
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

Report of the 7th Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the document entitled “*Report of the 7th Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management*”. The document presented in the annex has been developed by the SAICM secretariat in consultation with the SAICM Regional Bureau Member and the SAICM Regional Focal Point. It has been submitted by the SAICM secretariat and has not been formally edited.

Annex: Report of the 7th Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, held on 12 – 13 May 2022, Prague, Czech Republic

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The seventh Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management was opened at 9.10 a.m. on Thursday, 12 May 2022 at the NH Prague City Hotel in Prague, Czechia, by Ms. Kateřina Šebková - the Director of the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre RECETOX (Czechia), the President of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) - Ms. Anita Breyer (Germany), the Vice-President of the ICCM5 Bureau representing the CEE region - Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Poland), and Ms. Nalini Sharma, the SAICM Secretariat.
2. Ms. Kateřina Šebková from the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre welcomed the meeting participants on behalf of the Czechia and provided a set of housekeeping announcements.
3. Ms. Anita Breyer, President of ICCM5, thanked the region for the invitation to the CEE meeting. She thanked the government of Czechia for hosting the regional meeting and the Co-facilitators of the Virtual Working Groups (VWGs) for their availability to present and discuss the work of their respective groups and share the outcomes with the regional meeting participants. She also thanked the SAICM Secretariat for their valuable work in preparing the meeting.
4. Ms. Nalini Sharma, the SAICM Coordinator, thanked the government of Czechia and the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for facilitating the organization of the meeting. She highlighted the ICCM5 Bureau decision and rationale, as well the objectives, for holding the regional meeting and the main elements of the road map towards IP4 and ICCM5 as presented in document SAICM/RM/CEE.7/2.
5. Mr. Szymon Domagalski, the Vice-President of the ICCM5 Bureau representing the CEE region informed that the meeting takes place in a face-to-face mode, but online participation as observers for stakeholders who could not attend the meeting in person has been provided. He thanked the President, the IP co-chairs, the VWG co-facilitators and others for their work during the intersessional process and for coming to the regional meeting. He introduced the proposal to revise the *Terms of reference for the regional focal point for the Central and Eastern European region*, that would enable co-chairing of regional meetings, with a possibility of selecting an alternate, and to enable other participants to co-chair specific agenda items of the regional meetings to facilitate discussion. There was a unanimous agreement on the revisions made to the *Terms of reference* (as presented in Annex 1 of this report). Following the adoption of the revised *Terms of reference*, Ms. Suzana Andonova, North Macedonia, volunteered to act as an alternate regional representative for the meeting. This proposal was unanimously supported by the participants. Finally, the Vice-President of the ICCM5 Bureau representing the CEE region delivered a statement on behalf of Ukraine.

Item 2: Organizational matters

(a) Appointment of a regional focal point

6. A representative of Estonia took the floor speaking on behalf of a group of CEE countries, requested to add an additional sub-agenda item under agenda item 2: organizational matters on the appointment of a new CEE regional focal point. Ms. Suzana Andonova, North Macedonia, was proposed as a regional focal point. This proposal was unanimously supported by the participants.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

7. Participants adopted the agenda of the meeting, as stipulated in document SAICM/RM/CEE.7/1, reflecting the addition of the additional sub-agenda item 2(a) appointment of the CEE regional focal point. To reflect the availability of one of the co-facilitators of the Virtual Working Group 1, co-chair proposed to advance Agenda Items 4a and 4c i) after Agenda Item 2. This proposal was accepted by the meeting.

8. The meeting was chaired by the Vice-President of the ICCM5 Bureau, representing the region - Mr. Szymon Domagalski and the newly elected CEE Regional Focal Point - Ms. Suzana Andonova, North Macedonia. The IP Co-chairs, Ms. Judith Torres and Ms. Kay Williams were requested to co-chair agenda item 4.

