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**Third meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

Bangkok, Thailand, 1-4 October 2019

Item 4(c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Development of recommendations for consideration by the fifth session of the Conference regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020: Mechanisms to support implementation**

**Secretariat analysis of options for modalities to assess progress beyond 2020**

**Note by the secretariat**

1. The third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) requested the secretariat to produce a paper setting out detailed options for modalities to assess progress beyond 2020, building on lessons learned and effective models from other areas, for consideration at the third meeting of the intersessional process. The paper is set out in the Annex to the present note.
2. The intersessional process may wish to develop recommendations on assessing progress beyond 2020 for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session.
3. The intersessional process may also wish to consider the document prepared by the co-chairs of the intersessional process on other mechanisms to support implementation (SAICM/IP.3/5).

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\* SAICM/IP.3/1

## **Annex**

### **Secretariat analysis of options for modalities to assess progress beyond 2020**

#### **I. Current status for modalities to assess progress beyond 2020**

1. The outcome document of the third meeting of the Strategic Approach Open-ended Working Group (SAICM/IP.3/INF/1) proposes the following functions for the international conference beyond 2020: (i) to receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in implementation and to disseminate information as appropriate; (ii) to evaluate and report on the implementation of programmes that are fulfilling the vision with a view to reviewing progress against the objectives, targets and milestones and updating the programme of work as necessary.
2. One of the proposed functions to be performed by the secretariat will be to report to the international conference on implementation by all stakeholders [and progress on [against] objectives and targets].
3. Furthermore, the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM/IP.3/9) states that Strategic Approach has made some progress in developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for assessing progress made towards the 2020 goal. This can be viewed as an evolving process, from the indicators defined per activity identified within the Global Plan of Action to the 20 indicators of progress agreed at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, to the most recent Overall Orientation and Guidance document comprising the 11 basic elements endorsed at the fourth session of the Conference. Furthermore, the independent evaluation identified that there is a need for outcome and impact focused indicators to complement or replace the existing indicators of progress, i.e. results-based indicators that measure tangible reductions in health and environmental impacts of chemicals use.
4. This analysis reviews three specific areas in relation to assessing progress beyond 2020:
  - i. Reporting on implementation and progress;
  - ii. Options for future data collection; and
  - iii. Initial reflections on potentially relevant data for the beyond 2020 proposed strategic objectives

#### **II. Reporting on implementation and progress**

5. To date, progress toward the 2020 goal of Strategic Approach has been reviewed based on self-evaluation and self-assessment by the stakeholders on their implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy Objectives via an online questionnaire.
6. For beyond 2020, stakeholders may wish to consider methods to review implementation and progress that are not dependent solely on the inputs directly received from the stakeholders or on self-assessment. The experience with Strategic Approach to-date has seen limited stakeholder reporting.

7. Progress reporting is critical in moving forward. The demonstration of credible, continuous progress will help to secure political support and financing, and ultimately enhance impact over the long term.
8. The future progress report beyond 2020 should track progress on multiple levels with input from multiple stakeholders. A number of data sources and methods could be utilized to develop progress reports.
9. Results could be demonstrated through an overall report and through showcasing national and regional status and progress through online profiles, making information more useful and accessible to all. This would help to ensure a more comprehensive review of global progress.
10. As stated in progress report for the period 2014-2016 prepared by the secretariat, future indicators should be objectively verifiable, results-based and quantifiable that reflect the progress. Since the tracking of progress against indicators/targets is a time-consuming and resource intensive process, the mechanism should concentrate on developing a limited number of indicators.

### III. Options for future data collection

11. Modalities for data collection could consist of the following methods for analysis and discussions:
  - a) Collect the data from the national and other stakeholders on a small but key group of targets/indicators which are objective and can be quantified. For example, build on the eight indicators of progress developed by the participating organizations of Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to project the global and regional progress.
  - b) Develop periodic reports as 'special contributions' linked to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This could, for example, rotate around health, agriculture, environment and labour with leadership of participating organizations of Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals such as the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Labor Organization.
  - c) Include periodic in-depth sector reviews in the progress report, for instance review of the pharmaceuticals, electronics, and textiles sector activities in each period led by multiple experts. Such reviews could be undertaken periodically and led by groups of experts.
  - d) Analyze the results achieved through the country and issue-based projects financed by Special Programme and the Global Environment Facility and others. Review national/country/regional projects in which non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations and/or academia have been actively involved and contributed to. Discuss how these projects have addressed the gaps in sound management of chemicals and waste. Link the project results to indicators of progress and whether they contribute to reach the related targets. Share lessons learned to promote scale-up.
  - e) Include rotating voluntary national reviews such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development environmental performance reviews, Voluntary Peer Review of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan Revision or Implementation, or Special Rapporteur type of approach, one per region between each international conference. This would give a level of depth in review, analysis and learning. Governments would volunteer for such a review.

- f) Develop questionnaires and self-reporting for identified specific areas. Engagement of stakeholders in the progress reporting remains a valuable exercise. Thus, challenges with the limited reporting under Strategic Approach to date would need to be addressed.
12. The various data sources and reports could be collected and compiled into one overall review to be used by the international conference to evaluate and review progress against the objectives, targets and milestones, providing the basis for updating the programme of work as necessary.

#### IV. Initial reflections on potentially relevant data for the beyond 2020 proposed strategic objectives

13. Methods used for data collection should be reflective of the key data holders. Therefore, the secretariat has undertaken some initial reflections on potentially relevant data for the proposed objectives beyond 2020 (see table 1).
14. Five strategic objectives are currently proposed in the OEWG3 outcome document (see SAICM/IP.3/INF/1) for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020:
- i. Strategic objective A: [Measures are identified, implemented and enforced in order to prevent or, where not feasible, minimize harm from chemicals throughout their life cycle [and waste];].
  - ii. Strategic objective B: Comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data and information are generated, available and accessible to all to enable informed decisions and actions.
  - iii. Strategic objective C: Issues of concern [that warrant [global] [and] [joint] action] are identified, prioritized and addressed.
  - iv. Strategic objective D: Benefits to human health and the environment are maximized and risks are prevented or, where not feasible, minimized through safer alternatives, innovative and sustainable solutions and forward thinking.
  - v. Strategic objective E: [The importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste as an essential element to achieving sustainable development is recognized by all; adequate financial and non-financial resources are [identified and] mobilized; actions are accelerated; and necessary [transparent and accountable] partnerships are established to foster cooperation among stakeholders].].

Table 1- Proposed Strategic Objectives and potential areas for relevant data

| Proposed Strategic Objective | Focus of the actions  | Key data holders                              | Key hooks   | Potential methods for data collection                                     |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>A</b>                     | National level implementation                               | National governments, Convention secretariats | SDGs 3, 6, 11 and 12, circularity, health.            | National data collection, voluntary national reviews.                     |
| <b>B</b>                     | Data collection, availability, generation and repositories. | All stakeholders.                             | Science-based data, supply chain data, collaboration. | In-depth sector reviews, periodic 'special contributions' linked to SDGs. |

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| <b>C</b> | Addressing areas not addressed elsewhere including potentially activities related to regulation, science and data | All stakeholders         | Science, sustainable development, circularity, health, collaboration. | Circularity, SDG 12   |
| <b>D</b> | Innovation, sustainable solutions, new vision.  | Academia, private sector | Circularity, SDG 12   | In-depth sector reviews   |
| <b>E</b> | Mobilizing finances, establishing partnerships.   | All stakeholders         | SDG 3, 6, 12, 17  | Periodic 'special contributions' linked to SDGs, analyze project results. |

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