Informal Dialogues

This programme provides information about the four dialogue sessions, including Panellist and content.

Context and Setting for the Informal Dialogues

Our world is in rapid transformation with regard to all three dimensions of sustainable development. Society, economics and the environment will evolve compared to today as we move towards 2050. We will see a growing and diversified demand for food, water and energy. Peace, stability, human rights and effective governance are critical elements in the world of tomorrow. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an important framework for collaboration. Chemistry will be part of the solutions but there will also be new challenges. The sound management of chemicals and waste is a critical element of almost all of the sustainable development goals.

The informal dialogues will provide a platform for participants to discuss and exchange views and perspectives on key issues for the future sound management of chemicals and waste as a contribution to sustainable development. The dialogues will include short presentations to stimulate discussion between the panellists and the audience. The audience is invited to contribute actively to the discussions. The moderators will encourage active participation and creative thinking and welcome constructive ideas. The outcome of the dialogues will be reported back to Plenary by a dedicated rapporteur.

Two parallel informal dialogues on **Tuesday 7 February 2017** will explore the role of SAICM using strategic foresight. The dialogues will complement and feed into the plenary discussions on Vision and Scope and on the Linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Informal Dialogue 1: Looking ahead – SAICM and sound management of chemicals and waste in the light of future developments**

**Informal Dialogue 2 : Challenges and opportunities for sustainable chemistry to contribute to sustainable development**

Two parallel informal dialogues on **Wednesday 8 February 2017** will explore how SAICM’s multistakeholder dimension can promote partnerships for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and meet the challenges of future emerging issues. The dialogues will feed into the plenary discussions on linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and urgent and emerging issues.

**Informal Dialogue 3: Engaging partners to deliver the vision beyond 2020**

**Informal Dialogue 4: Responding to a changing world: Addressing urgent and emerging issues**
Informal Dialogue 1: Looking ahead – SAICM and sound management of chemicals and waste in the light of future developments

Context:
Among the global shifts, or megatrends, which are changing our world and will impact future chemicals and waste management are rapid urbanization, climate change and resource scarcity as well as demographic and social changes. Technological breakthroughs, including in chemistry and waste management, will also contribute to both solutions and challenges.

Discussion:
Participants in the informal dialogue will consider the role of SAICM and sound management of chemicals and waste in light of megatrends and technological developments. Topics to be addressed include: How could megatrends present new challenges for sound management of chemicals and waste? What technological developments could present new challenges and opportunities for sound management of chemicals and waste? What are the options for joint actions to ensure a chemical safe future and sustainable development?

Panellists:
Ms. Sabaa Khan, University of Eastern Finland
Mr. Marco Mensink, European Chemical Industry Council
Mr. Bob Diederich, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Ms. Christabel Mibenge, Ministry of Health, Health Promotion, Environment and Social Determinants, Zambia
Ms. Olga Speranskaya, International POPs Elimination Network

Moderator:
Mr. Fernando J. Gómez, World Economic Forum
Informal Dialogue 2: Challenges and opportunities for sustainable chemistry to contribute to sustainable development

**Context:**
Progress in sustainable chemistry is linked to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Sound management of chemicals and waste and green chemistry are necessary for sustainable chemistry as well as for sustainable development. However, sustainable chemistry goes beyond the safe use and management of chemicals and resource efficiency. It requires a holistic approach including safe chemicals and benign product design and has to consider the total environmental and social impacts including social and economic consequences.

**Discussion:**
Participants in the informal dialogue will explore the possibilities of sustainable chemistry, including green chemistry, to contribute to the three dimensions of sustainable development and sound management of chemicals and waste in a long-term perspective. How could sustainable chemistry contribute to sustainable development? What enabling conditions are necessary to progress development and implementation of sustainable chemistry and green chemistry in support of sustainable development? What are the challenges and opportunities for developing countries? What is the role of SAICM?

**Panellists:**
Ms. Jutta Emig, Ministry of Environment, Germany  
Ms. Qian Cheng, Greenpeace East Asia  
Ms. Marina Mattar, Brazilian Chemical Industry Association  
Ms. Noluzuko Gwayi, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa

**Moderator:**
Mr. Achim Halpaap, UN Environment
Informal Dialogue 3: Engaging partners to deliver the vision beyond 2020

Context:

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will require active involvement of all stakeholders. It will require different sectors and actors to work together in an integrated manner, pooling financial resources, knowledge and expertise. Over the years, SAICM has created a pro-active, inclusive and overarching platform for engagement and commitment for all of its 250 sectors and stakeholders. In the future, there will be continued need for a mechanism to bring all stakeholders together to address important issues which form the core of the chemicals and waste agenda.

It is through partnerships and working together that we will augment the idea that sound management of chemicals and waste plus sustainable development equals a win-win for business, people, environment and society as a whole.

Discussion:

Participants in the informal dialogue will deliberate on how SAICM can contribute to deliver on the vision for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The topics explored include the importance of developing partnerships which are built on principles, values, shared vision, and shared goals. How can partnerships leverage the use of science, technology, and information-sharing tools for driving the Sustainable Development Goals? Looking ahead, what could potentially be the role of the future platform in fostering these partnerships?

Panellists:

Ms. Stella Wafuho, CropLife Africa, Middle East
Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Sweden
Ms. Carmen Ciganda, Ministry of Public Health, Uruguay
Ms. Odile Frank, President of the NGO Forum for Health

Moderator:
Mr. Felix Dodds, Tellus Institute
In a changing world, increased production of chemicals and changed consumption patterns will present new challenges to sound chemicals management. SAICM has responded to emerging policy issues and forged consensus on priorities for cooperative action. With its inclusive multistakeholder approach, it has successfully provided an opportunity for everyone to participate, identify the key issues and be part of the solution.

Participants in the informal dialogue will elaborate on how to address emerging policy issues in a changing world. Among the topics to be discussed are: What kind of emerging issues could be expected? How does SAICM need to evolve to deal with future emerging policy issues? How can the process be further developed?

Panellists:
Ms. Lady Virginia Traldi, Regional Centre of Stockholm Convention for the Latin American and Caribbean Group
Mr. Richard Fuller, Pure Earth
Ms. Maria Esquivel Garcia, Ministry of Health, Panama
Ms. Thais Araújo Cavendish, Ministry of Health, Brazil
Mr. Alan Kaufmann, Toy Industry Association

Moderator:
Ms. Carolyn Vickers, World Health Organisation