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Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020
First meeting
Brasilia, 7–9 February 2017

Report of the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Introduction

1. At its fourth session, held in Geneva from 28 September to 2 October 2015, the International Conference on Chemicals Management in its resolution IV/4 decided to initiate an intersessional process for preparing recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

2. The process was to be open to all stakeholders, who, among other things, were to "consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." In addition the process was 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.

3. The first meeting of the intersessional process was held from 7 to 9 February 2017 at the Brasil 21 Event and Conference Centre in Brasilia.

I. Opening of the meeting

4. The meeting was opened at 10 a.m. on 7 February 2017 by Ms. Brenda Koekkoek of the Strategic Approach secretariat, acting as master of ceremonies. The meeting participants were welcomed by Mr. Jacob Duer, Principal Coordinator of the secretariat, and opening remarks were made by Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) via recorded video message; Mr. José Antônio Marcondes de Carvalho, Undersecretary General for the Environment, Energy and Science and Technology in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil; Ms. Gertrud Sahler (Germany), President of the International Conference on Chemicals Management; and Mr. Marcelo Cruz, Vice Minister of Environment of Brazil.

5. In welcoming the meeting participants, Mr. Duer thanked the Government of Brazil for hosting the meeting, which he said showed great political leadership and demonstrated the true spirit of the Strategic Approach, one of cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders and sectors. That multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral spirit made the Strategic Approach unique and had contributed greatly to its success to date in areas such as risk reduction, governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation, including through the many projects undertaken with support from the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme and the generosity of its donors. Priority concerns and actions, emerging concepts, capacity-building and how to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable

Development Goals, including through approaches such as sustainable chemistry, would all be discussed at the current meeting. In closing he called on all stakeholders — national policy makers, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, industry and the science and academic communities — to work together to ensure the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020.

6. In her remarks, Ms. Ishii said that 2017 would be an important year for chemicals and waste management as well as for the broader environment and development agenda, citing in addition to the current meeting the forthcoming meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The signing of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals were clear signs that the world was responding to environmental threats, but human activity had in some cases already pushed the planet beyond critical boundaries and while GEF was working intensively on chemicals and waste it addressed less than 1 per cent of the 100 million chemicals produced globally. It was therefore critical that 2017 be a year of action aimed at rethinking how to tackle the threats facing the planet, including by shifting to sustainable ways of producing, selling and using chemicals and embracing principles like the circular economy, which offered new opportunities to mobilize resources from a variety of actors, thus harnessing the benefits of chemicals while minimizing the risks they posed to human health and the environment. The Strategic Approach, she said, through its multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach, offered an effective way to deal with such complex challenges; GEF had already allocated more than $13 million to Strategic Approach activities to advance green chemistry and was working with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Strategic Approach secretariat to develop a comprehensive project on priority issues, including lead in paint, and was exploring a new framework aimed at creating a green economy at scale and transforming incentives to spark responsible consumption and production. GEF looked forward to discussing those matters at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and, she concluded, was committed to bold action on the critical issues facing the participants at the current meeting.

7. Mr. Marcondes expressed great satisfaction that Brazil was hosting the first meeting in the intersessional process. The Strategic Approach, he said, had succeeded in mobilizing and coordinating efforts to achieve the 2020 goal and had been instrumental in the recognition of chemical safety as an eminently cross-cutting issue that had to be addressed by the full and open participation of stakeholders from all sectors representing all stages in the life cycle of chemicals. The intersessional process would offer a crucial opportunity to assess both progress to date and what needed to be done to achieve the 2020 goal, as well as the design of the Strategic Approach beyond 2020, including with regard to how to identify and deal with emerging challenges, how to strengthen the role of the various sectors in its implementation, taking the role of the health sector as a model, and how to define the desired level of ambition, both in the goals to be set and in the framework for implementation. Regarding the latter, he said, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its goals tied to means of implementation, might be considered a source of inspiration addressing social, environmental and developmental dimensions holistically. The voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach had been key to its success in allowing all stakeholders to work together to address the most urgent priorities, he said, and he expressed the hope that that same approach and a spirit of flexibility would characterize the discussions at the current meeting, allowing the participants to work together to meet the 2020 goal and reach agreement on the future of the Strategic Approach beyond 2020. Welcoming the participants to his country's capital, he wished them success in the work ahead.

8. Ms. Sahler began her opening remarks by thanking the Government of Brazil for hosting the meeting, expressing particular satisfaction at the presence of many high-level Government representatives. The large number of participants in attendance, she said, testified to the recognition of the sound management of chemicals and wastes as a priority issue. While chemicals were critical to medical care, effective energy and climate policies and the security of the food supply, they also posed serious risks during production, use and disposal, and it was therefore necessary to lay a foundation for the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the interest of occupational safety and consumer and environmental protection. It seemed likely, she warned, that the 2020 goal would not be met in the face of enormous challenges. The Strategic Approach, with its voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach (which the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management thought should be retained beyond 2020), was a valuable mechanism for meeting those challenges. Compared to the chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements, which focused on important but narrow groups of chemicals, it offered the opportunity for flexible and targeted action; it also benefitted from the involvement of United Nations bodies, whose role highlighted the importance

of the Strategic Approach to sustainable development. Indeed, the Bureau was of the view that the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste were key to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; they must therefore be continued and enhanced beyond 2020, she concluded, and it was the duty of the Strategic Approach participants to make them a focus of global political awareness.

9. Welcoming the participants, Mr. Cruz said that the current meeting represented a great opportunity for the Latin American and Caribbean region. Chemicals, he said, were used in all sectors and played a vital part in daily life. As their release affected the environment and human health, however, especially in the case of vulnerable groups like children, it was necessary to make chemical safety a priority at all levels, national and international. Only three years remained to meet the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach, and in the meantime the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals re-emphasized the importance of sound chemicals and waste management. The challenge, he said, had to be faced immediately, and through the intersessional process it would be necessary to analyse the progress to date and consider carefully the available alternatives. The current meeting, he said, was a continuation of his country's long tradition as protagonists in the debate on sustainable development and, he hoped, would demonstrate its commitment to human health and the environment.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of co-chairs

10. In accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution IV/4, the meeting participants elected by acclamation Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho (Brazil) and Mr. David Morin (Canada) to serve as co-chairs of the intersessional process.

B. Adoption of the agenda

11. The participants adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/IP.1/1, as orally amended to add a new item 5 (d), on financing implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
    (a) Election of co-chairs;
    (b) Adoption of the agenda;
    (c) Organization of work.
3. Setting the scene for beyond 2020.
4. Taking stock of progress:
    (a) Update on the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach 2006–2015;
    (b) Update on progress in implementation of the Strategic Approach: 2014–2016;
    (c) Sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. Beyond 2020:
    (a) Vision and scope;
    (b) Voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach;
    (c) Responding to new and emerging issues;
    (d) Financing implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste;
    (e) Linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
6. Decision-making and timetable for subsequent meetings.
7. Other matters.
8. Closure of the meeting.

C. Organization of work

12. In carrying out their work at the current meeting, the meeting participants had before them working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the agenda for the meeting (SAICM/IP.1/1) as outlined in the annotated agenda (SAICM/IP.1/2) and the scenario note for the meeting prepared by the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM/IP.1/3/Rev.1).

13. In accordance with a proposal by the Bureau, the meeting participants agreed to meet each day in plenary from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustment as necessary, and to take up the items on the agenda in the order in which they appeared.

14. The session would be conducted as a paperless meeting, with documents made available in electronic format only and in English only.

15. In addition to the discussions in plenary there would be a high-level event on the afternoon of the first day of the meeting. A summary of the high-level event is set out in annex I to the present report. The meeting participants would also engage in two parallel informal dialogues over lunch on each of the first two days of the meeting, the results of which would be reported on in plenary by the dialogue moderators. A description of the dialogues, along with summaries of the dialogues prepared by the moderators, is set out in section VII below, on other matters.

16. In addition to the present report the outcome of the meeting would include a co-chairs' summary of the main points made during the discussions in plenary. Further information on the co-chairs' summary is provided in section VI of the present report.

D. Attendance

17. The following governmental participants were represented: Albania, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

18. The following intergovernmental participants were represented: Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, Global Environment Facility, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Pan American Health Organization, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean in Brazil/Companhia Ambiental do Estado de Sao Paulo (Environmental Company of Sao Paulo State), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research and World Health Organization.

19. The following non-governmental participants were represented: Abrelpe Brazilian Waste Management Association, Adelphi, Apromac Environment Protection Association, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment, Associação Brasileira dos Fabricantes de Tintas (Brazilian Association of Paint Manufacturers), Associação Brasileira da Indústria Química (Brazilian Chemical Industry Association), Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of The Philippines, Association to Combat Pollutants, Barral M. Jorge Associates, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Asia-Pacific region in China, BASF, S.A., Brazilian Chrysotile Institute, Brazilian Cleaning Products Industry Association, Centre for Environmental Justice and Development, Centre de Recherche et d'Éducation pour le Développement (Centre for Research and Education for Development), Centre for Environmental Solutions, Centre for International Environmental Law, Centre for Internet Security, Chemical Watch, Children's Environmental Health Foundation, Conseil Européen des Fédérations de L'industrie Chimique (European Council of Chemical Industry Federations), CropLife Asia, CropLife Africa Middle East, CropLife International, CropLife Latin America, Ex Research Institute, Ltd., Forum for Health, Givaudan, Greenpeace International, Health and Environment Justice Support, Health Care Without Harm, IndyAct, International Chemical Trade Association, International Council of Chemical Associations, International POPs Elimination Network, International Six Days Enduro, Intertox, MHCA Consultoria, Newport Technologies, Ltd., Overseas Environmental Cooperation Centre,

Patri Politicas Públicas, Pesticide Action Network Asia-Pacfic, Projeto Hospitais Saudáveis (Healthy Hospitals Project), Prospective Consulting Firm, Prosul, Pure Earth, RAPAM/CAATA, Telecommunications Industry Association, Tellus Institute and Toxics Link.

III. Setting the scene for beyond 2020

20. Under the agenda item the meeting participants heard a keynote presentation by Mr. Felix Dodds, Senior Fellow at the University of North Carolina and Associate Fellow at the Tellus Institute, who was introduced by the co-chair as a writer and futurist who had played a significant role in promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue at the United Nations and in the development of the Sustainable Development Goals. He spoke at length on the theme of the challenges of the mid-twenty-first century for chemicals and waste in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, covering the history of international efforts leading to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals; the role of chemicals and waste management in the 2030 Agenda; the role of stakeholders and partnerships in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Strategic Approach; the science-policy interface; financing the sustainable development goals; timelines for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and new targets and indicators. The slides that Mr. Dodds displayed during his presentation are available on the Strategic Approach website (http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/meetings/IP1/Presentation%20by%20Felix%20Dodds.pdf). His oral presentation is summarized in annex II to the present report.

IV. Taking stock of progress

A. Update on the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach 2006–2015

21. Introducing the sub-item, the co-chair recalled resolution IV/4, paragraph 1 of which had requested the secretariat to contract for an independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the annex to the resolution. He then invited Mr. Robert Nurick, the independent evaluator engaged pursuant to resolution IV/4, to present an overview of the evaluation process and the results to date.

22. In his presentation Mr. Nurick outlined the objectives of the evaluation, its theoretical grounding in a "theory of change" approach; the stages of the evaluation; the conduct and results of the evaluation to date; and the links between the Strategic Approach and the Sustainable Development Goals.

23. Noting that the objectives of the evaluation sprang from resolution IV/4, he said that its overall aim was to provide the intersessional process with information on which recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 could be based. Its central focus was on assessing the strengths, weaknesses and gaps in the implementation and governance arrangements of the Strategic Approach.

24. The evaluation would be grounded in a theory of change approach. Unlike traditional logical frameworks, which utilized linear constructs focused on activities, outputs and outcomes, a theory of change approach, he said, employed a more sophisticated and nuanced approach focused on the actors involved in a process, their relations with and influence on one another, their goals and strategies and their own perspectives on the meaning of success to gain insights into the process of change. Such a theory was appropriate for the Strategic Approach owing to the complexity of its multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach involving many countries and sectors with complex and sometimes competing claims. The evaluation would also employ both retroactive and prospective approaches to assess success in meeting the 2020 goal and to explore ways that chemicals and wastes might be managed beyond 2020.

