
Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4)
Bucharest, Romania, 29 August – 2 September 2022

Scenario note prepared by the co-chairs of the intersessional process

I. Introduction

1. The present scenario note, developed by the co-chair of the intersessional process, Ms. Judith Torres (Uruguay) and ad interim co-chair Ms. Kay Williams (United Kingdom), outlines a proposed structure and flow for the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4) in order to achieve the objective, set out below.

2. As set out in resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), the task of the intersessional process is to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for consideration by ICCM5. The intersessional process is in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), including the related outcome document “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”¹ and other relevant UNEA resolutions².

3. The overall objective of this fourth meeting is to finalize the recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, presented in one single document, for consideration at the fifth session of the Conference in Bonn, Germany, to be held in the third quarter of 2023.

4. We appreciate that the task before us at the fourth meeting of the intersessional process is immense. We acknowledge that for the past two years all of us have been dealing with an ongoing COVID-19 global health emergency. This has exacerbated the social and economic impacts of much deeper underlying global crises of toxic pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss. We remain ambitious in our approach as IP4 is a critical milestone and our last formally agreed opportunity to bring stakeholders together for face-to-face discussions to ensure the mandate for the fifth session of the Conference is reached. We encourage the stakeholders from all sectors to participate.

5. Central to implementing and achieving these, lies the effective implementation of integrated chemicals and waste management which benefits and contributes to solutions to

¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/strengthening-sound-management-chemicals-and-waste-long-term>

² UNEA 4/8 and UNEA 5/7.

the health, climate, biodiversity, food, energy, and many other crises. We have recently seen the adoption of key resolutions on chemicals and waste management in UNEA, Minamata, BRS and ILO highlighting the urgent need for action.

6. Deliberations in the intersessional process are informed by IP3 outcome, the Virtual Working Groups process, stakeholder submissions and outcomes of regional meeting discussions. Stakeholders may find further guidance for this fourth meeting in the annotations to the provisional agenda (SAICM/IP.4/1/Add.1/Rev.1).

II. Intersessional work since IP3

7. The participants at the third meeting of the intersessional process in Bangkok in October 2019 agreed that the secretariat, under the guidance of the intersessional process co-chairs and in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference, would produce for the fourth meeting of the intersessional process a single draft document consisting of the collated outcomes of the four thematic groups of the third meeting of the intersessional process, incorporating them, as appropriate into the outcome document of the Open-ended Working Group contact group on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. This document is available to participants (SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1).

8. With restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the postponement of IP4 and ICCM5, the ICCM5 Bureau and the co-chairs of the intersessional process proposed establishing a number of Virtual Working Groups (VWGs) to support the work of the intersessional process to advance deliberations on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

9. The purpose of the VWGs was to develop proposals for tangible outcomes including notes identifying gaps, compromise text proposals, and new or alternate text, as appropriate. The VWGs were not intended to replace formal face-to-face discussions at IP4 and/or negotiations at ICCM5 but to further build understanding and prepare delegates for these important negotiations.

10. The VWGs were established to work on the following issues:

- (i) Targets, indicators and milestones;
- (ii) Governance and mechanisms to support implementation;
- (iii) Issues of concern; and
- (iv) Financial considerations.

11. The Co-facilitators reports on the outcomes of the VWGs held between October 2020 to February 2021 are available [here](#)

12. An online survey was developed to gather information on stakeholders' experiences and views to inform the design of future work in the intersessional process until the time when face-to-face meetings are feasible. The survey was launched and circulated to all SAICM stakeholders in all six UN languages and the deadline for completion was 16 July 2021. The data gathered from the survey was used to develop an assessment of the experiences with the virtual work undertaken between October 2020 to February 2021.

13. Regional briefings were held on 7 and 8 September 2021 to inform the regions on the results of the survey, provide an opportunity to the regions to provide feedback on the virtual work and discuss regional perspectives amongst themselves. Information on the regional briefings can be found [here](#).

14. The SAICM Roadmap towards IP4 and ICCM5 was agreed by the Bureau at its 20th meeting held on 15 March 2022. The Roadmap includes the decision by the Bureau that the basis for further discussion are the results of IP3 and the results of the Virtual Working Groups as a valuable annex to the IP3 outcome to be considered at IP4. The outcomes of the Virtual Working Groups were presented at all Regional meetings prior to IP4 allowing stakeholders to become better engage with the texts tabled with the support of the co-facilitators and co-chairs.

15. Regional meetings in preparation for the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste took place between May and July 2022 as follows:

- (i) GRULAC Regional Meeting, 6-7 May 2022, Montevideo, Uruguay;
- (ii) CEE Regional Meeting, 12-13 May 2022, Prague, Czech Republic;
- (iii) EU-JUSSCANNZUK Meeting, 23 June 2022, online;
- (iv) Africa Regional Meeting, 28 – 30 June 2022, Accra, Ghana;
- (v) Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, 5 – 7 July 2022, Dead Sea, Jordan.

