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**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference
on Chemicals Management**

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Agenda item 3 (b) (i)

**The Strategic Approach and the sound management of
chemicals and waste beyond 2020: considerations for the
sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020:
preparation of recommendations for the fifth session of the
International Conference on Chemicals Management**

**Submission by the European Union and its member States on
recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound
management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a submission by the European Union and its member States. It is reproduced as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Annex

Recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Submission by the European Union and its member States

Following the mandate of the intersessional process “to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020” (paragraph 2 of ICCM resolution IV.4), the European Union and its Member States have the honour to submit a set of proposals for consideration under Agenda Item 3(b)(i) of the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG).

The attached proposals build on the paper of the co-chairs of the intersessional process. They are not intended to replace the paper nor to cover all issues; rather, we aim at facilitating the development of a text that makes concrete recommendations on some of the main elements or building blocks that have been identified during the process, in accordance with the mandate from ICCM4.

The European Union and its Member States look forward to engaging constructively with all participants at the OEWG on the proposed recommendations.

The participants of the intersessional process, mandated pursuant to ICCM resolution IV/4 to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, recommend the following:

I. Main general recommendations, including vision and strategic objectives

1. Governments, international organisations, industry and the private sector, civil society, the scientific and academic community and all other relevant stakeholders should intensify and prioritise efforts on the sound management of chemicals and waste, towards the achievement of target 12.4 of the 2030 Agenda and thereby contribute also to numerous other SDGs;
2. Urgent and resolute action at all levels is needed to implement the 2030 Agenda in relation to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through an improved enabling framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term, as emphasised by the UN Environment Assembly. Such an improved framework should particularly address lifecycle approaches and the chemicals-product-waste interface; as well as materials, such as plastics, and the minimisation and where feasible prevention of hazardous substances in material cycles;
3. Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term requires a vision shared by all stakeholders:

"To protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of chemicals and waste, to ensure healthy lives and a sustainable, safe planet for all".

4. The following strategic objectives should guide stakeholders in their efforts at all levels to address the sound management of chemicals and waste:

Strategic objective A: Measures are identified, implemented and enforced in order to prevent and minimize harm from chemicals throughout their life cycle and waste;

Strategic objective B: Comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data, information and awareness is generated, available and accessible to all to enable informed decisions and actions;

Strategic objective C: Issues of concern that warrant global action are identified, prioritized and addressed;

Strategic objective D: Benefits are maximized and risks to human health and the environment are prevented through innovative and sustainable solutions and forward thinking;

Strategic objective E: The importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste to achieve sustainable development is recognized by all, actions are accelerated and necessary partnerships are established to foster interaction among stakeholders and to mobilize resources.

5. Recommended targets that could be used as a basis for further intersessional work, alongside indicator development, to support the attainment of each strategic objective, are described in the appendix. In addition, relevant milestones to follow up progress on the sound management of chemicals and waste, notably at the national level, may also be developed in parallel. They could also be kept up to date regularly as part of the future programme of work of SAICM and conveyed to all relevant organisations and stakeholders for consideration within their own mandates, as appropriate.
6. The Overall Orientation and Guidance, including its eleven basic elements and six activity areas, continue to be relevant in assisting countries in their efforts to ensure the sound management of chemicals and waste and should therefore continue to be implemented;

II. Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement

7. The involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders across the life cycle at the local, national, regional and global levels is critical to the sound management of chemicals and waste. Stakeholders include Governments, regional economic integration organizations, international organizations, civil society including consumers, industries, businesses, the financial sector, workers, retailers and academia at all levels;
8. At the national level, it is essential to have in place legislative and regulatory frameworks and effective institutional and enforcement structures to ensure multisectoral coherence as well as complementarity of action by all relevant stakeholders, including definition of respective responsibilities;
9. At the international level, relevant international organizations and bodies, in particular the IOMC organisations and the chemicals and waste-related conventions, should enhance the awareness of the crosscutting nature of the sound management of chemicals and waste as an essential element to achieve sustainable development; strengthen their engagement and ownership of policies and actions for the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term; and support national implementation.
10. Such international organizations, in particular the IOMC organisations and the chemicals and waste-related conventions, should coordinate relevant activities and programmes of work, in line with the 2030 Agenda and within their individual mandates. The result should be strengthened cooperation and avoidance of duplication of action undertaken *inter alia* by UNEP, WHO, FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNITAR, UNIDO, OECD and UNITAR, under their own mandates, towards the achievement of target 12.4 and all other goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda impacted by the sound management of chemicals and waste, following a common, timeless vision to be adopted by ICCM-5 and endorsed by other relevant UN bodies related to the 2030 Agenda, such as UNGA.
11. Relevant regional conventions and programmes can also make a significant contribution to the sound management of chemicals and waste and should coordinate as relevant.
12. Regarding specifically SAICM, it should encompass in the future the environmental, economic, social, health, agricultural and labour aspects of managing chemicals and waste, in order to enhance sustainable development and circularity, taking due account of the instruments and processes that have been developed to date. It should be flexible enough to take account of new ones without duplicating efforts.
13. The involvement of industry and the private sector throughout the value chain needs to be significantly enhanced, both within a future SAICM and, more generally, for the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels. The roles and responsibilities of industry and the private sector throughout the value chain in implementing relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda offer a strong basis for enhanced involvement and action and should be clearly identified and developed, in particular in legislation at the national level.