25. The first stage of the evaluation, from November 2016 to January 2017, involved the preparation of an online survey to inform the evaluation, which many stakeholders had already completed, and the preparation of an interim report based on the survey (SAICM/IP.1/5 and Add.1), which was before the participants at the current meeting. The second stage, the comprehensive evaluation period, would run to the end of 2017 and would include regional and other focus group sessions, one-on-one meetings with some stakeholders and the preparation of a draft report on the results of the evaluation. The evaluator had held focus group sessions the day before the start of the current meeting and would continue them during the meeting, and consultations would continue over the succeeding months. Information on the focus group sessions was provided in document SAICM/IP.1/INF/4. The third stage, covering the first half of 2018, would involve stakeholder

feedback on the draft report and the preparation of a final report for presentation at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, in mid-2018.

26. To date 180 responses to the survey had been submitted by Governments, industry, intergovernmental organizations, member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), members of the bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and all five regional groups.

27. The responses showed that respondents saw mixed success in the achievement of the five overarching policy objectives of the Strategic Approach, with most indicating that success had been greatest with regard to knowledge and information sharing, with significant gaps nevertheless remaining, and least with regard to illegal traffic, which remained a serious threat for developing countries with regard to matters such as counterfeit pesticides, trade in mercury, e-waste dumping and the smuggling of banned chemicals, all of which were exacerbated by a lack of public awareness and a lack of training for customs officials. The progress that had been made in capacity-building was attributed largely to the Quick Start Programme, as well as the programmes of other United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and industry, but demand still outpaced supply. The Quick Start Programme had also contributed to improvements in developing countries with regard to risk reduction, but success in that objective and in chemicals and waste governance were greater in the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

28. Lead in paint was seen by a large margin as the most successful emerging policy issue, as the result of legislation, awareness-raising, encouragement of voluntary action by manufacturers and civil society campaigns. Some success had been reported with regard to highly hazardous pesticides thanks to awareness-raising efforts for farmers, Governments and other stakeholders; pharmaceutical pollutants, hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment and nanotechnology were seen as the least successful emerging policy issues.

29. The success of the Strategic Approach, he said, was evident in the Sustainable Development Goals, where it was reflected in most of the goals, such as goals 2, 3, 6, 8 and 14, and explicitly addressed in many targets, such as targets 2.1, 3.9 and 12.4. The mainstreaming of chemicals and wastes into the Sustainable Development Goals represented a significant opportunity to ensure the inclusion of chemicals and waste management in national development plans, and as was the case with the Millennium Development Goals Governments seeking funding would probably need to demonstrate how such plans addressed the Sustainable Development Goals.

30. Strategic Approach indicators, he said, had evolved over time, with the initial 20 defined in 2009 and aligned with the five overarching policy objectives and some adjustments made to align them with the 11 elements of the overall orientation and guidance. Further adjustment of the indicators might be needed, he suggested, to reflect both emerging policy issues and the Sustainable Development Goals and to measure the effectiveness and impact of activities, which current indicators did not do, and efforts would be needed to ensure that indicators remained fit for purpose.

31. In concluding he said that the success of the evaluation would depend on the full participation of all stakeholders so that all views were taken into account.

32. In the ensuing discussion those who spoke commended what they said promised to be a useful evaluation. One representative expressed satisfaction at the proposed deadline of late 2017 for the completion of the draft evaluation, saying that it would be critical to the discussions on the future of the Strategic Approach beyond 2020. She also commended the focus of the evaluation on national implementation of the Strategic Approach aimed at achievement of the 2020 goal, which she said was at the core of the Approach. Another praised the evaluation's theory of change approach, saying that it could provide important insights into how to strengthen the Strategic Approach beyond 2020 to ensure that it contributed effectively to the Sustainable Development Goals.

33. Representatives also offered suggestions for improvement of the evaluation and report, including that efforts be made to ensure that the survey was completed by vulnerable groups such as women and indigenous groups; that they include an indication of which activities in the Global Plan of Action had been successful and completed, to facilitate the application of resources to those still incomplete; that they consider the impact of the Dubai Declaration in promoting the Strategic Approach and influencing science policy; that they address the potential impact of the establishment of a body like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for chemicals and wastes; that they give greater space to financing for chemicals and waste management; that they better explain how the Strategic Approach contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals and where Strategic Approach commitments had not been met and why; and that they focus on national implementation aimed at achievement of the 2020 goal. One representative asked whether the evaluation process

provided for interviews of stakeholders during visits to countries, noting that women had not been interviewed during one such visit to his country.

34. In responding to the comments Mr. Nurick said that the evaluation process did include opportunities for direct interaction with stakeholder groups; information gathered on vulnerable groups from the survey respondents was provided by those working with vulnerable groups, such as non-governmental organizations. He noted that while the interim report did not provide a profile of the survey respondents the next draft of the report would do so. As for the success of the Strategic Approach, in particular with regard to illegal traffic, he said that it was too early to conclude that the Strategic Approach had not worked. Regarding governance, he noted that there was much support for the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach and that there was considerable interest in the idea of establishing a body along the lines of IPCC to promote the link between science and policy. As to whether such a body should be established, his terms of reference called for him to provide information as a basis for recommendations but not to make recommendations himself. He took note of the assertion that the evaluation should focus on national implementation of the Strategic Approach aimed at achieving the 2020 goal.

B. Update on 2014–2016: report on progress

35. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that in resolution IV/1 the International Conference on Chemicals Management had requested the secretariat to prepare a third progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Approach, covering the period 2014–2016, along with an analysis of 20 Strategic Approach indicators of progress in relation to the 2030 Agenda, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting. The secretariat had in response prepared an information document (SAICM/IP.1/INF/3) setting out a workplan for the preparation of the progress report, including an indicative timetable, along with an initial analysis of the 20 indicators and potential linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

36. Following that presentation one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, recalled that resolution IV/1 had highlighted the importance of the work of the IOMC member organizations and requested each of them to report on their planned activities aimed at achievement of the 2020 goal. Those activities would be important in taking stock of progress and in thinking about work beyond 2020, and the organizations should already be thinking about what they could do to ensure a truly multi-sectoral approach to the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

37. The representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, speaking on behalf of the IOMC member organizations and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, recalled that at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management IOMC had submitted a set of indicators for tracking the future progress of the Strategic Approach, which was intended not to replace Strategic Approach reporting arrangements but rather to augment them with global data from IOMC member organizations and the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions in areas such as the elimination of lead in paint and access to poison centres. He expressed the hope that the indicators would be useful and reiterated the willingness of those organizations to work with the Strategic Approach secretariat on the issue.

38. The representative of UNEP added that UNEP had recently obtained funding from the United Nations Development Account to work with three developing countries on a project on how indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach could be used at the national level. The project, which would feature two international expert meetings and country-level work, would provide an opportunity to provide national experience in the three pilot countries for use in the Strategic Approach indicator process.

39. In concluding the sub-item the chair requested the secretariat to take the above comments into account in preparing the progress report and recalled that the next reporting period for Strategic Approach participants would be April–July 2017.

V. Beyond 2020

40. The representative of the secretariat introduced the documents relevant to the agenda item: a thought starter document prepared by the Bureau (SAICM/IP.1/4) and an information document prepared by the secretariat on the development of the second UNEP Global Chemicals Outlook assessment and its relevance to the intersessional process (SAICM/IP.1/INF/1).

41. The participants then began their consideration of the item with general statements from regional and sectoral representatives.

42. The representative speaking on behalf of the African region said that the sound management of chemicals and wastes was critical to African countries, which were the recipients, often unwilling, of banned chemicals and wastes and the victims of chemical poisoning and dumping. While the region had benefitted from the Strategic Approach it still faced many challenges, including unfavourable contracts with chemicals companies, porous borders and limited surveillance, monitoring and institutional capacity. It badly needed action at the policy level to reduce exposure risk and enhance monitoring mechanisms, but more resources were needed, and the sound management of chemicals and wastes required the establishment of an adequate, predictable and sustainable financial mechanism. Africa greatly appreciated the support it had received to date from UNEP, GEF and IOMC member organizations but would need more to take the Strategic Approach beyond 2020. Calling on all development partners to continue to provide financial and technical support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, he said that the intersessional process must result in the development of a roadmap for the mobilization of existing and new predictable, sustainable and dedicated resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach. It also must result in the strengthening of Strategic Approach mechanisms so that all stakeholders played their roles and honoured their commitments. Africa, he said, was ready to engage in a spirit of cooperation, dialogue and flexibility.

43. The representative speaking on behalf of Asia-Pacific States said that they had made considerable efforts to implement the Strategic Approach and that countries were doing their best to establish chemicals and waste management coordination mechanisms, raise public awareness and encourage stakeholder participation in relevant programmes. There were many gaps, however, and women and children were among those requiring particular attention in planning chemical safety policies and programmes. To overcome such gaps and achieve the 2020 goal, the needs of developing countries for financial assistance, capacity-building, knowledge sharing, technical assistance and the transfer of technology, including green technology, had to be met. Expressing appreciation to Strategic Approach donors for their support to date, the region, invoking the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, called on them to mobilize existing and new predictable, adequate and sustainable resources.

44. The representative speaking on behalf of Central and Eastern European States said that the current meeting represented a historic moment and significant step towards achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach and an opportunity to show the political will to renew commitments in respect of the sound management of chemicals and wastes. The Sustainable Development Goals showed that chemicals and waste management was a broadly cross-cutting issue, and the current meeting would provide the opportunity to consider whether the Strategic Approach could be linked through the 2030 Agenda to other issues like climate change, water, food safety and biodiversity, as well as policy concepts such as sustainable production and consumption and sustainable chemistry. The region welcomed the thought starter prepared by the Bureau as a sound basis for the discussion of those issues. The current meeting would determine the direction of future efforts to meet the mandate set out in resolution IV/4 and provide the basis for decision-making at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and the countries of the region were convinced that it would be conducted in a positive spirit.

45. The representative speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States said that as the use of chemicals was increasing and chemicals were used globally there was a continuing need to minimize their adverse effects on human health and the environment while addressing the growing challenge posed by waste management. Those for whom he spoke recognized the accomplishments of the Strategic Approach to date and supported its overall aim of closing the gap and achieving the sound management of chemicals and wastes as well as the vision of resolution IV/4 and believed that current efforts should build on the process leading to the adoption of the annex to resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, with the aim of achieving an enabling multilateral platform for the sound management of chemicals and wastes that was broader than the Strategic Approach. The multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach of the Strategic Approach offered a unique potential for addressing relevant issues at the global level and should be continued beyond 2020. The sound management of chemicals and wastes was necessary to the achievement of sustainable development and was embedded in many of the objectives and targets of the 2030 Agenda, which in turn presented a great opportunity to achieve the integration of chemicals and waste issues into national development plans and sectoral policies and actions, while the development of a post-2020 framework presented an opportunity to enhance cooperation and coordination on chemicals and wastes and to forge strong links to other issues such as biodiversity and climate change. The European Union and its member States were fully committed to the Strategic Approach and the post-2020 process and looked forward to the work ahead and the discussions on the functions of a new enabling platform for the sound

management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020, as well as the suggestions put forth by the co-chairs regarding the process to be followed following the current meeting.

46. The non-governmental sector representative of the health sector, echoing the view regarding the value of the Strategic Approach multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach, said that one of the successes of the Strategic Approach had been the health sector strategy, which had set the stage for greater participation by health care professionals in identifying, assessing and addressing the health impacts of chemical exposure. The Quick Start Programme had played an important role in the implementation of the strategy. Projects financed by the Programme had been successful but could not be scaled up to the national level owing to a lack of financing; the health sector therefore welcomed the addition of an item on financing to the agenda for the current meeting. In the preparation of the WHO Chemicals Roadmap and its preparations for the current meeting the health sector had involved health sector actors that had not previously been involved with chemicals, and it looked forward to hearing from participants their ideas about how to engage yet more health actors in the sound management of chemicals and waste. The sector saw its future role as protecting health by eliminating hazards; it therefore applauded Zambia for its work to establish poison control centres and called for a focus on building the capacity of such centres to prevent poisoning rather than treat it. More generally steps should be taken to eliminate occupational health risks posed by chemicals by substituting less hazardous chemicals for chemicals such as Triclosan – an endocrine disruptor used in soaps – and promoting the use of personal protective equipment. To that end less toxic alternatives to chemicals in products needed to be identified and developed. There was also a need to eliminate the use in the health sector of unsustainable plastics such as that in intravenous tubing, which posed a reproductive hazard. Sound chemicals management required an integrative approach, which was just what the Strategic Approach offered, and countries successfully managing chemicals would be able to report success in all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The intersessional process, she concluded, was an important success story to be reported under Goal 17, Partnerships for the Goals.

