Executive Summary:

In the first SAICM intersessional meeting in Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017, a science-policy interface has been proposed again as an important element for the realization of sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

In this regard, the IPCP (International Panel on Chemical Pollution), with its comprehensive knowledge and expertise on chemical science and policy issues, a profound understanding and extensive experience on science-policy interface work on international, regional, and national levels, and a mission very much in line with the post-2020 chemical and waste management agenda, would be a suitable candidate or, at least, an established and credible starting point for such a role, while providing the opportunity to minimize the concern over duplicated effort and resources. The way IPCP has been working is also consistent with the preferred model suggested in the report from Nordic Council of Ministers. Therefore the analysis and proposition of IPCP could be an important contribution that UK makes to this crucial ‘beyond-2020’ discussion.

Background:

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), through Conference resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process to provide recommendations on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The first meeting of the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste was held in Brasilia, Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017.

The science-policy interface has been proposed again as an important element for the realization of sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. In the co-chairs’ summary the advised action points on science-policy interface includes:

- Explore how to strengthen the link between science and policy in global chemicals governance.
- Consideration of the social interface.
- Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy making and action, including existing mechanisms, in other clusters, such as climate change and biodiversity.

This document provides an initial analysis of the potential to build the science-policy interface for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 based on the work and
Science-policy interface for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020:

The importance of scientific information in sound chemical management has been emphasized in the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) of SAICM, on risk reduction, knowledge and information, as well as capacity building and technical cooperation. The role of science in SAICM and beyond-2020 agenda-setting is perhaps of most relevance in relation to emerging policy issues, the nominations of which, along with any subsequently adopted resolutions, must be based on sound science, showing the link between chemical exposures and effects on human health and the environment.

Abundant experience has been gained under other international mechanisms to demonstrate the importance and value of a credible and transparent scientific panel or advisory group in guiding timely and informed decision-making through provision of scientific expertise and advice, e.g. IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) for UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, POPRC (POPs Review Committee) of the Stockholm Convention, CRC (the Chemical Review Committee) under the Rotterdam Convention, the Scientific Groups of the London Convention/London Protocol on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Mater, and GESAMP (Join Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection) for different UN systems.

Although precise models and mandates vary among those science panels, the core principles are similar in each case, including an ability for such bodies to work independently of vested interests to provide high-quality scientific advice and reports on both established and emerging issues of relevance to those instruments, drawing upon other expertise as required. In the case of chemicals management, such an interface could, for example, consider evidence relating to substances and groups of substances under regulation or of emerging concern in a transparent way, and could suggest concrete and focused action if mandated, with a credibility and, therefore, authority of which is internationally accepted. This model was preferred in the “Chemicals and Waste Governance Beyond 2020” report by Nordic Council of Ministers, which was presented to the Brazil meeting.

In the same report, it was suggested that ways should be sought to utilize more effectively the existing scientific panels that focus on chemicals and waste, in order to avoid duplication and extra costs.

Taking all of these into consideration, IPCP could serve as a strong candidate or, at least, an established and credible starting point to fill this gap, which has also been mentioned in the Nordic Council report.

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**IPCP (International Panel on Chemical Pollution):**

*IPCP* is a non-profit association established under Swiss law in 2008. With an increasing awareness of the chemical cocktail humans and the environment are exposed to, and inspired partly by IPCC, the IPCP aims to provide leadership in identifying priority topics of concern, to bridge the gap between science, policy and the public, and therefore to provide policymakers with credible scientific basis to aid decision-making on chemical issues. The IPCP members are independent academic scientists from across the globe and from many scientific fields, which differs from most discipline-based scientific organizations that derive their membership from multiple sectors such as academia, business and government. As such, the IPCP strives to preserve its independence from other sectors and its scientific credibility. The core goal of IPCP of providing independent scientific input and helping to bridge the science-policy gap is fully in line with the needs of SAICM in developing a post-2020 framework.

For these reasons, the IPCP has been closely involved in the SAICM process in the past.

