



SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/14

Distr.: General  
13 March 2019



Strategic Approach  
to International  
Chemicals Management

Original: English

---

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

**Third meeting**

Montevideo, 2-4 April 2019

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Preparations for the fifth session of the International  
Conference on Chemicals Management**

## **Preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management**

### **Note by the secretariat**

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, a report on the preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The report is presented in the annex as prepared by the secretariat and has not been formally edited.

---

\* SAICM/OEWG.3/1.

## Annex

# Preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

## I. Background

1. In its resolution I/1, adopted at its first session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to convene further sessions of the Conference, working in collaboration with the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the United Nations Development Programme and other intergovernmental organizations.

2. Paragraphs 24 and 25 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management set out the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The Conference will undertake periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and its functions will be:

- (a) To receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach and to disseminate information as appropriate;
- (b) To evaluate the implementation of the Strategic Approach with a view to reviewing progress against the 2020 target and taking strategic decisions, programming, prioritizing and updating the approach as necessary;
- (c) To provide guidance on implementation of the Strategic Approach to stakeholders;
- (d) To report on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach to stakeholders;
- (e) To promote implementation of existing international instruments and programmes;
- (f) To promote coherence among chemicals management instruments at the international level;
- (g) To promote the strengthening of national chemicals management capacities;
- (h) To work to ensure that the necessary financial and technical resources are available for implementation;
- (i) To evaluate the performance of the financing of the Strategic Approach;
- (j) To focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action;
- (k) To promote information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation;
- (l) To provide a high-level international forum for multi-stakeholder and multisectoral discussion and exchange of experience on chemicals management issues with the participation of non-governmental organizations in accordance with applicable rules of procedure;
- (m) To promote the participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

## II. Scheduling the International Conference on Chemicals Management

3. Paragraph 25 of the Overarching Policy Strategy provides that “where appropriate, sessions of the Conference should be held back to back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations in order to enhance synergies and cost-effectiveness and to promote the Strategic Approach’s multisectoral nature. Sessions of the Conference should be held in 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2020, unless otherwise decided by the Conference”.

4. The first session of the Conference was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 February 2006, back to back with the ninth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The second session was held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, back to back with the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the sixty-second World Health Assembly. The third session of the Conference, initially intended to be held in Geneva

back to back with the International Labour Conference in May 2012, was held at the United Nations Office in Nairobi from 17 to 21 September 2012 owing to the change in date of the International Labour Conference and its close proximity to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the fourth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury. The fourth session of the Conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 28 September to 2 October 2015.

5. Accordingly, the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management is expected to be held over five days, from Monday 5 October, to Friday 9 October 2020, with regional meetings and technical information sessions to be held on Sunday 4 October 2020. The Government of Germany has kindly offered to host the meeting in Bonn, Germany.

### **III. Preparations for the fifth session of the Conference**

6. The third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group being held in Montevideo, Uruguay, 2-4 April 2019 and the Strategic Approach Regional meetings that are previewed for 2020 are the main avenues to prepare for the fifth session of the Conference. In addition, the intersessional process considering SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste will contribute to the preparations of the Conference. The ICCM5 Bureau will also play an important function in supporting the preparation of the Conference.

7. The fifth session will mark the concluding landmark since the adoption of the Strategic Approach in Dubai in February 2006. The Conference is therefore the final step in assessing the achievements and successes of the Strategic Approach and the starting point for the sound chemicals and waste management beyond 2020.

8. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference, the fifth session of the Conference will be the last Strategic Approach decision-making meeting to be held. The occasion will provide an opportunity to relive the spirit of the first session of the Conference and offer renewed multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral commitment to the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

### **IV. Participation and organization of work**

9. The fifth session of the Conference will be open to representatives of all interested Governments and intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and academia in accordance with credentials and accreditation requirements similar to those applied at the fourth session of the Conference.<sup>1</sup>

10. Subject to the availability of resources, and in line with the credentials and accreditation procedures, travel funding will be provided to representatives from eligible developing countries and countries with economies in transition and to a selected number of non-governmental representatives. In addition, in order to encourage multisectoral participation, Governments seeking travel funding are expected to nominate individuals from a variety of sectors, including agriculture, environment, health, industry and labour.

11. In light of the experience gained from previous sessions of the Conference, the secretariat estimates that between 1300 and 1500 participants will attend the Conference, bringing together a diverse group of representatives from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry and academia, and observers.

12. As mentioned above, the fifth session of the Conference is expected to be held over five days, from Monday 5 October to Friday 9 October 2020 in Bonn. Ms. Gertrud Sahler, Germany, will preside over the Conference.

### **V. High-level dimension of the fifth session of the Conference**

13. In view of the above, and with the aim of celebrating 14 years of the Strategic Approach, it is proposed that a high-level multisectoral and multi-stakeholder event be organized for the fifth session of the Conference. The Conference will be an interactive multisectoral and multi-stakeholder platform

---

<sup>1</sup> Governments will be required to provide credentials for their representatives issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference. The participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the fifth session of the Conference is to be confirmed by a simple accreditation procedure based on the registration of the organizations for the session.

for the exchange of experience, with thematic side events, exhibitions, information sessions, media events and other outreach and information-sharing activities, recognizing that the entire period of the Strategic Approach marks a significant milestone and occasion for stakeholders to fully examine and celebrate the progress, achievements, challenges and opportunities of the Strategic Approach.

14. In light of the celebration of the conclusion of the Strategic Approach, the Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider how a possible high-level dimension of the fifth session of the Conference should be arranged. Such efforts could include:

(a) Prominent individuals as keynote speakers from Governments, industry, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in the opening ceremony of the fifth session of the Conference or for the high-level segment;

(b) Extending an invitation to previous presidents of the Conference to play an active role at the session in celebration of the Strategic Approach and promoting further implementation;

(c) Scheduling of a high-level segment during one or two days of the session to allow for participation in special events by Heads of Government, ministers, heads of organizations, industry chief executive officers and other senior representatives;

(d) Organization of special events during the session such as thematic round tables for Ministers, heads of organizations, industry chief executive officers and other senior representatives;

(e) Scheduling of a high-level media event or press conference.

## **VI. Technical briefings, side events and exhibitions**

15. Events such as technical briefings, side events and exhibitions allow for important opportunities to promote the participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of the Strategic Approach and have been incorporated into the programme of the Conference at previous sessions. Such events promote information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation, coherence among chemicals management instruments at the international level and strengthening of national chemicals management capacities in line with the functions of the Conference.

16. Information on how to apply for and convene technical briefings, side events and exhibitions will be issued by the secretariat in advance of the fifth session of the Conference. These events may include presentations of completed activities and share technical information and knowledge.

## **VII. Estimated budgetary requirements for the fifth session of the Conference**

17. Based on the ICCM4 resolution, an indicative budget provides \$ 1,450,000 USD for the fifth session of the Conference. However, considering the factors set out above and the expenditures at previous sessions of the Conference, the Strategic Approach secretariat estimates that the actual costs may be higher.

18. The estimated budget covers the five days of the meeting. The estimated budget assumes that two participants from about 100 eligible countries would be funded together with a smaller number of non-governmental organizations.

19. At the time of writing the present note, the secretariat had not received any pledges towards convening of the fifth session of the Conference.

20. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to encourage donors to contribute to the organization of the fifth session of the Conference and suggest other possible sources of funding for the secretariat in preparation and planning for the fifth session of the Conference.

---