47. The representative speaking on behalf of public interest non-governmental organizations said that governance was the most important issue to be addressed during the intersessional process; that there was no meeting document and no current way to address the mandate in resolution IV/4 for the development of "measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda"; that the Strategic Approach was extremely underfunded; and that women, although suffering widespread chemical exposures, had been largely ignored in chemical safety policy-making and the Strategic Approach. The sector therefore suggested that the secretariat be requested to develop a paper on options for governance beyond 2020, including voluntary and legally binding options; recommendations for measurable objectives in support of the 2030 agenda, along with a paper on links between chemical safety and the Sustainable Development Goals describing the essential role of chemical safety in achieving all the Goals save for 1, 7 and 10; and a paper on new sources of financing resulting from Agenda 2030, including internalization of costs and cost recovery instruments. It also suggested the formation of a working group to develop recommendations on addressing Agenda 2030 and Strategic Approach issues of concern to women for consideration at the second meeting in the intersessional process and, ultimately, that female ministers develop a report and recommendations on the issue for adoption by 2020. To illustrate the need for such outcomes, he told the story of a woman who over the course of two years working in an electronics factory, exposed to hazardous chemicals and provided with no personal protective equipment, had developed a brain tumour and become unable to care for herself in even the most basic ways. The recommendations resulting from the intersessional process, he said, would be judged by whether they reduced harm in the real world, and he called for an ambitious outcome leading to a toxics-free future.

48. Another representative speaking on behalf of public interest non-governmental organizations said that while the International Conference on Chemicals Management had at its fourth session adopted a resolution acknowledging the harm caused by highly hazardous pesticides and supporting concerted action to address them, including through agro-ecological alternatives, no action had been taken since then. In the meantime, severe pesticide poisoning continued, with a particular impact on women as workers, mothers and farmers. Urgent action was needed, and the sector called for the establishment of a global governance mechanism aimed at phasing out highly hazardous pesticides with a focus on the rights and needs of women and children.

49. The representative speaking on behalf of IOMC member organizations outlined some of the strengths and weaknesses of the Strategic Approach to be addressed during the intersessional process. While the broad scope of the Strategic Approach was a strength it had also resulted in a lack of clear focus and a fragmentation of goals, priority setting and funding. Future arrangements should therefore continue institutional strengthening, develop achievable objectives, avoid duplication and ensure support for legally binding conventions. A failure to move from awareness-raising and problem identification to concerted action and solutions to a sufficient extent was a weakness, due in part to the

voluntary nature of the Strategic Approach and a lack of other incentives; it also resulted in challenges with regard to reporting and indicators, which needed to be more focused. Awareness-raising and the sharing of information, best practices and experience at all levels was a strength of the Strategic Approach, but communication with all sectors needed to be improved. At the national level the Strategic Approach had created the impetus for collaboration between ministries in some countries but such collaboration was not yet optimal in all countries. At the international level, however, there was a disconnect between requests from the International Conference on Chemicals Management and international organizations that received their directions from and were responsible to their own governing bodies. It was therefore necessary to reconsider institutional arrangements, perhaps shifting from focal points to networks and engagement. Finally, he said, the actions of countries in chemicals management and the support for them provided by the Quick Start Programme had been a decided strength.

50. The representative speaking on behalf of industry said that industry stakeholders were strongly committed to playing an integral role in the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020, as well as to safety throughout the lifecycles of chemicals. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals provided an important context for the current meeting, and chemicals would be key to achieving all the Goals and their targets. An understanding of the contribution of chemicals to sustainable development should encompass all three dimensions of sustainable development, taking into account their contributions in areas such as energy efficiency, clean water and reduced greenhouse gas emissions as well as the risks that they posed to human health and the environment. Industry strongly supported the Strategic Approach and its multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach, which had led to important collaboration between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, including on projects in China, Viet Nam and Western Africa under memorandums of understanding between UNEP and the International Council of Chemical Associations. A multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach should be maintained beyond 2020. It was important to have a comprehensive approach to managing the shift in the production of chemicals to developing countries. Industry also believed that clear policies and management methodologies at the national level, supported by non-governmental organization initiatives, offered the most effective means of ensuring sound chemicals management. There was therefore a continuing and significant need to ensure the existence of capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes at the national level. The Strategic Approach had led to significant capacity-building efforts, including industry efforts to improve developing-country capacity to manage chemicals safely, but there was a long way to go and capacity-building would not be sustainable in the absence of political and financial support and political will.

51. The non-governmental sectoral representative speaking on behalf of labour expressed dismay at the rate of improvement in the impact of chemicals on human health. Progress had been made but was too slow, and seeking ways to improve it should be a priority for the Strategic Approach beyond 2020. With regard to workers, the sector was concerned at the impact of chemicals and wastes on them and their families and communities and believed that improving the health of workers would confer benefits on society as a whole. It was also of the view that the rights of workers in the formal sector vis-à-vis chemicals, such as the right to know about risks posed by chemicals and to avoid dangerous situations, should be enjoyed equally by workers in the informal sector, which would be of particular importance to women. The slow progress could be attributed to the voluntary nature of action under the Strategic Approach; labour therefore proposed that voluntary action be complemented through the leveraging of existing legally binding instruments, in particular the conventions adopted under the auspices of the International Labour Organization, 19 of which concerned issues relevant to the Strategic Approach such as occupational health and safety and chemicals.

A. Vision and scope

52. Introducing the sub-item, the co-chair said that the discussion should be framed in terms of the varying capacities of developed and developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition. Recalling the vision articulated in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, he suggested that a vision for the period beyond 2020 could be achieved by building on those elements of the Strategic Approach that had worked well, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He suggested that the participants consider whether the vision of resolution 1/5 adequately encompassed the Strategic Approach beyond 2020 and whether the time for the next phase of chemicals and waste management should be tied to 2030 or extend beyond.

53. In the ensuing discussion many representatives said that the intersessional process had its roots in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 as reiterated in resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. As such it was not just about the Strategic Approach but also the chemicals and waste conventions, the IOMC member organizations and action

and ownership at the national level aiming to facilitate the achievement of the objectives, goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

54. Several representatives said that the primary aim of a chemicals and waste management regime beyond 2020 should be the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. One representative said that the 2030 Agenda provided a good basis and political momentum for going beyond 2020 in respect of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, that the flexibility of the Strategic Approach had a counterpart in the integrated approach of the 2030 Agenda and that the Strategic Approach was relevant not just to goal 12 and target 12.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals but to all the Goals.

55. Many representatives said that the scope of the Strategic Approach should be preserved and expanded in any future chemicals and waste management framework, with several saying that otherwise there would be no international framework for addressing the majority of the most pressing chemical safety concerns, particularly in the case of developing countries.

56. One representative said that as it was well known and widely recognized the name Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management should continue to be used for any chemicals and waste management framework beyond 2020.

57. Several representatives said that a future chemicals and waste management framework must take into account emerging issues and the shift in chemicals manufacturing to developing countries, with one saying that it should also employ tools that created win-win situations, thus achieving sound management in a manner that made use of business cases and lowered trade barriers.

58. Many representatives said that the vision of the future framework for chemicals and waste management should be broadened based on the vision articulated in resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and confirmed in resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, with one saying that it should be both inspirational and aspirational, another that it should be firmly embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including especially targets 12.4 and 3.9, thus encompassing wastes as well as chemicals, and another noting that target 12.4 extended beyond hazardous chemicals to include all chemicals.

59. One representative said that the beyond 2020 framework should also seek to make use of supportive concepts such as sustainable chemistry and the circular economy and should extend to human rights concerns and the protection of vulnerable groups such as children. Another, however, expressed caution, saying that tested, negotiated principles and approaches should not be supplanted by new and unproven concepts about which there was as yet no consensus.

60. Several representatives said that achieving the sound management of chemicals and wastes would require high-level commitment by all stakeholders and that it would be important to generate political momentum, to which end an easily communicated message and links to the 2030 Agenda and high-priority areas such as climate change would be helpful. One said that the Sustainable Development Goals were good examples of such easily communicated messages, suggesting “a non-toxic environment” as a possible formulation for the chemicals and waste agenda.

61. It was also said that achieving the sound management of chemicals and wastes would require practical, targeted actions and a measurable implementable plan that specified which actors would take which actions. The WHO health sector roadmap, which outlined specific actions to support the Strategic Approach vision and the Sustainable Development Goals, specifying who was to accomplish what, was suggested as a model for such a plan.

62. Several representatives expressed support for the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach and said that it should be continued and enhanced beyond 2020. One representative, however, said that while other stakeholders had a role to play Governments were and should be the principal responsible actors.

63. Many representatives said that a future chemicals and waste management regime should be open-ended rather than time limited, with one saying that it should extend at least to the middle of the twenty-first century and another suggesting that it would be a mistake to send a signal that the challenge could be met in a short time.

64. It was also said that the beyond 2020 framework should build on and not duplicate other efforts, and several representatives pointed to specific examples of such efforts. In that vein, it was said that key features of the Strategic Approach should be replicated in any future chemicals and waste management framework. Those features, said one, included high level political endorsement, which linked countries to financing; regulatory infrastructure; enforcement; coherence and coordination across ministries and stakeholders; and key chemical safety principles such as the right to know,

substitution, polluter pays, no data no market and others. As they were reflected in the original Strategic Approach documents and reinforced in resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the intersessional process should recognize them as statements of its mission and objectives and focus on operationalizing them to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Another representative suggested that key areas to be covered were institutional strengthening and ownership at the national level; implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals; and knowledge and information sharing. Several representatives said that the 11 elements of the Overarching Orientation and Guidance should be part of any post-2020 framework.

65. The representative of UNEP highlighted a number of things that the participants might wish to take into account during the intersessional process, including the report "Healthy Environment, Healthy People", with a focus on the theme of "detoxifying"; the outcome of the April 2017 meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, whose theme would be "a future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and wastes"; and the outcome of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which would focus on a pollution free planet.

66. One representative said that the intersessional process should take into account three things in particular: target 3.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals; the secretariat's proposal regarding the role of science and its link to policy and implementation; and the WHO roadmap, with its focus on filling gaps in scientific knowledge to improve risk assessment.

67. One representative drew attention to the work of the Global Chemicals Outlook steering group, saying that the group had developed 15 topics of importance to the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020 and would aim to assist in the development of options for implementing the chemicals and waste aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals with attention both to chemicals and waste management topics and enabling topics such as research and development, education and economic incentives.

68. Several representatives called for the strengthening of the science-policy nexus, and to that end one called for the establishment of a scientific platform such as IPCC or the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. He also said that scientific assessments should be universal in scope, providing for the participation of all regions and all major language speakers to allow for the use of data from the greatest possible number of sources.

69. Several representatives said that a chemicals and waste management framework beyond 2020 should include strategic goals and targets, both qualitative and quantitative. One cited the five strategic goals and 20 targets of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as an example of the benefit of such an approach, saying that the Aichi goals and targets had helped to give focus to the biodiversity agenda and facilitated consolidated action under a single umbrella by a range of stakeholders. The intersessional process, he said, should include consideration of lessons learned from the biodiversity sector and how they might be applied to chemicals and waste management beyond 2020.

70. Two representatives said that given the scale of the challenge it would be necessary to prioritize objectives and activities, with one suggesting that priorities be set by each country based on patterns of exposure and the magnitude of the health impact of specific chemicals using a burden of disease analysis. Assistance to that end would be needed, however, including through workshops and support for research on the health impacts of specific chemicals, for many of which data was sorely lacking.

71. One representative said that reporting would also be necessary in conjunction with indicators and raised the question of what forum would consider reported results.

72. Several representatives said that there was a need to rethink the Strategic Approach governance structure going forward, reiterating the call for the secretariat to develop a paper on governance options for chemicals and waste management.

73. Several representatives said that, while the Strategic Approach had accomplished a great deal to date, the goals of sound management of chemicals and wastes would not be met in the absence of adequate financial and technical assistance and technology transfer consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Every objective, added one, should be matched by adequate resources, especially where legally binding obligations were involved.

74. On a logistical note, one representative said that participants should not rely only on the three sessions planned for the intersessional process and that the arrangements should provide for national-level multi-stakeholder workshops.

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

75. Under the sub-item the participants discussed the voluntary, multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach and its implications for chemicals and waste management beyond 2020. The participants first heard a video presentation by Ms. Maria Neira, Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization (WHO).

76. In her presentation Ms. Neira outlined some of the effects of chemicals on human health, including irreversible impacts such as intellectual disability and behavioural, reproductive and other disorders, and recalled WHO estimates that chemicals for which good information was available caused some 1.3 million deaths per year and 2.3 per cent of the global burden of disease. Since little was known about the impact of a many other chemicals those figures probably severely understated the true impact of chemical exposure.

