



SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/24

Distr.: General
27 February 2019



Strategic Approach
to International
Chemicals Management

English only

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

Third meeting

Montevideo, Uruguay 2-4 April 2019

Item 4c of the provisional agenda*

**Progress and gaps towards the achievement of the 2020
goal of sound chemicals management: Emerging Policy Issues**

**Annex to International Conference on Chemicals
Management resolution II/4 - Modalities for considering
emerging policy issues**

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the Annex to Conference resolution II/4 - Modalities for considering emerging policy issues.

* SAICM/OEWG.3/1.

Annex:**Annex to ICCM resolution II/4
Modalities for considering emerging policy issues****Introduction**

The process for the consideration of emerging policy issues by the International Conference on Chemicals Management will be open and transparent. It will be facilitated by the secretariat and provide for the participation of all stakeholders.

A. Call for nominations

1. Given that the nature of emerging policy issues will vary according to the perspectives and needs of different stakeholders, the process for nominating emerging policy issues should be an open one in which any Strategic Approach stakeholder is free to participate. The nomination procedure will be published on the Strategic Approach website. To promote communication at the national level, nominations should be copied to Strategic Approach focal points. Regions may also wish to add the subject to their meeting agendas. Because emerging policy issues will arise and evolve over time, nominations will be allowed at any point but will only be formally invited from stakeholders once during the period leading up to each session of the Conference. This periodic call for the nomination of issues will serve to encourage the systematic monitoring, review and regular discussion of emerging policy issues among Strategic Approach stakeholders. To allow for sufficient time for subsequent steps in the procedure, nominations will need to be submitted 18 months in advance of the session of the Conference at which they will be considered.

B. Submission of initial information

2. In nominating an emerging policy issue for consideration by the Conference, a proponent will be required to complete a questionnaire that includes the criteria listed below in subparagraph (b). The information to be submitted to the secretariat should include:

- (a) Information demonstrating why a given issue is considered to be an emerging policy issue, in particular how it is consistent with the definition of an emerging policy issue, i.e., an issue involving any phase in the life cycle of chemicals and which has not yet been generally recognized, is insufficiently addressed or arises from the current level of scientific information and which may have significant adverse effects on human health and/or the environment;
- (b) Information demonstrating how the issue meets the following criteria:
 - (i) Magnitude of the problem and its impact on human health or the environment, taking into account vulnerable subpopulations and any toxicological and exposure data gaps;
 - (ii) Extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies, particularly at the international level, and how it is related to, complements, or does not duplicate such work;
 - (iii) Existing knowledge and perceived gaps in understanding about the issue;
 - (iv) Extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature;
 - (v) Information on the anticipated deliverables from action on the issue.

3. Proponents are encouraged to include a description of proposed actions to be considered in moving forward on emerging policy issues, including a rationale for how proposed actions would address the emerging policy issues identified. Proponents are encouraged to consider a wide range of options for action, which would include identification of any tools, institutions and other mechanisms and expected resources that could support the proposed action, as described in paragraph 4 below.

4. Actions that proponents might want to consider may include:

- (a) Dissemination of information through the secretariat's clearing-house function or other mechanisms;

- (b) Recommendations from the Conference, which could include requests for action addressed to the governing bodies of intergovernmental organizations, Governments, scientific bodies, civil society stakeholders and the private sector;
- (c) Initiation of follow-up work under the auspices of the Conference, including through intersessional work at regional meetings, workshops, training sessions, webinars, teleconferences, work by subsidiary bodies, the secretariat or other mechanisms;
- (d) Specific commitments by Governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector, such as intersessional work or partnerships;
- (e) Relevance, as appropriate, to the Global Plan of Action and the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach or other mechanisms for providing capacity-building to proponents.

C. Initial review and publication of submissions

5. The secretariat will check nominations for new emerging policy issues against the agreed definition and criteria with the aim of assisting proponents in completing their nominations and sorting the nominations for future prioritization. Proponents will be contacted to provide any missing information.

6. The secretariat will compile a list of nominations, annotated with a summary of information on each of the criteria. Similar nominations will be clustered so that similar issues can be considered in thematic groups. The list of nominations and the nominations themselves will be made publicly available and an invitation to provide comments will be issued 15 months prior to the session of the Conference at which they will be considered. Comments received by the secretariat will be made publicly available.

7. The proponents of an issue will have an opportunity to revise their nomination to take into account comments or to clarify information provided and to work with other proponents to consolidate nominations that are similar or complementary. Revised nominations must be submitted to the secretariat 12 months in advance of the session of the Conference at which they are to be considered.

8. The secretariat will consolidate a final list of nominations, annotated with a summary of information on each of the criteria.

D. Prioritization of submissions

9. After publication of the nomination list, the regions may prioritize submissions by engaging formally the full range of their stakeholders. In doing so, they are encouraged to consider the criteria in paragraph 2 (b), above, and to communicate the priorities to the secretariat. Such consultations will be pursued through regional focal points and with national focal points, including non-government participants, at regional meetings or through other mechanisms.

10. The secretariat will compile input received from the regional consultations and input from other stakeholders on the prioritization of submissions.

E. Inclusion of emerging policy issues on the provisional agenda of the Conference

11. The Open-ended Working Group will consider the regional inputs and other information to assess the proposals, taking into account the criteria outlined in paragraph 2 (b) above. It should propose a limited number of priority emerging policy issues to the Conference for its consideration. Those issues will be submitted for inclusion on the provisional agenda of the next session of the Conference in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

12. In the event that an issue is nominated but not included on the provisional agenda for a session of the Conference, its proponent may seek other ways to focus attention on it. This might include:

- (a) Disseminating information about the issue through the secretariat's clearing-house function;
- (b) Including the issue as a topic for workshop agendas or internet-based consultations;
- (c) Encouraging regional groups to include the issue on the agenda of regional meetings;
- (d) Forwarding the submission to other forums or individual stakeholders with relevant mandates for their consideration;
- (h) Highlighting the issue as a possible priority for Strategic Approach participants;
- (i) Making Strategic Approach participants aware of any funding associated with the proposal that may be available for intersessional work, bilateral projects or other opportunities.