- **On policy:** IPCP has extensive experience from projects under SAICM and the Stockholm Convention. It has been deeply involved in the 3 science areas in SAICM OPS identified above (details in Annex 1). It has provided detailed analysis of issues connected with substances and groups of substances under regulation or as emerging concern, e.g. PFCs (Per- and poly-fluorinated compounds) and EDCs (Endocrine Disruptive Chemicals), as well as suggesting concrete and focused action for the work of UNEP, OECD and other organizations. Such a role is consistent with the preferred model suggested in the Nordic Council report.
- **Funding:** The work of the IPCP is mainly project-funded; funding mainly comes from the OECD, UN Environment, and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment.
- **On Science:** IPCP has chosen to work independently with other scientific organizations such as SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) in order to maintain its position as an organization of independent academic scientists. A list of IPCP publications can be found in Annex 2.

(For the details of the individual projects or publications, please contact IPCP directly at info@ipcp.ch)

Therefore, in our view, given its broad knowledge and expertise on chemical issues, its deep understanding and extensive experience on science-policy interface work on international, regional, and national levels, and the fact that its mission is very much in line with SAICM and the post-2020 chemical management agenda, IPCP already provides a strong basis upon which to build a science-policy interface or standing scientific advisory body to guide the future work post-2020. Building on IPCP, rather than starting from scratch, will minimize the funding and other resources required in order to establish such capacity. Further discussion of synergies among this new interface with existing ones under different international chemical mechanisms might be useful to further streamline the resources and outputs, by e.g. possibly integrate existing ones with SAICM/post-2020-framework or help the existing ones operate in liaison with SAICM/post-2020-framework.

The analysis and proposition of IPCP could be an important contribution that UK makes to this crucial ‘beyond-2020’ discussion.
Annex 1. IPCP activities under SAICM, Stockholm Convention and other matters, on technical work, science-policy communication and capacity building

(A clearer version with hyperlinks to those work is available in the second attachment of this email.)

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<th>International Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP)</th>
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### Technical Work

- **2016-2017:** Observer and on-site technical support for the Swiss delegate at the meetings of POPRC and LGT.
- **2013-2015:** Drafted two papers on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (oecd/nfr/oecd/nfoq), commissioned by OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group.
- **2015-2016:** Commissioned by UN Environment to provide technical assistance in implementing and developing its GEF-funded projects related to “Chemicals in Products.”
- **2016-2017:** Developing three overview reports on the scientific knowledge and regulatory frameworks of endocrine disrupting chemicals, commissioned by UN Environment.

### Capacity Building

- **2010-2012:** Commissioned by UN Environment to provide technical assistance in implementing its GEF-funded projects “Passive Air Sampling under the Global Monitoring Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants 2010-2011” in 20 developing and transition countries, incl. capacity building (http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.trac.2012.05.0)
- **2010-2014:** QSP Project in Armenia, Chile and Ghana “Training on risk assessment of chemicals at national level in a global context”

### Science-Policy Communication

- **2009:** side event at COP 6 “Challenges for POPs monitoring: How can we use international synergies to support the effectiveness evaluation under the Stockholm Convention?”
- **2015:** side event at ICCM 4 “Transfer of knowledge from science to policy”

| the Stockholm Convention | SAICM | Other matters |
Annex 2. IPCP publications


2016–2017: Developing three overview reports on the scientific knowledge and regulatory frameworks of endocrine disrupting chemicals, commissioned by UN Environment.

2016–2017: Observer and provider of on-site technical support for the Swiss delegate at the meetings of the POPRC and the COP of the Stockholm Convention.

2015–2016: Commissioned by UN Environment to provide technical assistance in implementing and developing its GEF-funded projects related to “Chemicals in Products”


2015: Side event at ICCM 4 on “Transfer of knowledge from science to policy”

2013–2015: Drafted two publications on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (oe.cd/1FR; oe.cd/1FQ), commissioned by OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group

2013: Side event at COP5 of the Stockholm Convention on “Challenges for POPs monitoring – How can we use international synergies to support the effectiveness evaluation under the Stockholm Convention?”

2012: International expert workshop on “Planetary Boundaries for Chemical Pollution” with publication in 2015 (http://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2015.02.001)

2010–2014: IPCP was the executing agency of a SAICM QSP project (multi-country) in collaboration with the governments of Armenia, Chile and Ghana; the title of the project is “Training on risk assessment of chemicals at national level in a global context”.

2010–2012: Commissioned by UN Environment to provide technical assistance in implementing its GEF-funded project “Passive Air Sampling under the Global Monitoring Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants 2010-2011” in 20 developing and transition countries, incl. capacity building (http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/ j.trac.2012.05.0 11)