77. The health benefits of sound chemicals and waste management were therefore very important, and chemicals management was vital to all aspects of the 2030 Agenda. The health sector had a vital role to play in that regard, including to gather evidence; to assess risk in order both to raise awareness and to inform preventive and management strategies; and to work with other sectors to advocate pro-health policies and action. The health sector in many countries, however, was poorly equipped to play such a role with regard both to existing and emerging issues. Fewer than half of all countries had poison control centres, for example, and fewer than one third had legal controls aimed at limiting lead in paint.

78. The Strategic Approach had been critical to efforts to rectify those shortcomings, and the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach, including the health sector in particular, had been vital to those efforts. Still there was a need to strengthen the role of the health sector even more, and she drew attention to resolution 69.4 of the World Health Assembly (see SAICM/IP.1/INF/2), by which the Assembly had requested the WHO secretariat to develop a road map outlining concrete actions to enhance health sector engagement towards meeting the 2020 goal and contributing to relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Pursuant to the resolution the WHO secretariat had prepared a draft roadmap, which following a consultation process had been revised and discussed by the WHO Executive Board and would be presented at the next session of the World Health Assembly, in May 2017. As requested in resolution 69.4, the roadmap would be further revised to reflect the outcome of the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and chemicals and waste management beyond 2020.

79. The question of how best to integrate the health sector and all sectors into chemicals management efforts at the national, regional and international levels would be a key question to address during the intersessional process. Working together, all sectors could ensure that chemicals management contributed to all aspects of the 2030 Agenda, and WHO was counting on the intersessional process to make that happen.

80. In the ensuing discussion all who took the floor expressed strong support for the voluntary, multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach, saying that it had been highly effective in fostering collaboration between all relevant stakeholders and enabling flexible targeted action, with several adding that initiatives undertaken would not have had the same impact without the broad participation of all relevant stakeholders and another that a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach was consistent with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Several representatives enumerated examples of partnerships and other collaboration that had been made possible by the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach.

81. One representative reported that her Government had conducted a survey on Strategic Approach governance issues. Interviews with over 40 governmental and other stakeholders had showed nearly universal approval of the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach and that the great majority wanted to retain a voluntary approach beyond 2020. Many also felt that there was a need for a renewed vision.

82. Another representative drew attention to a report by the Nordic Council, which concluded that the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach was one of its major strengths in that it had ensured broad participation and the presentation of various perspectives on the issues and thus enhanced the legitimacy of the Strategic Approach. The report, entitled Chemicals and Waste Governance Beyond 2020: Exploring Pathways for a Coherent Global Regime, was available as a reference document on the website for the current meeting.

83. Many representatives expressed support for the continuation of a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach in any framework for the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020, with several adding that the success of a future voluntary chemicals and waste management

framework would depend heavily on the strengthened commitment and participation of all stakeholders. To that end, one said, the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session needed to send a clear signal, and strong high-level participation in that session would therefore be key to the Strategic Approach beyond 2020.

84. A number of representatives said that the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach should be enhanced in the chemicals and waste management framework to be established for the period beyond 2020, with several saying that a future framework should enhance synergies as well, linking sectors and addressing gaps, and another that stakeholder engagement on issues such as climate change and risk management should be examined for ideas. One representative suggested that the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach be improved upon by adding to the current stakeholder focus an arrangement allowing sectors such as health, environment and agriculture more opportunities to play a collective sectoral role in discussions and activities. One said that it was essential for all stakeholders to engage on an equal footing.

85. Several representatives said that it was necessary to expand the number of sectors and stakeholders actively participating in chemicals and waste management efforts. One, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that at their next meeting the participants discuss how to map relevant institutions and enhance their coordination towards the implementation of Agenda 2030, as well as the possible need for a framework broader than the Strategic Approach that could address issues such as prevention that posed a challenge for the Strategic Approach. To that end he suggested that the secretariat prepare for consideration at the next meeting in the intersessional process a document examining the activities of each IOMC member organization aimed at implementation of the 2030 Agenda goals and objectives.

86. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, identified sectors and actors that they said should play a greater role in any future chemicals and waste management framework, including industry partners beyond chemicals manufacturers such as organizations with expertise in agroecological approaches; ministries of education; non-governmental organizations, including those dealing with risk assessment and disasters; the private sector, including end users; local governments; agriculture; and labour.

87. A number of representatives said that the health sector in particular had a key role to play in a future chemicals and waste management framework, with one adding that the sector was in a better position than any other to inform the public of the health risks posed by chemical exposure and that it was necessary to strengthen its capacity to respond to chemical-related emergencies.

88. A representative speaking on behalf of international organizations said that not enough effort was made to nurture relationships between stakeholder groups and that interactions were limited to the presentation of views and the negotiation of resolutions. That pattern, he said, should give way to a culture focused more on engagement and action. He also said that there was a lack of broad participation at Strategic Approach meetings, in part owing to a lack of funding for anyone beyond national focal points.

89. Several representatives commented on the role of partnerships, saying that they should satisfy a number of criteria. Thus it was said that partnerships should support the implementation of internationally agreed goals; be coherent with national law, development plans and strategies; respect international law and agreed principles and values; be transparent and accountable and add value rather than replace commitments by Governments; have secure funding bases; be multi-stakeholder driven, with clear roles outlined for the various partners; and work according to the SMART criteria (specific, measurable, achievable, resource-based and time-bound) so that they delivered visible real-world progress. As to the participation of business in partnerships, it was said that only businesses that complied with United Nations guidelines including the United Nations Global Compact and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights should be allowed. One representative suggested that the national-level partnerships working to implement the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint (GAELP) were a good model for partnerships beyond 2020.

90. Several said that the voluntary nature of participation in the Strategic Approach should be maintained in any future chemicals and waste management framework. Several others, however, expressed reservations about the strictly voluntary nature of the Strategic Approach, saying that while it enabled flexible and targeted action on new and emerging issues it also limited the impact of the Strategic Approach, with one saying that necessary action on a number of critical issues such as lead in paint and highly hazardous pesticides had been extremely slow. Several representatives reiterated the call for the secretariat to prepare a paper on governance options for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including consideration of binding, non-binding and mixed options.

C. Responding to new and emerging issues

91. Introducing the sub-item, the co-chair recalled that one of the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as specified in paragraph 24 (j) of the Overarching Policy Strategy, was to focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging issues, seeking to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action. Pursuant to that paragraph the Strategic Approach had provided a unique global framework for dealing with emerging policy issues.

92. Opening the floor, she asked the participants in addressing the sub-item to have in mind whether criteria for selecting emerging policy issues or categories of emerging policy issues should be established; how existing emerging policy issues and issues of concern could either be wrapped up quickly or dealt with beyond 2020; and whether there was a need to strengthen the science-policy link and, if so, what science-policy functions could be enhanced in the beyond 2020 framework.

93. In the ensuing discussion many representatives praised the work on emerging policy issues under the Strategic Approach, with one saying that it was a good example of how the Strategic Approach had facilitated multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral efforts to address toxic substances not covered by any of the chemicals conventions.

94. Several representatives said that work on emerging policy issues and issues of concern was an important feature of the Strategic Approach and should continue beyond 2020. While the Strategic Approach had succeeded in raising awareness of such issues, progress had been slow and more time and resources were needed to achieve the objectives.

95. One representative, speaking on behalf of the countries of his region, said that there was a need for a process for identifying emerging issues that went beyond paragraph 24 (j) of the Overarching Policy Strategy. Such a process was especially critical for his region, he said, which lacked the resources to undertake adequate research to produce relevant local scientific data on emerging policy issues and their prioritization.

96. One representative, however, said that the scope of the Strategic Approach in respect of emerging policy issues should not be expanded in any future chemicals and waste management framework. Instead the focus should be on analysing and prioritizing issues that had already been designated as emerging policy issues under the Strategic Approach.

97. In a similar vein another representative said that while the Strategic Approach had played an important role in respect of emerging policy issues the main focus should be on chemicals and waste management basics such as regulatory regimes and use of the Globally Harmonized System. She also said that the possible work on plastics suggested in the thought starter document might be duplicative of work being done by other global organizations.

98. Several representatives said that national chemicals and waste management systems needed to be developed and the implementation of existing systems refined, including, said one, public and private sector elements, voluntary standards and a mechanism for monitoring implementation.

99. Several representatives said that the process for identifying emerging policy issues should be scientifically sound. Thus it was said that it should be based on the most up-to-date, independent and policy-relevant science; that form should follow function with the aim of ensuring sound science and adequate review and decision-making; and that it should take into account all available information and divergent views among scientists. One representative said that she understood sound science to include social science, suggesting that a system for dealing with emerging policy issues should be people centred and focused on impact and prevention. One representative said that it might be necessary to establish a science-policy interface, which she said should not duplicate existing mechanisms, to facilitate the identification, evaluation and prioritization of issues. Another raised the possibility that the establishment of a scientific body might result in the diversion of resources away from implementation, while another said that in the light of existing resources there was no need for any such body.

100. Suggesting that progress from scientific knowledge to policy and action was too slow, one representative said that a science-policy interface should speed things and not be used a means of manufacturing doubt and causing delay. Thus the precautionary principle should be paramount and certainty not required as a prerequisite to action. Any scientific body, furthermore, would need precise terms of reference, and conflicts of interest by members of the body would need to be managed carefully.

101. One representative, supported by another, said that any future process for identifying and dealing with emerging policy issues should be flexible, featuring a range of approaches including legally-binding ones, partnerships and others depending on the nature of the issues under

consideration. One representative said that the consideration of specific emerging issues should be time-limited.

102. One representative said that one important area of work on prioritized emerging policy issues should be the production of guidelines, along the lines of those produced under the auspices of the Basel Convention, which among other things could be used by industry and inspire national legislation. Another representative expressed disagreement, however, saying that efforts to improve the science-policy nexus should focus on capacity-building, cooperation and identifying and closing technology gaps.

103. Several representatives said that the process for identifying and dealing with emerging policy issues should be inclusive, consistent with the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach, thus allowing for all stakeholders to propose emerging policy issues.

104. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the knowledge base on chemicals needed to be strengthened. Thus it was suggested that, as had been done in respect of endocrine disruptors and nanomaterials, information on the state of the art with regard to key issues should be developed and disseminated.

105. Several representatives said that it would be necessary to prioritize emerging policy issues, with one saying that such prioritization should support basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and wastes in accordance with the Overall Orientation and Guidance with the aim of achieving the 2030 agenda, as well as issues on which more work was required versus those at a more mature stage. Another endorsed the idea presented in the Bureau thought starter paper of categorizing emerging policy issue as issues of concern, new and emerging issues and urgent and/or unaddressed issues. One representative suggested a focus on hazardous chemicals in products and chemicals and groups of chemicals not adequately covered by legally-binding instruments or other frameworks. Another called for a focus on emerging policy issues that would contribute to building basic chemicals and waste management capacity in developing countries and on persistent public health and environmental issues, saying that issues that ceased to support priority goals should be retired. One representative, however, asked whether it was necessary to prioritize issues at all in the context of a multi-stakeholder, non-legally binding instrument.

106. One representative called for work to identify global action needed in respect of specific chemicals or groups of chemicals, which he said could fill gaps in the work under the chemicals conventions ranging from information exchange to outright bans.

107. Several representatives said that existing and new emerging policy issues should be linked to measurable quantitative and qualitative objectives so that they produced specific and measurable results. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of the countries of his region, said that the process for nominating and acting upon emerging policy issues would be facilitated by application of the SMART criteria. Work should be ended on issues on which progress was inadequate, said one representative. One representative drew attention to an information document, "Beyond 2020: Chemical safety and Agenda 2030" developed by IPEN and PAN, which provided suggestions for measurable objectives for all existing and some potential emerging policy issues.

108. Several representatives said that any system beyond 2020 should make the most of existing institutions and mechanisms and avoid duplication of efforts. Thus it was said that it should work with the Global Chemicals Outlook, GWMO and the mechanisms of the IOMC member organizations, subsidiary bodies of the chemicals conventions and the International Resource Panel, expanding upon them as necessary.

109. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that IOMC member organizations would play a significant role in any work on emerging policy issues; he therefore reiterated his group's earlier call for a mapping of such organizations' activities to date. A representative speaking on behalf of IOMC said that IOMC would undertake such a mapping, with the aim of producing an initial draft by the time of the next meeting in the intersessional process.

110. Several representatives said that industry had an important role to play, with one calling for a dynamic process in which industry applied sustainable chemistry, innovation, the circular economy concept and the first two steps in the waste hierarchy (prevention and minimization).

111. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of the countries of his region, said that the system for dealing with emerging policy issues and issues of concern should be transparent. The representative speaking on behalf of the countries of his region referred to the challenges faced by developing countries and regions, in the light of which, he said, it was necessary to strengthen international cooperation to facilitate the transfer of expertise, data and technology. In addition, he

said, there was a deep need to ensure accountability by all stakeholders, including Heads of State. It was therefore necessary to convince Heads of State to see the work on chemicals and waste management as part of their legacies. He also said that time should be devoted at sessions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to the sharing of information, ideas and experiences with the aim of reducing chemical exposures and saving lives. Another representative echoed that suggestion, saying that it was necessary to find an appropriate balance between achieving dynamic and constructive knowledge transfer and the negotiation of resolutions.

D. Financing implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste

112. Introducing the item, the co-chair noted that although the provisional agenda for the meeting had not included an item on financing the thought-starter document did include a separate section on the subject.

113. In the discussion of the item there was general agreement that financial resources would be critical to the success of chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 and in narrowing the gap between developed and developing countries in terms of chemicals and waste management.

114. One representative said that a lack of funding constituted a major bottleneck in efforts to implement the Strategic Approach in developing countries. The Strategic Approach had succeeded in raising awareness of chemicals and waste management issues but the means of implementation had been inadequate. Several representatives acknowledged the positive role played by the Quick Start Programme but said that the amount it provided was inadequate even to address capacity-building needs and that funding was needed for chemicals management implementation as well.

115. The representative of GEF provided information on the status of the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund. GEF funding for the Strategic Approach had increased, she said, from $10 million in the fifth replenishment period (2010–2014) to $13 million in the current, sixth, replenishment period (2015–2018). The institutional strengthening process on chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 was beginning at an opportune moment because the first meeting on the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund would take place from 27 to 30 March 2017 and the seventh replenishment period would run from July 2018 through 2020 and would thus encompass the target year for the Strategic Approach 2020 goal and that of the intersessional process. The multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach, she said, fit in well with GEF, which was seeing a trend toward multi-sectoral, multi-focal-area projects and increased interest in innovative approaches such as sustainable chemistry and the circular economy. The GEF secretariat was working closely with the Strategic Approach secretariat to ensure the best use of resources to build a portfolio that matched Strategic Approach priorities and achieved the 2020 goal.

116. Representatives expressed appreciation for support provided to date, including by individual donor countries, GEF, IOMC member organizations in respect of GEF-funded projects and the UNEP Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Substances and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. Difficulties were noted even in respect of those sources, however. Thus one representative reported that only 2 of 14 countries in his region that had applied for funding under the Special Programme had received it, and he called for an effort to ensure that more countries won approval of their funding applications.

117. Looking forward, representatives said that the intersessional process should result in a clear roadmap on mobilizing resources for the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020; that financial arrangements for the long-term management of chemicals and waste should be based on a shared vision, guided by principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and equity as reflected in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation; that financial resources for developing countries must be predictable, sustainable and adequate; that funding for chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 should be provided in amounts greater than current levels of funding; that the range of funding sources needed to be broadened, to include in particular the chemicals industry, through means such as internalization of costs, and development banks and other financial institutions at all levels; that donor countries needed to increase the amount that they provided; that the green economy should be exploited as an innovative source of funding; that in mobilizing domestic resources developing countries needed assistance in making the case for chemicals and waste management to their own finance ministries; that lessons could be learned from the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of

the Montreal Protocol; and that during the intersessional process financing must be discussed together with and at the same level as other issues.

118. Other representatives reiterated their Governments' commitment to supporting developing countries in their efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes, outlining past and planned contributions. They also emphasized that the integrated approach, including all three of its components (mainstreaming of chemicals and waste management into national planning; industry involvement; and dedicated external sources (including GEF and the Special Programme)), was a very important vehicle for financing for chemicals and waste management. It was also said that countries needed to incorporate chemicals and waste management into their sustainable development plans in order to take advantage of funding for implementation of the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. One representative said that in her view there was already a considerable amount of committed and fairly stable funding available for the Strategic Approach, and the task of the intersessional process would therefore be to develop a proposal for chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 that was sufficiently impressive to convince Governments to fund it through the existing mechanisms.

119. One representative said that before decisions were made a detailed study should be undertaken, describing what needed to be done to achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes, how much it would cost and where the money would come from. Another proposed the preparation of a paper on sources of financing available for addressing emerging challenges beyond 2020.

120. Another representative said that financing should be on the agendas of all meetings in the institutional strengthening process.

E. Linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

121. The participants discussed sub-item 5 (e) in two parts, the first relating to linkages with the 2030 Agenda and the second to the concept of sustainable chemistry.

122. The co-chair introduced the sub-item by recalling that in paragraph 10 of resolution IV/4 the International Conference on Chemicals Management had requested the intersessional process participants to "consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." A subject of particular importance in responding to that request would be the need for indicators by which to judge progress in the achievement of such objectives.

123. In the ensuing discussion many representatives said that chemicals and waste management constituted a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Agenda, with a direct influence on the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development, and several said that the mainstreaming of chemicals-related issues into the 2030 Agenda should be enhanced. One representative said that it was important to link any future chemicals and waste management framework to the 2030 Agenda in order to capitalize on the latter's political profile and momentum and raise awareness of the former. Another said that the implementation of strategic goals could provide the basis for collaboration among sectors and stakeholders.

124. One representative said that work under the Strategic Approach on the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals should be strongly linked to the work of UNEP pursuant to resolution 2/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, by which the Environment Assembly had requested UNEP to contribute to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. He also suggested that the United Nations Environment Management Group was a vehicle through which more stakeholders from the United Nations system could be involved in the design of the beyond 2020 chemicals and waste management framework. Another representative said that there was also a need to develop links to other areas such as sustainable urban development, biodiversity and climate change.

125. One representative said that a future chemicals and waste management framework should consider not just the Sustainable Development Goals but all of the 2030 Agenda, including its political declaration, provisions regarding means of implementation and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism established. In addition it was important to bear in mind existing mandates under the 2030 Agenda, including with regard to its review mechanism, and ongoing work on indicators, which had already been approved by the United Nations Statistical Office and would continue to be refined. Another representative called for the development of new initiatives on zero waste, workplace right to know, agroecology, plastics and women and chemical safety, saying that they could be linked to many Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including in particular with regard to women and chemical safety.

126. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that linkages to the 2030 Agenda must recognize the indivisibility of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, with one saying that a silos approach must be avoided and another that resolution IV/4 mandated the development of measurable objectives in support of the 2030 agenda as a whole. Another said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda must extend to all four parts of the Agenda. Another representative, however, said that given limited time and resources, as well as the mandate of resolution IV/1, which welcomed in particular the Sustainable Development Goals and targets relating to chemicals and wastes, efforts should be focused on Goal 12 and target 12.4.

127. One representative called for the development of a review mechanism within the future chemicals and waste management framework to assess progress in the implementation of related Sustainable Development Goals and to evaluate the effectiveness of the framework. Duplication of existing review processes should be avoided, and the function and form of such a mechanism could be explored in conjunction with discussions about a possible science-policy interface.

128. There was general agreement that there was a need for measurable objectives that were supportive of the 2030 Agenda, had clear and achievable targets and indicators and demonstrated how the sound management of chemicals and wastes could contribute to the 2030 Agenda. It was also suggested that agreed milestones and objectives could be used as the basis for the development of national action plans based on national priorities and capabilities.

129. Several representatives suggested that relevant objectives of the 2030 Agenda could be used as targets for chemicals and waste management. It was also said that the 11 basic elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance should be translated into measurable goals and serve as a starting point for the development of indicators and targets. One representative noted that the indicators discussed at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management had already been mapped to the 11 basic elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance.

130. One representative said that to develop measurable objectives in support of Agenda 2030 it was necessary to work backwards to understand how chemical safety related to the Sustainable Development Goals. The secretariat, he suggested, should prepare a paper on this, expanding on document SAICM/IP.1/INF/3 and covering all goals save 1 and 10 and all relevant targets under each goal. That would provide a focus for discussions and help raise the political profile for chemicals and waste management. Many others expressed support for the development of such a paper, offering suggestions as to its content. One said that it must include a focus on linkages to implementation in recognition of the fact that the 2030 Agenda had entered the implementation phase. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of the countries of his region, said that the paper should include a discussion of women and children as a cross-cutting issue, and another said that it should cover all Sustainable Development Goals without exception.

131. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of the countries of his region, said that the secretariat should be tasked with developing, in consultation with stakeholders, a proposal for objectives and milestones for consideration at the next meeting in the intersessional process. One representative said that ideally the objectives and milestones should be aspirational in nature, limited in number and centred around the 11 basic elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of the countries of his region, proposed that an intersessional working group be established to undertake the work along with the secretariat. One representative said that as it was early in the intersessional process the secretariat's proposal should continue to be developed throughout the process.

132. One representative suggested that a working group be established to review all relevant Strategic Approach documents with the aim of identifying indicators for measurable goals. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that since the intersessional process was already mandated, in resolution IV/4, to develop recommendations on measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda the task of developing proposals should be entrusted to the secretariat, which could present its work for consideration by the participants. One representative called for the establishment of a multi-stakeholder working group to develop actions relating to women and chemical safety.

133. Several representatives suggested that it might be too soon to start work on indicators, as it was still being decided what the chemicals and waste management agenda would look like beyond 2020; background work, including the development of the secretariat paper referred to above on mapping the links between chemicals and waste management and the Sustainable Development Goals, could be undertaken currently and work on the indicators themselves could resume at a later stage in the intersessional process or during implementation of the post-2020 framework.

134. One representative said that some Sustainable Development Goals were already within the mandate of the Strategic Approach and suggested that the secretariat organize regional meetings at which they could be discussed in detail, as was being done by the health sector in respect of relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

135. One representative said that objectives and milestones should extend to 2030 and beyond.

136. One representative said that among the milestones to be adopted should be one or more targets pertaining to the elimination of highly-hazardous pesticides through the adoption of agro-ecological alternatives. Such targets should be developed in cooperation with industry and farmers and would facilitate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2, 3 and 13. Another representative said that industry, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Committee on World Food Security were already engaged in work to develop indicators to measure the success of the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant targets in respect of sustainable agriculture and food security; others could join in that work.

137. Several representatives cautioned against developing too many indicators, with one saying that indicators should be tools and not an end in themselves. One representative said that experience with the original 20 SAICM indicators showed that some worked better than others, that the intersessional process should build on that experience to avoid overburdening stakeholders and that indicators should be easy to use. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of the countries of his region, said that indicators should be both qualitative and quantitative.

138. Several representatives said that some of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda were much more closely related to chemicals and waste management than others and that it would be necessary to prioritize those, focusing in particular on national-level action on chemicals and wastes that might or might not link neatly to the Sustainable Development Goals.

139. One representative, echoed by another, said that in the development of objectives full consideration should be given to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as well as the national circumstances and capacities of individual countries, including in particular developing countries and least developed countries, as well as the gap between them and developed countries.

140. One representative said that the development of sound proposals on improving the scientific component of the Strategic Approach should be one of the main outcomes of the intersessional process. He therefore proposed that the secretariat be requested to develop for consideration at the second meeting in the intersessional process a paper on the science-policy interfaces operating in other areas such as climate change and biodiversity.

141. In moving to sustainable chemistry, the co-chair recalled that the topic was discussed in the Bureau's thought-starter document, in which the Bureau suggested that "sustainable chemistry coupled with setting related targets could support a new paradigm for sound management of chemicals and waste, and could provide an important contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

142. To facilitate the discussion the following definition of sustainable development presented in the thought-starter, which had been adopted by OECD, was projected on a screen:

> "Sustainable chemistry is a scientific concept that seeks to improve the efficiency with which natural resources are used to meet human needs for chemical products and services. Sustainable chemistry encompasses the design, manufacture and use of efficient, effective, safe and more environmentally benign chemical products and processes. Sustainable chemistry is also a process that stimulates innovation across all sectors to design and discover new chemicals, production processes, and product stewardship practices that will provide increased performance and increased value while meeting the goals of protecting and enhancing human health and the environment".

143. In the ensuing discussion several representatives expressed concern about the concept of sustainable chemistry and the definition onscreen. One said that the concept was new, had not been agreed and should be defined by an expert group before being discussed further. Green chemistry, on the other hand, was a well-known and widely accepted concept, and it should not be sacrificed in favour of a new and ill-defined concept. Another questioned whether the OECD definition of sustainable chemistry was suitable for the Strategic Approach, saying that it appeared to place much emphasis on efficiency and effectiveness but very little on safety. One representative suggested that the definition was not suitable for discussion, especially in relation to the 2030 Agenda, because it was nowhere mentioned in the 2030 Agenda and no information had been provided on the context in which it had been adopted. Another said that the work of the intersessional process should not include

definitions that had not been discussed and agreed at the international level in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

144. The representative speaking on behalf of OECD provided information on the OECD definition, saying that it had been adopted in the context of a chemical safety work programme some years earlier with the objective of linking chemical safety to other areas such as innovation and technology policies and to mainstream chemical safety into other policy areas to achieve a more integrated approach. The approach as defined onscreen had been used successfully in research and work on, for example, predicting the properties of chemicals to enable companies to avoid developing new chemicals with hazardous properties and to facilitate the substitution of safe chemicals for hazardous ones. Should the Strategic Approach participants wish to make use of the concept, he said, they could of course agree to any definition of it that suited their needs.

