First meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020
Brasilia, Brazil, 7-9 February 2017
Item 2(c) of the provisional agenda*
Organizational matters: Organization of work

Scenario note for the first meeting of the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Note by the ICCM5 Bureau

I. Introduction

1. The present scenario note, which we have prepared together as the Bureau of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), sets out a proposed plan and general expectations for the first meeting of the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The present scenario note aims to assist Strategic Approach stakeholders in preparing for the first meeting of the intersessional process.

2. The mandate for considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is set out in Conference resolution IV/4 (see Annex to the current note).

3. The intersessional process is open for participation of all stakeholders. The rules of procedure of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will apply, mutatis mutandis, to the work and proceedings of this meeting.

4. The task of the intersessional process is to provide recommendations to the Conference at its fifth session to enable the Conference to take an informed decision on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

*SAICM/IP.1/1
II. Timing and organization

5. The meeting will open at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 7 February 2017, and will close on Thursday 9 February by 6.00 p.m. There will be an opportunity for regional and sectoral groups to meet on Tuesday 7 February 2017 from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. Any regional and sectoral groups that wish to meet on Wednesday 8 February or Thursday 9 February should contact the secretariat in advance of meeting.

6. Participants at the first meeting of the intersessional process will elect two co-chairs from among the Governmental participants present at that meeting, as indicated in resolution IV/4 paragraph 8.

7. The work of the meeting will be conducted in plenary sessions. Two sessions of plenary will be held daily from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and on 8 February and 9 February from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. On Tuesday 7 February 2017, a high level panel event will take place from 3.00 p.m. Plenary will resume on 7 February, following the high level panel event.

8. The meeting will be conducted in English only.

9. We, as the Bureau, have requested the secretariat to organize four informal dialogue sessions. Two informal dialogues will be conducted in parallel on Tuesday 7 February, and two informal dialogues will be conducted in parallel on Wednesday 8 February from 1.15 p.m. to 2.45 p.m. The purpose of the informal dialogue sessions is to stimulate thinking that can feed into the intersessional process. A rapporteur will be designated for each of the dialogue sessions who is asked to provide a summary of the dialogue to the plenary. More information about the informal dialogue sessions can be found in a separate note.

10. The independent evaluator of the Strategic Approach evaluation will facilitate focus group discussions with the different stakeholder groups attending the meeting on the margins of the meeting. Additional information on the focus groups is included in Information Document SAICM/IP.1/INF/4, including the scheduled timing of the focus group discussions. Participation by the largest number of stakeholders in the focus groups is important.

11. We have a number of papers in front of us which will feed into the discussions, including a Thought Starter prepared by the Bureau. If regions or stakeholders groups wish to table additional information, these papers should be provided to the secretariat before or at the meeting. Those papers will then be made available on the Strategic Approach webpage as other reference documents.

III. Issues of key importance

12. The meeting participants may wish to review initially Conference resolution IV/4 (attached in the Annex to this note) to ensure a common understanding of the work to be undertaken by the intersessional process.

13. We are proposing that the first meeting review the following key areas while recognizing that the co-chairs, once elected, will guide the deliberations of the meeting.

A. Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach

14. The secretariat has engaged an independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach, for 2006 to 2015, in accordance with the terms of reference set out in Conference resolution IV/4. ICCM4 directed the Open-ended Working Group to consider the conclusions of the independent evaluation and any recommendations identified by the intersessional process for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session.
15. An interim independent evaluation report is available to meeting participants in meeting document SAICM/IP.1/5 and SAICM/IP.1/5/Add.1. The independent evaluator will present initial results set out in the interim independent evaluation report.

16. In addition on the margins of the meeting, the independent evaluator will facilitate focus group discussions with different stakeholder groups attending the meeting. The aim of these focus group discussions will be to enable the different stakeholders to reflect on the findings in the interim independent evaluation report, to articulate their views and perspectives on the Theory of Change model, the SAICM policy process, their role within this, and the progress made towards the 2020 goal. Additional information on the focus groups is included in Information Document SAICM/IP.1/INF/4.

B. Consideration of beyond 2020

17. Through Conference resolution IV/4 paragraph 9, stakeholders decided that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”, including the vision to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development.

18. The Bureau has developed a Thought Starter (SAICM/IP.1/4) to support the initial discussions at the first intersessional meeting. It outlines a set of topics for consideration of stakeholders and includes a number of questions intended to assist in and contribute to the intersessional discussions.