16. Information on the regional meetings can be found [here](#).

III. Timing and organization of the fourth meeting

17. The fourth meeting of the intersessional process will open at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 29 August 2022. This will be preceded by regional and stakeholder consultations, as well as briefings on 27 and 28 August 2022. On-site registration for the meeting will commence at 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 26 August 2022, and will be available throughout the week.

18. This scenario note sets out our views on how best to finalize recommendations and our expectations for the organization of work. We expect that participants will deliberate and make tangible progress on each issue in plenary and in thematic and/or informal dialogues to reach a shared understanding, as far as possible, on final recommendations to the fifth session of the Conference.

19. The work of IP4 will be conducted in plenary sessions with thematic groups and informal dialogues being convened as necessary. In structuring plenary discussions, we plan to address issues in the order in which they are presented in the provisional agenda (SAICM/IP.4/1/Rev.1) and the annotated provisional agenda (SAICM/IP.4/Add.1/Rev.1).

20. In opening agenda item 3, regional and stakeholder/sectoral groups will be invited to provide their general views and overarching perspectives on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Thereafter, stakeholders will be invited to consider the specific topics and proposals outlined in the meeting documents.

21. Given the limited time available, the daily morning and afternoon sessions will be split into two working sessions, between 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., as well as 3.00 – 4.30 p.m. and 4.30 – 6.00 p.m. We plan to use the Thursday morning plenary session to do a stock-taking of progress, and if needed take further decisions on the organization of work.

22. Briefings will precede the formal meeting on Saturday, 27 August 2022 and Sunday, 28 August 2022. These briefings will provide stakeholders with information on important topics and activities to contribute to a successful outcome. The aim is to inform discussions throughout the rest of the week. An up-to-date programme with more detail will be made available to participants on the SAICM website (www.saicm.org).

23. We would also 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 fourth meeting. As set out in Conference Resolution IV/4, the meeting will be conducted in English only.

24. Given that meeting documents were made available in advance of the meeting and stakeholders were given opportunities to provide input, we expect that all participants will come to the meeting well prepared for a successful outcome so that together we can finalize recommendations to be presented to the fifth session of the Conference.

IV. Proposed in session work at IP4

25. Document SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1 Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, will be used as the basis for discussions at the fourth meeting of the intersessional process taking into account the outcomes of the VWGs as well as other submissions from stakeholders. The VWG outcomes are presented in SAICM/IP.4/2 Rev.1/Add.1 Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Targets, Indicators and Milestones, SAICM/IP.4/2 Rev.1 /Add.2 Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation, SAICM/IP.4/2 Rev.1 /Add.3 Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Issues of Concern and SAICM/IP.4/2 Rev.1 /Add.4 Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Financial Considerations. Stakeholder submissions will be uploaded on the SAICM website when received by the secretariat and can be found [here](#). In addition, the meeting may wish to consider SAICM/IP.4/8/Rev.1 Proposals for the name of a new instrument.

26. The aim of the discussions is to provide a consolidated set of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for consideration by the fifth session of the Conference, in a single document.

27. We expect discussions in the plenary to resolve remaining outstanding issues and clean the text, to the extent possible.

28. Depending on progress in plenary, thematic groups may be mandated to consider:

- (i) vision, scope, principles, strategic objectives and targets;
- (ii) institutional arrangements including linkages between Science Policy Interface and Science Policy Panel;
- (iii) monitoring and reporting-taking stock of progress;
- (iv) implementing measures, including financial considerations.

29. Should there be a need for additional thematic groups, these may be established on a needs basis.

30. Given the limited time and the size of delegations, there will be no more than two thematic groups at a time. Informal dialogues on specific topics may be convened as necessary. The thematic groups and possible informal dialogues will have very clear and concise mandates such that participants have an opportunity to discuss in detail specific topics to develop recommendations.

31. Participants may wish to consider additional recommendations to forward to ICCM5 on areas that will facilitate both ongoing and future implementation beyond 2020 as well as on other important related elements, such as recent resolutions taken by other forums like issues related to plastics and the Science Policy Panel.

V. Key deliverables for IP4

32. The key outcome at this fourth meeting is a single document that presents the recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for consideration at the fifth session of the Conference. In addition, the meeting may wish to develop text for a draft resolution on the recommendations.

33. We would like participants to recall that following the fourth meeting of the intersessional process, and in advance of the fifth session of the Conference, regional meetings are proposed be held in 2023. These meetings would be intended to support the different regions in their preparations for the fifth session of the Conference.

34. We encourage participants to arrive with a constructive spirit, so we can make significant progress at this fourth, and final, meeting of the intersessional process.

35. In conclusion, we very much look forward to working together with you and achieving a successful outcome at this fourth meeting of the intersessional process in Bucharest, Romania.

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Co-chairs of the intersessional process