145. The representative of UNEP noted that in its resolution 2/7 the United Nations Environment Assembly had requested UNEP to prepare a report, taking into account best practices submitted by stakeholders, to assist the Strategic Approach participants "in considering the opportunities presented by sustainable chemistry, including linkages to sustainable consumption and production policies, and the possibilities that sustainable chemistry may offer of contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda". The report, he said, would be available in early 2018 but could be made available as a draft for the next meeting in the intersessional process.

146. One representative said that the use of the sustainable chemistry concept was not meant to supplant the sustainable management of chemicals but rather to support it by promoting prevention, enhancing and broadening the scope of work under the Strategic Approach and the future framework for the sound management of chemicals and wastes and fostering innovation such as the use of non-toxic chemicals and non-chemical solutions as well as the reuse and recycling of chemicals. The focus of the Strategic Approach, she said, would need to be broadened in the beyond 2020 framework to allow for such approaches and to place greater emphasis on life-cycle perspectives.

147. The representative of UNIDO announced the launch of a green chemistry project aimed at building awareness and capacity in industry and academia in respect of green chemistry approaches to chemical product and process design. The project would be carried out in Rio de Janeiro in conjunction with UNEP national cleaner production centres in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean and with technical support from Yale University. UNIDO also engaged in work on chemical leasing, which she described as a business model for chemicals management and a building block for green and sustainable chemistry. The Governments of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, she said, had recently signed a joint declaration supporting the further mainstreaming of chemical leasing across industries and countries.

148. One representative said that previously chemists and economists had not worked together to address chemicals management and that sustainable chemistry offered a way to rectify that, addressing chemicals management in a more holistic way that encompassed social, economic and environmental concerns. Another said that it was critical to prevent the design and manufacture of chemicals that had adverse effects on human health and the environment; green chemistry facilitated that and should therefore be supported in the short term while issues with regard to sustainable chemistry were worked out.

149. One representative said that her country had much experience with green and sustainable chemistry, pointing to several programmes, information on which was available online. Noting that the OECD definition of sustainable chemistry was aspirational in nature, she said that her country looked forward to further discussion of sustainable chemistry and its role in the development of a beyond2020 chemicals management regime.

150. Another representative said that her Government looked forward to the opening of a collaborative centre on sustainable chemistry announced by the Government of Germany, saying that sustainable chemistry could promote innovation in industry and support future work on chemicals management. She stressed, however, that it was only one tool among others to achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

151. Another representative said that despite the various explanations the definition of sustainable chemistry remained unclear. A clearer definition would therefore be needed for the next meeting in the intersessional process. The co-chair noted that the definition had been offered only to facilitate discussion and that it and the concept itself were open for further discussion at future meetings.

VI. Decision-making and timetable for subsequent meetings

152. Under the agenda item the participants discussed the co-chairs' summary of the current meeting, the documents to be produced for consideration at the second meeting in the intersessional process and the timetable for further work in the process.

A. Co-chairs' summary

153. The co-chairs introduced a draft summary of the current meeting that they had prepared, which they said was an attempt to capture the gist of the statements made at the current meeting as to why a framework for chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 was needed, what should be included in such a framework and how the sound management of chemicals and wastes could be achieved in the post-2020 period. They stressed that the summary was a non-negotiated document for which they alone were responsible, did not represent an agreed outcome of the meeting or a consensus view and would in no way limit discussion of any issue during the intersessional process.

154. The draft summary had been posted on the Strategic Approach webpage for the meeting and meeting participants were invited to submit by 28 February 2017 factual clarifications with regard to the content of the draft. Following the opportunity for factual clarifications, stakeholders could submit through an open and online process, from April to June 2017, suggestions regarding areas and issues that they felt should be added to the summary. From July to September 2017 the co-chairs would further develop the summary to reflect the suggestions received. The further developed version would again be posted on the Strategic Approach website for stakeholder comments during October and November 2017. The co-chairs would produce a further revised version of the document in December 2017, and that version would be posted on the website and discussed during regional meetings held in January and February 2018 in preparation for the second meeting in the intersessional process. Stakeholder consultations would take place via webinars and other means.

B. Documents to be produced for consideration at the second meeting in the institutional strengthening process

155. The participants agreed that the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, would produce the following documents for consideration at the second meeting in the intersessional process:

(a) A paper on potential sources of financing resulting from Agenda 2030;

(b) A review of existing governance models of relevance to the sound management of chemicals and wastes;

(c) In coordination with the IOMC member organizations, a mapping of the main policies and actions of each IOMC organization relevant to the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes and plans for future actions in the area to implement the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;

(d) An information document that expanded upon document SAICM/IP.1/INF/3 to cover all relevant Sustainable Development Goals, explaining what Sustainable Development Goals and related targets were relevant to the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes and how Strategic Approach elements linked to each Sustainable Development Goal, including links to relevant reports;

(e) A paper mapping the indicative basic cost of implementing the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020;

(f) In line with paragraph 10 of resolution IV/4 and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, a proposal on objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda and related milestones, with the objectives to be aspirational in nature, limited in number and centred on the 11 elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance and the paper to be developed through an intersessional working group open to all stakeholders;

(g) An information document on the science-policy interfaces in other clusters such as climate change, biodiversity and other relevant areas;

(h) An information document exploring the relationship between women and chemical safety as it relates to emerging policy issues and issues of concern, covering in particular the period beyond 2020.

C. Timetable for further work in the intersessional process

156. The participants agreed to a timetable for the remaining meetings in the intersessional process, taking into account resolution IV/4 and a proposal from the Bureau. Thus it was agreed that the second meeting in the intersessional process would be held in March 2018; the regional meetings would be held in January and February 2018; the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group would be held in October 2018; and the third meeting in the intersessional process would be held in June 2019. The dates for the regional meetings to be held in preparation for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management would be decided at a later point in time and whether to hold a fourth meeting in the intersessional process, as contemplated by resolution IV/4, would be decided by the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting.

VII. Other matters: reports on the informal dialogues

157. As noted in section II C, above, on the organization of work, the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 featured four informal dialogues that took place over the lunch break during each of the first two days of the meeting. The dialogues were intended to provide a platform for participants to discuss key issues relating to the future sound management of chemicals and waste as a contribution to sustainable development. Each dialogue featured a moderator and a panel of speakers and included short presentations aimed at stimulating discussion between the panellists and the audience.

158. The four dialogues and their moderators and panellists were as follows:

Informal dialogue 1: Looking ahead – the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste in the light of future developments

Moderator

Mr. Fernando J. Gómez, World Economic Forum

Panellists

Ms. Sabaa Khan, University of Eastern Finland

Mr. Marco Mensink, European Chemical Industry Council

Mr. Bob Diederich, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Ms. Christabel Mibenge, Ministry of Health, Health Promotion, Environment and Social Determinants, Zambia

Ms. Olga Speranskaya, International POPs Elimination Network

Informal dialogue 2: Challenges and opportunities for sustainable chemistry to contribute to sustainable development

Moderator

Mr. Achim Halpaap, United Nations Environment Programme

Panellists

Ms. Jutta Emig, Ministry of Environment, Germany

Ms. Qian Cheng, Greenpeace East Asia

Ms. Marina Mattar, Brazilian Chemical Industry Association

Ms. Noluzuko Gwayi, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa

Informal dialogue 3: Engaging partners to deliver the vision beyond 2020

Moderator

Mr. Felix Dodds, Tellus Institute

Panellists

Ms. Stella Wafuho, CropLife Africa, Middle East

Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Sweden

Ms. Carmen Ciganda, Ministry of Public Health, Uruguay

Ms. Odile Frank, President of the NGO Forum for Health

Informal dialogue 4: Responding to a changing world: addressing urgent and emerging issues

Moderator

Ms. Carolyn Vickers, World Health Organization

Panellists

Ms. Lady Virginia Traldi, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for the Latin American and Caribbean Region in Brazil

Mr. Richard Fuller, Pure Earth

Ms. Maria Esquivel Garcia, Ministry of Health, Panama

Ms. Thais Araújo Cavendish, Ministry of Health, Brazil

Mr. Alan Kaufmann, Toy Industry Association

159. The dialogue moderators reported on the results of the dialogues in plenary. Their reports are summarized in the following paragraphs.

160. Reporting on informal dialogue 1, Mr. Gómez said that the objectives of the dialogue were to identify important trends defining the future, to consider the implications of those trends for the sourcing, use and post-use of chemical substances and materials and to consider the role of the Strategic Approach in managing any potential impacts on sustainability. He then went on to list a number of such trends and their implications. One trend was the growth in the production of chemicals and materials, a shift in that production to middle-income and low-income countries and an increase in the number of chemicals consumers throughout the world. Implications of that trend included a need to accelerate the review of national-level legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, to increase the readiness of States to respond to those growth patterns, to deal with the impact of increased chemical production and use on the environment and the health of individuals and communities and to increase the commitment of Governments and other institutions so that issues did not outpace the actions needed to address them. Another trend was the complex co-development of technologies and an increasing rate of technology development and penetration, which implied a need to understand their risks and benefits and to absorb them at the national level. Another trend was the increasing complexity and distribution of value chains, which posed challenges in tracing materials and substances that called for new modes of sharing information and risk and managing chemicals and wastes in a manner involving all relevant sectors. Another trend was the development of new sources of information and an increase in the propagation and distribution of information, which highlighted the need to ensure the accuracy of information. Finally, it was noted that while chemicals and waste were interconnected they were distinct things that needed to be treated together but differently.

161. Describing informal dialogue 2, Mr. Halpaap said the dialogue participants were of the view that sustainable and green chemistry were gaining momentum through initiatives by Governments, the private sector and researchers around the world and had the potential to become an important pillar of the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020. Given its potential role, it was necessary to agree on how sustainable chemistry should be defined and how to put it into effect. Some elements were already clear, however. Thus it was said that sustainable chemistry could foster interlinkages and help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and targets; that it implied a means of producing, using and disposing of chemicals that was fully compatible with all three dimensions of sustainable development; and that it emphasized innovation and the acceleration of the replacement of hazardous chemicals with less hazardous chemical and non-chemical alternatives, in which the advancement of green chemistry research and innovation through knowledge sharing, technology transfer and capacity-building had a key role to play, along with transparency, access to information, public involvement and indigenous knowledge. It was also agreed that sustainable chemistry should complement but not detract from government and private action at all levels to address chemical pollution risks and existing impacts and to ensure basic chemicals and waste management regulatory capacity as a priority. While it had yet to be worked out whether sustainable chemistry was a type of chemistry, an analytical framework or a long-term vision, there was agreement that the answer would have to wait and that the current focus must be on identifying concrete action and the elements of an enabling framework such as alternatives, innovation, green chemistry education and incentives, as well as measures to address the needs and opportunities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including with regard to sustainable financing. Finally, it was felt that stakeholders should actively report on their sustainable chemistry best practices in response to the invitation from the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, as such practices, and the analysis of them to be prepared by UNEP, had potential value in the further development of the sustainable chemistry concept.

162. Summarizing the conclusions of informal dialogue 3, Mr. Dodds said that in assessing the role of the Strategic Approach beyond 2020 a good first step in respect of partnerships would be to map out the kinds of stakeholders to engage with and relevant targets. With regard to multi-stakeholder partnerships it was important to distinguish between multi-stakeholder dialogues influencing governmental or intergovernmental policy; public-private partnerships through which the skills and assets of public and private sector actors were shared in delivering some good to the public; voluntary initiatives by individual stakeholders; and multi-stakeholder partnerships between Governments and other stakeholders to contribute to the implementation of an agreed goal or target. Among the dialogue participants experience with all of these had been roughly equal. Regarding lessons learned, he said that in developing partnerships for the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020 it was important to examine past successes and failures carefully. In line with those lessons ideas to be considered included that partnerships could both be a process and deliver a target; that relevant stakeholders should be mapped as a first step; that all partners should participate on an equal footing; that partnerships could not replace government commitment or regulation; that reporting and evaluation must be robust and transparent; that trust and a shared vision between partners was vital; and that it was important to build a transparent information and knowledge hub to deliver a global agreement. It was proposed during the dialogue that the next meeting in the intersessional process include an additional day to bring together multi-stakeholder partnerships but there had not been enough time to discuss the proposal.

