6th EU-JUSSCANNZ regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
Paris, 9 February 2018
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Feedback on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to date from representatives from the EU JUSSCANNZ¹ stakeholder group

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document from the Independent Evaluator presenting the feedback on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to date from representatives from the EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholder group (see annex).

2. The Independent Evaluator has prepared the attached narrative that combines the perspectives of EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders. At the end of each section are a set of reflective questions that the Independent Evaluator would like national focal points to further consider and provide feedback on.

3. The document is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

¹ European Union and Japan, United States of America, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway, and New Zealand
ANNEX

Dear EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders

As part of the on-going SAICM evaluation, the following document presents the feedback to date from representatives from the EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholder group. As you read through the document please answer the questions posed at the end of each section and send the answers to:

saicmevaluation@gmail.com

Your input will be invaluable for the evaluation.

Thank you

What are the views of EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders regarding the main impact(s) of the Strategic Approach

For EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders, SAICM has resulted in widely held discussions on chemicals management at the international level. To some degree this has raised the awareness, and led to improvement in the mainstreaming, of chemicals within different sectors at national levels. This has translated into a demonstrable improvement in basic chemicals management in all regions.

The SAICM platform has enabled new and emerging issues of concern in chemicals management to be brought onto the international political agenda, giving support and legitimacy to address these new issues.

The strength of SAICM is its voluntary approach that allows for a pragmatic approach to addressing chemicals management. However, the voluntary approach is not without its shortcomings. The commitments made at Conference are not always followed through; some find it challenging to stick to the agreed timeframes and actions. This challenge faces all stakeholders whether governments from AFR, AP, CEE and LAC regions delivering at national level, IOMC agencies delivering on its commitments, or donors delivering on agreed funding levels.

The multi-sectoral approach envisioned of SAICM has not been fully realised—in particular the collaboration between the health and environment sectors is not as strong as is needed for delivery on SAICM objectives and goal. The broad stakeholder engagement anticipated during the establishment of SAICM has not been forthcoming.
Questions:

1. Can you provide any specific examples from your own experience or knowledge where there has been a demonstrable improvement in basic chemicals management in a specific region or country as a result of SAICM?

2. What sectors do you think are relevant for SAICM? What actions do you think are needed to enhance collaboration and cooperation between these different sectors?

3. Which stakeholders do you think are missing from SAICM? What actions are needed to encourage and promote their active involvement in SAICM? What can you do?

What is our vision

For EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders, success in achieving the 2020 goal will result in the elimination of all damage to health and the environment from chemicals and waste. Such a result will only be realised when the sound management of chemicals and waste is mainstreamed across all sectors in all countries. The regulatory regime designed to achieve this will only be effective if it is an adaptive regime capable of addressing new and emerging challenges as they arise. Underlying the success in achieving the 2020 goal will be a common agenda of a non-toxic environment being aligned with the priorities of all countries.

Questions:

1. Is this a vision that you can support? Why?

2. In your country how far are you along the road are you to realising this vision (choose one (a) to (e)):
   a. Haven’t started the journey
   b. Started the journey but still a long way to go
   c. The journey is well underway
   d. Have nearly completed the journey
   e. We have reached our destination and vision

3. Please explain why you have assessed your journey as you have.
What is the role of EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders in achieving this goal?

The primary role of EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders is to lead by example, providing time, expertise and resources. Our role is to share our experience, information, methodologies and approaches to sound chemicals management, including the OECD platform. We also provide material in-kind support as well as financing chemicals management in the AFR, AP, CEE and LAC regions.

Our expertise enables us to deal with the complexity of chemicals management, transforming complexity into manageable understandable concepts shared with SAICM stakeholders and decision-makers. We approach this through facilitating a process of engagement and, through this, seek to influence future thinking on the sound management of chemicals. We coordinate regulations, laws and conventions, balancing priorities and working in active partnership.

Questions:

1. Does the description above accurately portray your role? Please explain
2. Are there any aspects of your role that are not portrayed above?
3. What are the steps, or pathways, by which you fulfill your role?

What and who are the significant influences on the ability of the EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders to fulfil their role?

SAICM stakeholders have a high degree of influence on EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders’ ability to fulfill their role. They depend on a high degree of trust between stakeholders, particularly between civil society and the chemical industry/business sector.

Politics at the national level is also a factor effecting EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders’ ability to deliver on their role. The political environment impacts on the budgets available for chemicals management as well as the degree and nature of corruption at play. Local power dynamics as well as attitudes and behaviour of consumers also influence EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders’ ability to fulfill their role.

Stakeholders outside the current SAICM family also have influence: academics and the information they produce; business and industry outside the chemicals sector; vulnerable groups and end-users of chemicals.

The broader economic environment also plays a role – the level of economic growth and the health of the economy. The degree of integration into global markets will also have a bearing on the ability of stakeholders to fulfill their role.
Questions:

1. Which of the influences above, are relevant for you as you deliver on your role as a member of the EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholder group? Please describe how they influence your work.

2. Are there any other significant influences that you can identify? How do they influence your work?

3. Of the influences identified in Qu. 1 and Qu 2 which are the most important for you? Why?

4. What are the most significant barriers that prevent you from delivering on your role? Please explain.

What is needed for the EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders to fulfil their role more effectively?

Political buy-in, resources and the cooperation of all stakeholders are essential for EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders to deliver on their role. From the EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholder perspective an important element of political buy-in is a high degree of interest for the sound management of chemicals from the development cooperation agencies as well as from national agencies.

Access to unbiased scientific information and innovative technology will support the role. Such access depends on having improved platforms for information sharing. Such information will only enable EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders to deliver on their role when combined with the time and resources required to have authentic communication with SAICM stakeholders through a dialogic process that builds trust and collaboration between them. Outcomes of a successful process will include the confidence to think outside the box and the ability to take imaginative bold decisions.

Accessing and mobilizing non-traditional funding sources (e.g. pension funds) will further support EU JUSSCANNZ stakeholders to fulfill their role.

Question:

1. What would help you to fulfil your role more effectively? Please explain.