III. Science for Policy

14. There is a need to avoid fragmentation and strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels to support and promote science-based local, national and global policies and actions on the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term; and the use of science in progress-monitoring, priority-setting and policy-making throughout the lifecycle of chemicals and waste, taking into account the gaps in scientific information, in particular in developing countries;
15. All stakeholders should enhance their involvement in strengthening, as relevant, the use of science for policies and actions on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Relevant science-policy interface platforms should be supported, including input from academia;

16. The Global Chemicals Outlooks and the Global Waste Management Outlooks, as well as regional waste management outlooks, offer a good starting point for a better integration of science in policy-making and action on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Their conclusions and recommendations should be considered and followed-up by all stakeholders.

17. Governments in particular should give due consideration to the assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste, which has been requested by the UN Environment Assembly to the UNEP Executive Director by 30 April 2021, taking into account existing mechanisms, including those under UNEP, and relevant examples in other areas, in order to maximise cost-effectiveness, make best use of new technologies, track progress and improve implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements at the national level.

IV. Issues of Global Concern

18. There is a need to follow the trends in the design, production, use and release of chemicals and the generation and management of waste in order to identify issues of concern in future Global Chemicals and Waste Management Outlooks and catalyse sound management policies and actions.

19. All stakeholders should address relevant issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment identified by SAICM, the Global Chemicals Outlook or as a result of the monitoring of trends in the design, production, use and release of chemicals and the generation and management of waste, with particular consideration of the report to be prepared by 30 April 2020 by the UNEP Executive Director on these issues.

20. Governments should in particular consider ways to follow-up on the requested analysis of existing regulatory and policy frameworks and their ability to address these issues towards the achievement of the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and waste, including lead and cadmium, as contained in the report mentioned under the previous recommendation.

21. Issues of global concern might encompass substances, groups of substances, mixtures, materials and products irrespective of their stage in the life cycle (from their design to waste stage). ICCM should adopt criteria for the identification of issues of global concern, building on the criteria established in ICCM resolution II/4 and taking into account the findings of the Global Chemicals and Waste Management Outlooks and relevant reports from the UNEP Executive Director on these matters. Criteria addressing how to respond to science recommendations may also be considered.

V. Governance

22. In relation to SAICM, the current governance and institutional structures should continue beyond 2020. No governance, institutional or procedural overhaul appears necessary, without prejudice to any specific adjustments that may be found appropriate and so decided by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including ICCM meetings on a regular basis;

23. In addition, there is a need for an improved enabling framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which enhances coherence and complementarity of multilateral policies and actions by all relevant international organisations in this area, including through information of and consideration by UN bodies related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, such as the High Level Political Forum and the UN General Assembly, as appropriate.

VI. Financing

24. The implementation of the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste, which was designed and agreed as a long term contribution beyond 2020, continues to be essential to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

25. All three components of the integrated approach to financing, i.e. mainstreaming, private sector involvement and dedicated external finance, are equally important and mutually reinforcing.

26. Governments should implement actions to further mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in national development plans, domestic budgets and relevant sector policies.

¹ UNEP/EA.4/L.9

27. Governments should also implement actions to further encourage industry involvement in the integrated approach, including the development of legislation on the responsibilities of industry and national administration; the provision of incentives for the sound management of chemicals and waste; and the promotion of measures by industry to internalise costs as per the polluter pays principle.

28. All countries, within their capabilities, should further strengthen the component of dedicated external finance, in particular through contributions to the Special Programme, the GEF and other relevant multilateral trust funds, as well as through bilateral and regional assistance for sound management of chemicals and waste.