163. Ms. Vickers reported on informal dialogue 4, saying that it had aimed to build on dialogue 1. There was agreement among the participants that action on known problems should be prioritized, yet it was also acknowledged that owing to data gaps significant as yet unknown issues might also require attention; an appropriate balance must be struck, and since the Strategic Approach could not address all issues it was necessary to prioritize. Work being done by a number of countries and international organizations on ways to identify emerging threats might be useful. Participants also said that the Strategic Approach's identification of existing emerging policy issues had been useful in catalysing national action. Countries faced complex chemicals issues including contaminated sites, water and air pollution, waste and chemicals emergencies, and it would be necessary to consider how a chemicals and waste management framework could be situated in relation to those broader issues, particularly given the integrated approach of the Sustainable Development Goals. Community and industry engagement were said to be important in identifying and acting on emerging issues at the national level, and the Strategic Approach was seen as offering opportunities for stakeholder participation at the international level, enabling knowledge and experience sharing and capacity-building. The question of how to catch issues early enough, rather than waiting until problems arose, was also remarked upon as an issue to be solved in the further selection of emerging policy issues. The dialogue concluded with an acknowledgement that there was a need for in-depth consideration in the lead up to 2020.

VIII. Closure of the meeting

164. During the closure of the meeting one representative requested that efforts be made to provide for interpretation for the remaining meetings in the intersessional process, saying that the lack of interpretation made it difficult for many participants to participate fully.

165. Following that request and the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, 9 February 2017.

Annex I

Summary of the high-level event

Introduction

1. During the first meeting in the intersessional process a high-level event was held on the afternoon of the first day. Intended to provide a platform for debate to inspire high-level stakeholder and sector engagement in the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020, the event featured an introduction by a moderator, introductory remarks by the ministers for environment and health of Brazil, remarks by members of a panel, including three keynote addresses, and closing remarks.

2. Ms. Johanna Lissinger-Peitz, Senior Adviser, Climate Change Chief Negotiator for the Government of Sweden, served as moderator. Mr. Sarney Filho, Minister of Environment of Brazil, and Mr. Ricardo Barros, Minister of Health of Brazil, made the introductory speeches. Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany; and Mr. José Antônio Marcondes de Carvalho, Ambassador and Undersecretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, delivered the keynote speeches during the panel portion of the event. The remaining members of the panel were Mr. Fernando Musa, Chief Executive Officer of Braskem; Mr. Marco Mensik, Director-General, European Chemicals Industry; Mr. Jeffer Castelo Branco, Coordinator, Association for Combating Persistent Organic Pollutants, Brazilian Forum of NGOS on the Environment and Sustainable Development; and Ms. Erika Yamada, Independent Expert on the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Mr. Filho delivered the closing remarks.

3. In her introduction the moderator said that while the world was dependent on chemicals it was also dependent on their sound management, taking into account the serious risks that they posed. The aim of the high-level event, she said, was to launch the discussion on an approach to the sound management of chemicals and wastes for the future, asking what could be done better, what could be done to foster global and local ownership and what could be done to act globally while taking into account national circumstances, crafting an approach that benefitted all.

Introductory remarks

4. In his introductory remarks Mr. Filho stressed his country's commitment to international efforts to achieve sound chemicals and waste management, highlighting numerous international meetings that it had hosted under the auspices of the chemicals conventions; its capacity-building efforts, including through the Stockholm Convention regional centre located in Brazil; and its commitment to both multilateral action and bilateral work with partners such as Canada, China and Japan. Noting that the sound management of chemicals and wastes would be critical to the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, he said that the greatest progress was and could be made when asymmetries in capacity were recognized; the developed world, therefore, must find ways to better allocate resources so that developing countries could achieve the capacity to safely manage chemicals and wastes. As for developing countries he encouraged them to eschew old pathways and to ponder carefully how they could improve their approaches, with a focus on prevention. Looking beyond 2020 he said that the best of the Strategic Approach, its flexibility, its comprehensiveness and its life-cycle approach, should be preserved in the chemicals and waste management framework to be developed for the years beyond 2020. The new framework should also be inclusive, recognizing the key role of industry, which was a critical economic sector providing two million jobs and 2.5 per cent of GDP in Brazil, and accommodating the demands of the public for safer products and production processes, which in many cases were not adequately covered by existing law. The chemicals conventions had led to significant improvements at the national level. With a central role played by its national chemical products commission, staffed by government officials, academics and industry and civil society representatives, Brazil had put in place laws governing many aspects of chemical safety and was aiming for increased recycling and reduced toxicity of chemicals in use and had also banned many hazardous pesticides. The power of the Government had been harnessed for the sake of human health, and it was the country's goal to further strengthen national institutions and to promote citizen participation. There was still much room for improvement, however, especially with regard to industrial chemicals and the handling of wastes, and cooperation at the international, regional and national levels was needed. The intersessional process, he concluded, presented a unique opportunity to improve prevention and combat pollution at all levels.

5. In his introductory remarks Mr. Barros said that chemicals offered tremendous benefits to human health through such things as medicines, vaccines and pesticides and would play a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet they also posed serious risks, including pesticide poisoning resulting from the indiscriminate use of pesticides. Over 200,000 cases had been reported between 2014 and 2015 but it was difficult to know the true extent of the problem because, despite improvements in monitoring, underreporting was still widespread. Brazil was making extensive efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including through tracking the incidence of disease in such occupations as mining and agriculture; the development of a comprehensive scheme by the health and environment ministries to cover some 15,000 chemicals, including toxicological evaluations by the ministry of health and multi-sectoral analyses aimed at minimizing the risk posed by, restricting or banning the use of specified chemicals; the development of a monitoring system in all 26 states of the country to detect chemicals in drinking water and other things for human consumption; the development of a chemicals emergency network; the deployment of 33 toxicological networks throughout the country, which monitored medicines, pesticides, preservatives, wood chemicals and cosmetics, among other things; the development of chemical poisoning diagnostic methods for health professionals; and the ratification of the Minamata Convention and the banning of mercury in medical equipment. This comprehensive response notwithstanding there was a need to do more, and Brazil would continue its efforts with the aim of achieving the 2020 goal. In closing, he wished the meeting participants success in their deliberations.

Keynote addresses

6. The Executive Director of UNEP began his keynote address by praising Brazil for what he said was its success in bringing people out of poverty while protecting the environment in a way that many countries had not achieved and that held great promise for the country's future. The modern movement to achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes, he said, had been born in Minamata, Japan, where ordinary people, in the face of skepticism and resistance on the part of vested interests, had convinced the Government that their children's seemingly inexplicable illnesses might be caused by exposure to mercury. Their Government had then gone on to convince other Governments and, slowly, consensus had been achieved, culminating in the signing of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which was expected to enter into force in 2017. The problems posed by mercury had not been thereby solved, but it was a step in the right direction.

7. Indeed, although progress was neither fast enough nor broad enough the world was on the right track when it came to chemicals and waste management. An example of success was acid rain, previously a serious environmental threat but virtually unknown to the current generation because it had been solved through a winning three-part formula: a citizens' movement to demand change; bold political action to regulate markets; and the engagement of business to provide alternatives to the harmful practices and products being regulated and in the process creating many new jobs and boosting the economies of those countries seizing the initiative and taking action.

8. That formula should be applied to chemicals, he said, but as the technical nature of chemicals posed challenges for laypersons it was also critical for Governments and business to keep people informed in plain language. It was likewise critical for Governments to avoid regulating in isolation and instead to maintain a constant dialogue with business, because business possessed vital information and was well placed to advise on how best to solve a given problem with its products and processes. It was also essential, he said, that business be harnessed as a force for good and that policies be pro-business. Because of business people were taller, healthier, better educated and better off in every way. While business had also resulted in harm to the environment and human health it had a tremendous capacity for change and it could make an enormous contribution to solving such problems. Solutions, therefore, lay in partnerships between Governments, business, non-governmental organizations and others. For its part business should embrace such partnerships and the role of willing collaborator seeking to solve problems, because experience had shown time and again that companies, and countries, that tackled environmental problems early on – rather than resisting change and waiting to be regulated against their will – had thrived, developing new products and markets and becoming more prosperous in the process. In addition it was essential that such new products be made available to all across the globe, because all citizens of all countries were first class citizens, all of whom should benefit equally from chemicals and waste management standards of equal rigour.

9. In concluding he stressed the idea that all countries, all peoples and all sectors had a common interest in protecting the environment and that they must therefore work together: working at cross purposes they might achieve nothing, but if they worked together there was no limit to what they could accomplish.

10. Mr. Flasbarth in his keynote address said that the Sustainable Development Goals could not be achieved one at a time, but rather must be approached in a holistic manner, and that the sound management of chemicals and wastes would be of the utmost importance in achieving them. Whereas chemicals were once seen as synonymous with environmental degradation, thanks in part to infamous spills such as that in Bhopal, India, it was currently recognized that while they posed grave risks chemicals properly managed not only conferred many benefits but were in fact utterly indispensable to the transformations that were under way in the effort to save the planet. Climate change, for example, could not be effectively tackled without chemicals: "decarbonizing" the economy; replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy; or reducing the carbon footprint of concrete production, currently thought to account for 7 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and expected to expand dramatically to accommodate the world's growing population; none of those could be achieved without sophisticated chemical technologies. Nor could resource efficiency or the push to decouple economic prosperity from resource use be achieved.

11. The essential role of chemicals did not, however, eliminate their hazardous nature, and it was thus necessary that they be properly managed to reduce the risks that they posed. Sustainable chemistry required, first, solid knowledge about the physical properties of chemicals. With such knowledge decisions could be made about how to manage chemicals, including by substituting less hazardous substances for more hazardous ones; by ensuring the safe handling of those hazardous substances that could not be replaced, thus reducing or eliminating accidents and the resulting chemical exposures; and, where possible, by using non-chemical alternatives. That was essential for all countries, especially given that chemical production was shifting to developing countries. The European Union had undertaken an ambitious programme to gather the knowledge needed for decision-making and to act on that knowledge. Under the REACH (registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals) programme, the European Union had gathered information on the properties of more than 17,000 chemicals about which little had previously been known and was regulating them accordingly. As for Germany, it was actively pursuing various paths to sound chemicals management, including by promoting research and development with regard to chemical leasing; sustainable chemistry more broadly, including the launch in May 2017 of the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaboration Centre; and non-chemical alternatives such as the use of lasers to remove paint.

12. Such measures, he said, would require both a strengthened science-policy interface, of which existing examples in other fields included the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and enhanced cooperation. The Strategic Approach, with its multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral character, was a great example of the latter, and its flexibility was another of its virtues. While the chemicals conventions had played a vital role to date, it would not be practical to adopt a legally-binding instrument for each chemical of concern and a broader, more flexible, framework was needed. The Strategic Approach was just such a framework, and Germany was proud that one of its own was the current president of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

13. In his keynote address Mr. Carvalho, expanding on Mr. Solheim's assertion that there should be no second class citizens, strongly invoked the pledge in the 2030 Agenda that no one would be left behind. That was the unshakable position of his country and should be at the bottom of the 2030 Agenda, which marked an evolution from earlier development goals toward greater inclusiveness and the ultimate goal of which was to make the world a better place for all. The Strategic Approach was inextricably intertwined with the 2030 Agenda and so the two must be considered together in the intersessional process. In doing so it would be necessary to look hard at unsustainable patterns of production and consumption in particular, which if not corrected would make it impossible to maintain current levels of development, much less to improve them. To address that and all other issues it would be absolutely essential to agree to means of implementation commensurate with the task at hand. Even a perfect plan would not achieve sustainable development in the absence of resources sufficient for its implementation, and without such resources there was no point in even trying to design such a plan. The presence of so many at the current session, however, promised success. Solutions, he concluded, must be found, because failure would mean failure for all.

Other panel member remarks

14. Speaking from a chemicals industry perspective, Mr. Musa said that he was pleased to hear the previous speakers recognizing that industry would be part of the dialogue and solution. Indeed industry was eager to take part in the dialogue and the crafting of a solution, which must, he said, be transparent to ensure that all stakeholders had a good understanding of the issues and be grounded in a science-based assessment of risk. That the chemical industry had already changed for the better was evident in programmes undertaken by companies directly and through industry associations such as

the Responsible Care Programme, which in Brazil had led to 40 per cent fewer accidents in chemicals production, along with a 40 per cent reduction of waste and a 30 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and the Aquarela programme, which was a framework that allowed even small and medium-sized chemical enterprises to operate in a sustainable manner that they might otherwise be unable to achieve. As for his company, it viewed itself as a leader and driver in promoting sustainability in the industry, which in its own operations it pursued through three prongs: first, by ensuring that its operations were sustainable; second, by working around more sustainable products from a chemistry and feedstock point of view, an example being polymer production and the production of green polyethylene from sugar cane; and, third, by investing significant time and resources in research and development aimed at finding sustainable solutions along the value chain, such as in efforts to help farmers to reduce spoilage and waste of grain during harvesting and transport. Such efforts, he hoped, would help to convince those who questioned whether the chemical industry could play a positive role. For its part, he said, the industry was committed to contributing to the solution and hoped for a much more sustainable world.

