖ RC across the value chain

#### *GPS*

- ❖ periodically re-assessment of chemicals risk – new and additional information
- ❖ participate in scientific inquiry – EHS related research
- ❖ improve flow of hazard and safety information across the value chain
- ❖ public access to product stewardship information

## RC-GC, GPS and OPS (continue)

### Capacity Building / Technical Co-operation

#### *RC-GC*

- ❖ help/advice to foster the responsible management of chemicals and products across the value chain
- ❖ support national/international capacity building initiatives
- ❖ assess stakeholder expectations
- ❖ sharing/adopting best practices to improve HSE performance
- ❖ facilitate the extension of RC along the value chain

#### *GPS*

- ❖ partnership with IGO's and other stakeholder to improve chemical safety down-stream and a global level