

Renewing and rethinking the global approach for the sound management of chemicals through SAICM

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The ways in which we use chemicals can make the difference between environmental degradation and rich resources, between health and illness, between a thriving economy and one that is threatened by occupational exposure to chemicals and associated costs of disease. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) provides a multi-sectoral framework for governments, NGOs, the private sector, intergovernmental organizations and academia to work together to protect human health and the environment from harmful effects of chemicals across the lifecycle of chemicals. The future of sustainable development – with an emphasis on equity, healthy livelihoods and well-functioning ecosystems and natural resources—is inseparable from the sound management of chemicals. The SAICM overall objective runs until 2020, presenting an opportunity to renew and rethink the global approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste.