
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

Scenario note for the third meeting of the intersessional process for considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

I. Introduction

1. The present scenario note, developed by the co-chairs of the intersessional process, Ms. Judith Torres (Uruguay) and Mr. David Morin (Canada), sets out the proposed plan and general expectations for the third meeting of the intersessional process for considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
2. The mandate for considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is set out in resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals management.
3. The intersessional process is open for participation of all Strategic Approach stakeholders. The task of the intersessional process is to provide recommendations to the Conference at its fifth session (ICCM5) in Bonn, Germany, from 5 to 9 October 2020, to enable the Conference to take an informed decision on the future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
4. The present scenario note aims to assist Strategic Approach stakeholders in preparing for the third meeting of the intersessional process to enable participants to reach a successful conclusion in a timely manner. Further guidance for stakeholders can be found in the annotations to the provisional agenda (SAICM/IP.3/1/Add.1).

II. Objective of the meeting

5. We would like participants to recall that at the fifth session of the Conference, key decisions will be taken on the Strategic Approach and the way forward for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. This third meeting of the intersessional process is a critical milestone and we expect to build on and advance the work that was completed by the OEWG3 contact group on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
6. To achieve our desired outcome at the fifth session of the Conference, we as co-chairs expect participants to produce an outcome document at this third meeting that pulls together what we have achieved so far and serve as a key input to the fourth meeting of the intersessional process to be held in Bucharest, Romania, from 23 to 27 March 2020.

III. Timing and organization

7. The third meeting of the intersessional process will open at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 1 October 2019. On-site registration for the meeting will commence at 7.30 a.m. on Monday, 30 September, and will be available throughout the week.
8. The work of this third meeting will be conducted in plenary sessions and thematic groups. In structuring plenary discussions, issues will be addressed in the order in which they are presented in the provisional agenda (SAICM/IP.3/1).
9. Given that meeting documents were made available in advance, we expect that all participants will come to this third meeting well prepared to debate and advance text towards a successful outcome of the intersessional process.
10. Technical briefings to be held on Monday, September 30, will provide an opportunity for various stakeholders to make presentations on relevant papers and activities with a view to obtaining feedback from participants and to inform discussions on important topics of relevance to the intersessional process throughout the rest of the week. A programme with more detail has been made available to participants on the SAICM website (www.saicm.org).
11. Regional and sectoral groups, as well as the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), will meet on Monday, 30 September, from 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Additional meetings for these stakeholder groups will be held during the rest of the week from Tuesday, 1 October to Friday, 4 October from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.
12. Individual sector meetings dedicated respectively to health, labour, environment and agriculture, will be held during the week to allow for more focused reflections and discussions on the specific sectors. These meetings will be convened by the IOMC and led by the relevant participating organizations of the IOMC. Further information is available on the SAICM website (www.saicm.org).
13. A special evening session will be held on Tuesday, 1 October, immediately following the closure of plenary with the aim of exploring and exchanging views on potential linkages of chemicals and waste with biodiversity.
14. A number of thematic groups have been proposed to support the work of the plenary. The topics for the thematic groups include: a) targets, milestones and indicators; b) enhanced governance and institutional arrangements; c) mechanisms to support implementation; and, d) financial considerations. We view these as areas of key importance to advance upon at this third meeting and discussed these thematic areas with the ICCM5 Bureau at their seventh meeting in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, in July 2019.
15. We would like to remind participants that the rules of procedure of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the work and proceedings of this third meeting. As set out in Conference Resolution IV/4, the meeting will be conducted in English only.

IV. Developing recommendations

16. Participants may wish to recall that the outcomes of the OEWG3 contact group on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 are set out in the annex to the OEWG3 meeting report available to participants as document SAICM/IP.3/INF/1. The contact group made significant progress at OEWG3, and we would like to remind participants that we expect to advance on this at this meeting.
17. Participants may also wish to recall that a finalized 'Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management from 2006 – 2015' is available as set out in SAICM/IP.3/INF/3 and its Executive Summary SAICM/IP.3/9. Pursuant to resolution IV/4 of the Conference, participants may wish to reflect on and consider the conclusions of the evaluation during the discussions. Furthermore, participants may wish to take special note of the findings presented in the second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook which was released in early 2019.
18. Finally, we would like participants to recall that OEWG3 requested that we the co-chairs, the secretariat and UNEP, develop a number of papers to support the work of this meeting and contribute to a successful outcome. In developing these papers, stakeholder input was solicited, and efforts were made to incorporate received input into these papers. A dedicated agenda item has been set up to provide information on these papers.

V. Issues of key importance

19. There is a significant task in front of the third meeting of the intersessional process. We propose to structure and focus the meeting deliberations along four important thematic areas to support the work of the plenary:

- i) Targets, milestones and indicators;
- ii) Institutional arrangements;
- iii) Mechanisms to support implementation; and,
- iv) Financial considerations.

20. In this scenario note, we have set our views on how to advance in each of these areas. It is our expectation that participants will deliberate and make tangible progress on these topics in plenary and during the thematic groups. The thematic groups will serve as an opportunity for participants to discuss these topics in detail and advance text on these areas.

(i) Targets, milestones and indicators

21. We would like participants to recall that at OEWG3, objectives and targets were discussed in the contact group as set out in the annex to the OEWG3 meeting report (SAICM/IP.3/INF/1). Our expectation is that this third intersessional process meeting will work to finalize these targets and make progress on milestones and indicators to the greatest extent possible.

22. With respect to further advancing on this agenda item, the Government of the United Kingdom generously hosted a technical expert workshop on indicators in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from 3 to 5 September 2019. We would like to encourage participants to review and build on the outputs of the workshop available as document SAICM/IP.3/INF/2.

23. Considering the importance of advancing on this agenda item, we propose that three time slots be dedicated to this thematic group.

(ii) Institutional arrangements

24. We would like participants to recall that at OEWG3, institutional arrangements were discussed as set out in the annex to the OEWG3 meeting report (SAICM/IP.3/INF/1). The institutional structure is currently set out in three areas.

25. Furthermore, we would encourage participants to review document SAICM/IP.3/INF/4 'Submission from the Germany Environment Agency - Enhancing governance for the sound management of chemicals and waste'. Participants may wish to consider the paper and how it may be taken up during the thematic group.

26. We expect participants to reflect on and advance discussions on the desired form of future institutional and governance arrangements in greater detail at this third meeting so that recommendations may be finalized at the fourth and final meeting of the intersessional process.

(iii) Mechanisms to support implementation

27. We would like participants to recall that at OEWG3, potential mechanisms to support implementation were explored and discussed as set out in the annex to the OEWG3 meeting report (SAICM/IP.3/INF/1).

28. At the request of OEWG3, we have prepared the following papers to advance and contribute to discussions on this topic:

- i) Additional measures to achieve multisectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement (SAICM/IP.3/3);
- ii) Addressing issues of concern (SAICM/IP.3/4); and,
- iii) Other mechanisms to support implementation (SAICM/IP.3/5).

In our document SAICM/IP.3/5, we review (a) appropriate and effective mechanisms for taking stock of progress; (b) mechanisms for capacity-building; and, (c) a mechanism for updating the instrument over time.

29. During deliberations related to this agenda item, it is our expectation that participants specifically make progress on issues of concern as well as measures to achieve multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement. We view these areas as particularly important at this third meeting in order to finalize all recommendations regarding mechanisms to support implementation at the fourth meeting of the intersessional process.

(iv) Financial considerations

30. We would like participants to recall that financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste was discussed at OEWG3.
31. As a starting point, we invite participants to reflect upon the text developed by the OEWG3 contact group as set out in the annex of the OEWG3 meeting report (SAICM/IP.3/INF/1). We would also like participants to take note of the secretariat paper SAICM/IP.3/7 developed at the request of the OEWG3.
32. We view this as an important agenda item and propose that three time slots be dedicated to this thematic group at this third meeting of the intersessional process.

VI. Desired output and next steps

33. We would like participants to recall that, in accordance with resolution IV/4, participants of the OEWG3 decided to hold a fourth meeting of the intersessional process to further support preparations for the fifth session of the Conference. The fourth meeting will be hosted by the Government of Romania from 23 to 27 March 2020, in Bucharest. This will be our last formal opportunity to finalize recommendations in advance of the fifth session of the Conference regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
34. Our goal at this third meeting is to make significant progress so we may arrive at the fifth session of the Conference regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 with finalized recommendations.
35. We would like to reiterate that we urge participants to work together so that we may leave this third meeting with a complete draft outcome document that ties together what we have achieved together so far.
36. Therefore, by the end of this third meeting we strongly encourage participants to finalize recommendations which advance the targets, milestones and indicators in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
37. We expect that participants will also consider the need for a cross-cutting and holistic enabling framework for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and what gaps such an enabling framework might address.
38. Furthermore, we would like to encourage participants to consider thoroughly the status of current discussions and propose any additional work that may be necessary to finalize the work of the intersessional process at the fourth and final meeting in Bucharest next March.
39. We would also like to add that in advance of the fifth session of the Conference, regional meetings will be held between July and September 2020. These meetings are intended to support regions to prepare for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
40. In conclusion, we very much look forward to working with you all at this third meeting of the intersessional process in Bangkok, Thailand.

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Co-chairs of the intersessional process