19. We stress that significant efforts must be made from the outset of this process to ensure political visibility and awareness for considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 platform. Heightened awareness of all stakeholders will be important in setting and achieving future goals and commitments.

a. Vision and scope

20. The meeting participants may wish to have an initial discussion on what challenges will be faced in the mid-21st century for chemicals and waste and, in that context, what their vision would look like for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

21. The meeting participants may also wish to devote time to consider the most pressing global needs for the Strategic Approach to address in the long term. Participants may wish to consider identifying and means for implementing actions at regional and sub-regional levels for advancing sound management of chemicals and waste.

22. All of the discussion may need to be framed in the context of the respective capacities and capabilities of developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

b. Voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach

23. Strategic Approach stakeholders, through Conference resolution IV/4, noted the value of a voluntary, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to mobilize all actors for the sound management of chemicals and waste. In doing so, they noted that a voluntary, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach can enable flexible and timely action to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste.

24. All SAICM stakeholders, including health, trade union, public interest groups, industry and the United Nations agencies through the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) may wish to present their respective views on the voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder nature of the Strategic Approach in addressing sound management of chemicals and waste. This will allow participants an opportunity for broad
reflection on Strategic Approach implementation, coordination and governance as well as highlight related challenges in moving forward.

c. **Responding to new and emerging issues**

25. Strategic Approach stakeholders, through Conference resolution IV/4, noted the continuing need to respond to new and emerging issues as well as the need to ensure that newly identified risks to human health and the environment can be identified and timely action taken to reduce those risks.

26. Participants may wish to reflect on the current mechanism, established through Conference resolution II/4, that sets out the modalities for considering emerging policy issues and provide feedback on its suitability in the beyond 2020 context.

d. **Linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

27. Through paragraph 10 of Conference resolution IV/4, Strategic Approach stakeholders decided that the intersessional process should, among other things, consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

28. In this context, the meeting participants may wish to reflect on future objectives and related timelines for the Strategic Approach. Participants may also wish to discuss how to measure such objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

29. The meeting participants may also wish to consider the maintenance and development of indicators of progress for the Strategic Approach, including providing guidance to the secretariat in undertaking the analysis of the 20 indicators of progress for consideration of the Open-ended Working Group, as requested in paragraph 18 of Conference resolution IV/1.

IV. **Desired outcomes of the first meeting**

30. We recognise the significant scope of the task in front of the co-chairs who are elected to co-chair and intend to promote a collaborative and constructive working style for the intersessional process in our capacity as ICCM5 Bureau members.

31. Having established how we may wish to work during the first meeting, we would like to conclude by considering what we might hope to accomplish by the end of the meeting. The expectation is that the meeting will have reviewed the interim report of the independent evaluator; considered the vision and scope for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; reflected on the voluntary, multi-stakeholder, multisectoral approach; considered responding to new and emerging issues; reviewed linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and agreed on an overall timeline for the intersessional process.

32. Should participants agree that further work is required on particular topics in moving forward, they may wish to provide clear guidance on the work to be undertaken by the secretariat in preparation for the second meeting of the intersessional process.

33. In closing, we would like to remind us all that commitment, cooperation, awareness and ownership among all stakeholders will be key to achieving the future we want for the sound management of chemicals. This is critical in getting to 2020 and in setting and achieving future goals and commitments. We urge all participants to prepare themselves to work collaboratively and to conduct our work in such a spirit. We very much look forward to the first intersessional meeting to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Bureau of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management
Annex

IV/4: The Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

The Conference,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Noting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular the targets to achieve, by 2020, the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycles, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and to significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment and to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030,

Recalling the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”, and in particular the aim to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment,

Recalling also resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Environment Assembly welcomed the important contribution of the Strategic Approach in facilitating action by all relevant stakeholders towards the sound management of chemicals and waste, emphasized the need for continued and strengthened multisectoral and multi-stakeholder involvement and recognized that the need to prevent or minimize the significant adverse effects from chemicals and hazardous wastes on human health and the environment would continue to provide a strong basis for sound chemicals and waste management beyond 2020,

Recalling further the outcome of the country-led consultative process supported by the United Nations Environment Programme on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster and the outcome document of the process, entitled “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”,

Noting that projections as set out in the 2012 Global Chemicals Outlook show an increase in chemical production and use worldwide, continuing beyond 2020, with the largest increases also occurring in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and that all countries will need to continue strengthening their capacity for governance, knowledge- and information-sharing and risk reduction required to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,

Noting also the continuing need to respond to new and emerging issues and to ensure that newly identified risks to human health and the environment can be identified and timely action taken to reduce those risks,

Noting further the value of a voluntary, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to mobilize all actors, which can enable flexible and timely action to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste,

Recognizing the need to start considering arrangements for the period beyond 2020,

1. Requests the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to contract an independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2. Decides to initiate an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

3. Also decides that the intersessional process should include, in principle, two meetings before the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and one meeting between the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fifth session of the International Conference on
Chemicals Management and that it may also work by correspondence and/or by electronic means.