15. Picking up on the theme of industry's capacity for change, and in particular responding to a show of hands on the subject requested by the moderator, which suggested that few attending the high-level event believed that in fact it had that capacity, Mr. Mensik said that not only could industry change but that it was doing so continuously. Change was a matter of survival in a fast-moving environment, and companies prized employees that could adapt to changing circumstances. Industry understood too that change was opportunity, and those companies that were still around in 30 years would be those that recognized that chemicals were necessary to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and that the Agenda presented a huge market opportunity. Industry thus had a keen interest in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and should be seen as a vital partner that could bring to the table the critical ability to innovate, which when guided by regulators and channeled through dialogue such as that facilitated by the intersessional process and the Strategic Approach could produce outcomes that went in the right direction, benefitting all. Outlining the approach of his association to industry's role in the 2030 Agenda process, he described three vital elements of it: first, to bring together company leaders from around the world to discuss global trends; second, to ensure global participation, especially on the part of companies in countries where the greatest growth in chemicals production was taking place; and, third, to spread the Responsible Care programme around the world with the aim of ensuring that industry performed to the same standard of responsibility across the world. Leading companies, he concluded, would inspire others to follow in their footsteps and in that way the chemicals industry would be the locus of the change needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals or, in short, a place where "cool stuff" happened.

16. Addressing the role of industry from the perspective of workers, Mr. Castelo Branco said that there was a desperate need for dialogue, including in the context of the Strategic Approach and the intersessional process, about the impact of industry's activities on the health of its workers and their families and communities. In Brazil, he said, workers were still being exposed to dangerous levels of hazardous chemicals such as hexachlorobenzene, other persistent organic pollutants and mercury. The effect of such exposure was dramatic: the employees of one company suffered mortality rates 41 per cent higher than the average rate in their community, as well as a cancer rate that was 300 per cent higher and a cardiorespiratory disease rate that was 30 per cent higher. Workers understood what was happening to them but worried that any action they took would threaten the paychecks that they needed to provide for their families. Non-occupational exposures were also a problem, for example as the result of incinerators, often illegally sited, and the dredging of toxic sludge and its dumping in the ocean, both of which would leave a toxic legacy for future generations. Civil society had fought for 25 years to end incineration, but when confronted on that and other issues industry, even in the face of overwhelming evidence, denied the existence of any problem. What was needed was a frank dialogue with industry, one that would allow workers to participate without fear of reprisals. Workers were therefore hoping that the Strategic Approach would continue beyond 2020 and that it would make such a dialogue possible.

17. Describing a global crisis of human rights, Ms. Yamada said that the rights and interests of indigenous peoples had for many, many years been ignored, with a devastating impact on their health and their territorial rights, including their right to derive their livelihoods from the land. In Brazil a study showed high levels of mercury contamination in Yanomami villages, in the case of one village affecting 92 per cent of the inhabitants, in addition to many complaints of contamination of food and water, soil and animals by chemicals, including pesticides, which in some cases were used intentionally with the aim of driving indigenous peoples off their lands. Brazil was not unique, however; chemicals-related violations of indigenous peoples' rights had been documented in a 2012 report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples in numerous areas around the world, including in Argentina, the Marshall Islands, the Philippines and the United States of America.

The rights of indigenous peoples, including those laid down in article 29 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, had to be recognized.

Closing

18. In the closing segment of the high-level event the moderator asked each of the keynote speakers to describe, in one minute, the most important things that would lead to the success of the intersessional process.

19. Mr. Flasbarth listed three things: enhancing the exchange of information between sectors, non-governmental organizations, Governments, indigenous groups and science; establishing a framework to which international regulation on specific substances could be connected, given that it was not viable to adopt a legally-binding instrument for each substance of concern; and accelerating the identification of the most hazardous substances, because the current approach, in which conflicting studies caused delay, was untenable.

20. Mr. Solheim said that if only one lesson were learned it should be that the possibility of rapid change should not be underestimated. With Governments regulating and business adapting there was hardly a limit to what could be accomplished. Only a short time before, mobile phones had not existed but in the present were ubiquitous. In 2003 Ireland had become the first country to ban smoking, and by 2017 smoking bans were nearly universal. Even entrenched habits could change, business could change, and a great and positive change could be made with regard to chemicals, faster than one might imagine.

21. Mr. Carvalho gave advice to those negotiating the intersessional process: be broad-minded; work on a broad basis; and, most of all, propose solutions on a conceptual basis but identify the specifics, including the goal, what it would take to achieve it, how much it would cost, including in terms of capacity-building and technology transfer; be inclusive, generating trust and demonstrating what each stakeholder had to gain from an effective chemicals and waste management framework; and learn from previous experiences.

22. Mr. Filho then closed the high-level event by expressing confidence that the world, notwithstanding the serious environmental challenges it faced, was on the right path, with consumers demanding information about chemicals and judges becoming proactive in protecting the rights of the vulnerable. The change to a low-carbon economy offered the chance to solve environmental problems without suffering economic losses, he said. Climate change had come to stay and it was civilization's obligation to fight it, and efforts like the intersessional process that brought together disparate stakeholders would show the way to a great change for the better. For its part, the Ministry of Environment was ready to walk side by side with all those involved.

Annex II

Keynote presentation by Mr. Felix Dodds on the challenges of the mid-twenty-first century for chemicals and waste in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. As noted in section III of the present report, during the first meeting of the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, Mr. Felix Dodds, Senior Fellow at the University of North Carolina and Associate Fellow at the Tellus Institute, gave a keynote presentation on the challenges of the mid-twenty-first century for chemicals and waste in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, covering the history of international efforts leading to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals; the role of chemicals and waste management in the 2030 Agenda; the role of stakeholders and partnerships in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Strategic Approach; the science-policy interface; financing the sustainable development goals; timelines for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and new targets and indicators.

2. Regarding the history of the negotiations, he said that current efforts built on the work of the previous 45 years, beginning with the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, which had given birth to UNEP. UNEP had gone on to play a critical role in the development of international regulation, including notably the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the adoption of which had shown convincingly that States could take effective multilateral action in response to major environmental threats. The principal blueprint for the twenty-first century had been Agenda 21, adopted at the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development, chapter 19 of which dealt with the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, covering the same key issues that were the focus of current efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes. Agenda 21 had been greatly expanded by later international frameworks such as the Millennium Development Goals and numerous plans of action in areas such as development, population, children, human settlements and food security. The Milliennium Development Goals had spurred Governments to refocus funding and showed that an approach built on goals, targets and indicators could succeed. The challenge that developing countries in particular faced in responding to such an enormous agenda, however, coupled with the fallout from the attack on the World Trade Centre in 1999, had dampened ambitions, and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development had resulted in the addition of relatively few new goals in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, although significantly they did include the 2020 goal on chemicals and wastes that four years later became the central goal of the Strategic Approach. Against that backdrop President Thabo Mbeke of South Africa had in 2006 told the General Assembly that the Johanesburg Plan of Implementation was dead because of donor countries' failure to implement the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development; in the following year President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil had in the General Assembly called for a new blueprint for the twenty-first century, leading to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), at which the international community agreed in the Conference outcome document, "The future we want", to negotiate the Sustainable Development Goals. The structure of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which had afforded only 30 seats to the 70 countries participating, had spurred countries to collaborate in new ways and had created a political space that contributed to an increase in the level of ambition and efforts to reach "high-hanging fruit", resulting eventually in the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The negotiations involved a tremendous amount of work, including more than 150 days of international and regional meetings. That suggested that the 15–20 days currently envisaged for the negotiations on the Strategic Approach and chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 would need to be expanded.

3. Turning to the role of chemicals and waste management in the 2030 Agenda, he said that, while the links between the former and the latter were more obvious in the case of certain Sustainable Development Goals, in truth chemicals and waste management was critical to the successful implementation of all the Goals. In ensuring that chemicals and waste management was taken into account, he said, it was critical for the chemicals and waste community to participate in the decision-making in respect of all the Goals. Taking oceans as an example, he outlined international events on the subject to be held in 2017 and urged that all stakeholders ensure that their countries and organizations participated actively and that they were represented by the right people at the right level. Only thus could a momentum be built and interlinkages addressed effectively.

4. Regarding stakeholders, he said that Agenda 21 with its nine major groups had been a milestone in creating space for participation by stakeholders and the recognition that such participation resulted in better decisions by Member States and their better implementation once adopted. The Strategic Approach was a great example of a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach but it was important to ask whether modifications were needed in approaching and going beyond 2020: were the right stakeholders participating, and were they represented at the right level?

5. As for partnerships, he said that most reviews of those established under the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation had concluded that they had failed, and there were many lessons to be applied in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. He outlined the current more rigorous requirements for partnerships (which had been put in place by the United Nations but not yet endorsed by the Member States) under the Sustainable Development Goals, including that they be multi-stakeholder partnerships aimed at implementing one or more Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets; that they be registered with the United Nations; that they work towards "SMART" deliverables (i.e., specific, measurable, achievable, resource-based and time-bound); and that they comply with a "traffic light" system on reporting. The participation of business in such partnerships was still under discussion and might be subject to a requirement that participating firms be members of the United Nations Global Compact. The Strategic Approach community, he said, should consider providing a day for partnership consultations just before the next meeting of the intersessional process.

6. With regard to the science-policy interface he noted that separate interfaces had been established for biodiversity and climate change (in the form of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and IPCC, respectively) but not in other areas such as chemicals and wastes. Steps to address the science had been taken, such as the preparation of a UNEP report on endocrine disrupting chemicals, but a more systematic overarching approach was needed to avoid the presentation of a fragmented picture of the scientific basis for action and thus facilitate decision-making by policymakers. To the extent that sector-specific interfaces were developed, moreover, an overarching mechanism would be needed to ensure that interlinkages were effectively addressed.

7. With regard to financing for the Sustainable Development Goals, he said that the amount needed could be estimated at between $3 and $5 trillion per year. Official development assistance, however, even if delivered at 0.7 per cent of GDP, would equal only approximately $280 billion per year, and only half of such assistance promised for the implementation of Agenda 21 had in fact been provided. There was a need, then, for more realistic promises in respect of official development assistance, as well for more funding from other sources including increased domestic funding and stakeholder funding. An important development in the Sustainable Development Goals process was that foundations and other philanthropists were playing a more prominent role than they had previously in respect of the international agenda, and an "SDG Philanthropy Platform" had been established through a partnership between prominent foundations to facilitate giving by such donors and collaboration between them and the international development community. The platform was being replicated at the national level, and he posed the question of whether Governments should not do something similar. He also noted that discussions were under way with national and subnational development banks and multilateral agencies such as GEF and the Green Climate Fund about how they might adapt their activities to support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. With regard to timelines, he outlined a number of key events relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals that would take place in 2017, 2018 and 2019, noting that important events included high-level political forums on oceans in 2017, on certain of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 12, in 2018; and on a review of all of the Goals in 2019. In addition he said that 23 targets were to be set between 2017 and 2025 and that the discussion on them was still wide open. It was critical, therefore, for the chemicals and waste community to participate energetically in all relevant meetings.

9. Finally he turned to targets and indicators, first describing the process by which the indicators were being developed through the United Nations Statistical Agency and the Inter-Agency Expert Group and highlighting that steps were being taken to allow for the incorporation of new forms of data to reflect changing circumstances, which he hoped would result in improvements to the indicators for Goal 12.4.

10. In conclusion he said that even while certain countries were currently adopting an insular fortress stance, the larger international community continued to pursue ambitious goals; it was up to everyone, he said, to ensure that those goals were met, and he cited Albert Einstein for the proposition that problems could not be solved with the same kind of thinking that had produced them. The current meeting, therefore, had to be about out-of-the box thinking, interlinkages and building a larger movement rooted in community.

11. Following Mr. Dodds' presentation one representative commented on a number of his themes, saying that it was critical for donor countries to honour their pledges, that there was a need to raise the political profile of chemicals and waste management to the highest levels, that as implied by Einstein there was a need for a fundamental change in approach and that no matter how much money was spent the problems of illegal traffic and dumping would not be solved until Governments required companies to operate in the same manner abroad as they did at home.