

Addressing illegal trade and traffic of industrial chemicals, pesticides and waste for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

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SAICM Strategic Objectives

1. Risk reduction
2. Knowledge and Information
3. Governance
4. Capacity-building and technical cooperation
- 5. Illegal international traffic**

Dubai Declaration (2006)

Paragraph 25

“We will endeavour to prevent illegal traffic in toxic, hazardous, banned and severely restricted chemicals and chemical products and wastes;”

Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS)

The objectives of the Strategic Approach with regard to governance are...

- f. To promote close international cooperation among concerned institutions, including among customs services, in different countries for the exchange of relevant information aimed at preventing all illegal international traffic in dangerous chemical products;”
- i. To ensure that national institutional frameworks address the prevention of illegal international traffic in chemicals;

Objective E. Illegal international traffic (OPS)

The objectives of the Strategic Approach with regard to illegal international traffic are:

- a. To prevent illegal international traffic in toxic, hazardous, banned and severely restricted chemicals, including products incorporating these chemicals, mixtures and compounds and wastes;
- b. To strengthen mechanisms and domestic and regional implementation supporting existing multilateral agreements that contain provisions relating to the prevention of illegal international traffic;
- c. To promote information sharing and to strengthen the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition at the national and regional levels for the prevention and control of illegal international traffic.

Global Plan of Action - Objective 5. Addressing illegal traffic

(Activity 263 – 271)

- Promote dissemination and use of customs risk profiles and material safety sheets as official means of identifying probable cases of illegal traffic.
- Address the matter of resources and operational mechanisms for technical and financial assistance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition
- Assess the extent and impact of illegal traffic at the international, regional, subregional, and national levels
- Expand the level of coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders
- Address how international conventions related to the sound management of chemicals and national laws may be more effectively applied to the transboundary movement of toxic and hazardous chemicals
- Promote efforts to prevent illegal international trafficking of toxic and hazardous chemicals and to prevent damage resulting from their transboundary movement and disposal.
- Promote the adoption by intergovernmental organizations of decisions on the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and hazardous products
- Train customs, agricultural and health officials to detect illegal toxic hazardous chemicals
- Create a global information network, including early warning systems, across international borders, especially at the regional level

Independent evaluation (2006 – 2015) - Results

- Limited progress made in realizing the objective across regions, illegal traffic remains a serious threat to developing countries
- Progress to achieving this objective least successful
- Some countries took steps to share information with developing countries
- Some developing countries developed training for customs officers

Independent evaluation (2006 – 2015) - Activities

- Capacity building and training for customs officers and magistrates
- Inclusion of actors responsible for the control of illicit traffic in meetings of the management of chemicals and waste
- Surveys identifying illegal products at the community level

- AP region: Enforcement network of Ozone and Customs Officers in South Asia and South East Asia and the Pacific since 2002
 - improved coordination of national customs with national Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) units
 - customs giving environmental issues a higher priority
 - increased bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation among countries in curbing illegal ODS trade
 - greater control of ODS trade through increased efficiency and effectiveness of customs agencies

Independent evaluation (2006 – 2015)

Identified gaps:

- lack of verification and information of imported or exported chemicals, products and waste;
- lack of ability to regulate illegal traffic
- lack of enforcement of anti-corruption laws
- Absence of regional instruments for customs intercommunication
- Limited exchange of experiences



THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN CHEMICALS

UNEP Study: Illegal trade in chemicals

- Focus: Mercury and HHPs
- <https://www.unep.org/resources/assessment/illegal-trade-chemicals>
- Overview of the knowledge gap and enforcement challenges in the illegal trade of toxic, hazardous and severely restricted chemicals, as well as in non-existing or low areas of chemical regulations.
- Prepared by UNEP and GRID-Arendal in partnership with IPEN, CIEL, INTERPOL, SAICM, Container Control Programme, and Hej!Support.

challenges include:

- enforcement and implementation,
- inconsistencies among domestic regulations,
- abundance of complex exemptions allowed under multilateral agreements,
- the gaps in the Conventions' coverage to prevent the trade in many harmful chemicals,
- open borders between some countries,
- low awareness and capacity of custom authorities to identify illegal chemical trade.

SAICM – Strategic Objectives beyond 2020 (draft)

A. Prevent or minimize harm

B. Knowledge, data and information generation and availability

C. Issues of concern identified, prioritized, addressed

D. Risk prevention, safer alternatives, innovation, sustainable solutions

E. Sustainable financing and mobilization of non-financial resources,
partnerships, cooperation

Proposed target for SAICM beyond 2020

Strategic Objective A:

[Measures are identified, implemented and enforced in order to prevent or, where not feasible, minimize harm from chemicals throughout their life cycle [and waste];]

NEW Target Axx—By 20xx, illegal international trade and traffic of toxic, hazardous, banned and severely restricted chemicals and of waste is effectively prevented.*

*The Virtual Working Group on Targets, indicators and milestones expressed support for further discussion on this new target.

Food for thought / way forward

- ❖ SAICM as an interesting space in addition to legally binding instruments
- ❖ Engaging multiple stakeholder groups can be interesting
- ❖ Combatting illegal traffic as a joint, collaborative effort
- ❖ SAICM beyond 2020 – Let's talk about trade!