4. Directs the Open-ended Working Group to consider the need to call an additional meeting of the intersessional process before the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;

5. Decides that meetings of the intersessional process should, as far as possible, be held back-to-back with other relevant meetings and processes;

6. Requests the Bureau of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, with assistance of the secretariat, to notify the stakeholders by 31 March 2016 of the first meeting of the intersessional process specified in the present resolution and, in consultation with the participants at that first meeting, to draw up the timetable for the subsequent meetings;

7. Decides that the intersessional process should be open to all stakeholders and requests the secretariat to support, subject to the availability of resources, the participation of stakeholders eligible for funding as identified by the regions and sectors through the Bureau, up to eight from African States, eight from Asian-Pacific States, three from Central and Eastern European States, five from Latin American and Caribbean States and two representatives of each of the health, trade union and public interest sectors of non-governmental participants, in order to support balanced regional and sectoral participation;

8. Also decides that the participants at the first meeting of the intersessional process should elect two co-chairs from among the Governmental participants present at that meeting;

9. Further decides that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”, including the vision to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development;

10. Decides that the intersessional process should, among other things, consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

11. Requests that the secretariat make available and that the intersessional process consider relevant available documents, including the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach referred to in paragraph 1 above, the overall orientation and guidance, relevant documents and reports of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the Open-ended Working Group and regional meetings, relevant United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions and other relevant documents available on the Strategic Approach website, the Global Chemicals Outlook, Global Waste Management Outlook, report entitled “Cost of Inaction on the Sound Management of Chemicals” by the United Nations Environment Programme and related World Health Organization health priority documents;

12. Directs the Open-ended Working Group to consider the conclusions of the independent evaluation and any recommendations identified by the intersessional process for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session.

Annex

Terms of reference for the evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

I. Objective

1. The present document outlines the terms of reference for the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management called for by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in its resolution IV/4.
2. The aim of the evaluation is to provide information to enable the intersessional process referred to in paragraph 2 of resolution IV/4 to develop recommendations and to enable the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session to take an informed decision on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

II. Methodology

3. The secretariat is requested to engage an independent evaluator to produce an evaluation consistent with the present terms of reference.

4. The evaluation is to cover the period from the adoption of the Strategic Approach in 2006 to 2015. It may also cover any insights gained in the period from 2015 to the finalization of the evaluation.

5. The evaluation should take into account, among other things, the available evaluation of progress in implementing the Strategic Approach, the evaluation of the Quick Start Programme, the relevant reports and resolutions from the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the Open-ended Working Group and regional meetings, the overall orientation and guidance, and national implementation plans of the Strategic Approach. The evaluator may also collect information from stakeholders on their experiences implementing the Strategic Approach, and may use various methods of qualitative and quantitative information collection, including questionnaires and interviews, taking into account regional, gender and stakeholder balance.

III. Report on the evaluation

6. An interim report on the evaluation will be made available to all stakeholders at least one month ahead of the first meeting of the intersessional process. A draft of the final report will be made available to all stakeholders at least one month ahead of the second meeting of the intersessional process. The final report, taking into account, as appropriate, the additional comments on the draft final report from stakeholders, will be made available to all stakeholders at least two months before the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group that will precede the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

7. The reports will contain an introduction, an executive summary and a brief history of the Strategic Approach, and will present information in support of conclusions and, where appropriate, lessons drawn in respect of the implementation of the Strategic Approach, including, in particular:

   (a) Impact of the Strategic Approach;

   (b) Strengths, weaknesses and gaps in implementing the Strategic Approach, taking into account the eleven basic elements identified in the overall orientation and guidance;

   (c) Progress towards targets;

   (d) Institutional arrangements within the voluntary multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach of the Strategic Approach.

8. The independent evaluator will present information, as appropriate, on the following elements in the report, on the understanding that the information provided is intended to inform rather than prejudice intersessional discussions on the subject:

   (a) Objectives for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

   (b) Identifying and taking action on new or emerging issues;

   (c) Coordination and cooperation with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

   (d) Relevance of impacts to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

   (e) Maintenance and development of indicators of progress;

   (f) Identifying and taking action on regional and subregional needs for advancing sound management of chemicals and waste.
9. The evaluation should be focused and succinct and its executive summary should be made available in the six official languages of the United Nations.