9. The meeting was conducted in English, with interpretation services provided in Russian.

10. The list of participants is presented in Annex 2 of this report.

(c) Objectives and expected outcome of the SAICM CEE regional meeting

11. Ms. Andonova provided an overview of the overall objectives and expected outcomes of the CEE regional meeting.

12. The ICCM5 President provided her perspective on the expected outcomes of the regional meeting in the context of both the Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4) and the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5). She stated that the “beyond 2020” SAICM instrument is an important instrument that can potentially deliver what the world needs to “build back better” and the just transition that is inherent to the overall vision of the SDGs. She encouraged a full engagement of participants at the meeting to support that at ICCM5 the following issues are underlined: the role sound chemical management plays to protect health, workers, consumers and the environment worldwide; the need to improve chemicals management worldwide to achieve a sound level of protection; and the need for political support and adequate resources everywhere to be able to take the necessary steps. She highlighted the importance of awareness raising at the highest levels and in all relevant sectors. She stressed the mandate of the four Virtual Working Groups, an opportunity to discuss their outcomes with the co-facilitators and the documents prepared to facilitate the discussion as agreed by the Bureau, including the comparison table. She noted the 2022 developments relevant for the SAICM process: the UNEA5 resolutions on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution and on End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument; as well as the 8th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, with an increased budget for the chemicals and waste area. Finally, expressing her regrets for not being able to confirm the schedule of ICCM5 yet, she advised participants to get prepared for the third quarter of 2023.

Item 3: Update from the BRS Conventions and Minamata Convention Secretariats and IOMC members

13. Under this agenda item, representatives from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the IOMC Participating Organisations updated the meeting participants on their current and recent work, within the context of the face-to-face segment of the 2021/2022 BRS COPs, the second segment of the Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-4), and the work of the IOMC, respectively.

14. Mr. David Ogden, the representative of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, provided an overview of the upcoming 2022 meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. He reported on the key outcomes of the 12th meeting of the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group related to a set of prioritized agenda items for which progress was made in advance of COP-15. He reported on the preparatory regional briefings and highlighted the upcoming high-level segment of the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to be held on 1 June 2022 in Stockholm, Sweden, in connection with the Stockholm+50 meeting, as an opportunity to raise awareness of the contributions of the BRS Conventions to the 2030 Agenda and to tackling the earth's triple planetary crisis. He presented the main issues on the agendas and organizational matters, schedule, and participation modalities of the COPs to be held in Geneva on from 6 to 17 June 2022. The ensuing discussion focused on the modalities of participation in COPs in the context of expected Covid -19 restrictions.

15. Ms. Claudia Ten Have presented an update on behalf of the Minamata Convention Secretariat. Her presentation provided information on the outcomes of the COP-4 of the Minamata Convention, including advances made on Annex A and B, explaining all phasing out happening with mercury-added products, as well as the dates agreed for this process. She addressed the progress made by the effectiveness evaluation group and its milestones, and other selected decisions of COP-4. Finally, she presented the status of national reporting on Minamata in the CEE region.

16. Ms. Lesley Onyon from WHO provided a presentation on behalf of the IOMC, with a video, displaying IOMC advances, composition, and membership, as well as activities and outcomes as reflected in the IOMC toolbox including technical guidance and information tools. She provided an update on the status of the IOMC work on indicators, linked to the outcomes of the Virtual Working Group 1 on targets, indicators and milestones. She also introduced IOMC work envisaging the development and implementation of an integrated approach to chemicals and waste management. In the ensuing discussion, meeting participants complemented the IOMC toolbox and showed interest in learning more about the IOMC work on an integrated approach to chemicals and waste management. The IOMC representative encouraged the SAICM to explore potential ways of providing further information on the integrated approach to chemicals and waste management.

17. Ms. Nalini Sharma from the SAICM Secretariat made a presentation on the outcomes of the UNEA5 of relevance to chemicals management issues. She highlighted the omnibus resolution on the sound management of chemicals and waste, the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with the mandate to forge an international legally binding agreement by the end of 2024 to end plastic pollution, and the establishment of a comprehensive and ambitious science-policy panel on the sound management of chemicals and waste and pollution prevention. In the following discussion, one participant noted the importance of discussing the relationship between the SAICM process and the future Science-Policy Panel.

Item 4: Substantive preparation for the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

(a) SAICM roadmap towards IP4 and ICCM5, including the overview of the intersessional process

18. Ms. Judith Torres, Co-Chair of the Intersessional Process introduced document SAICM/RM/CEE.7/2: Road map leading to IP4 and ICCM5. She informed participants IP4 is scheduled from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Bucharest, Romania. Regional and stakeholder consultations are scheduled to take place the weekend prior to IP4 from 27 to 28 August 2022. She presented the following three steps, as outlined in the roadmap document:

- Step 1: Compile the outcomes and recommendations of the VWGs into one document as presented in SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/2
- Step 2: Prepare a comparison document – an evolution of text from SAICM OPS, IP.4/2 and VWG outcomes, as presented in SAICM/RM/CEE.7/INF.1
- Step 3: Face to face regional meetings in preparation for IP4 to be scheduled as follows:
 - GRULAC, 6-7 May, Montevideo, Uruguay
 - CEE Regional Meeting, 12-13 May 2022, Prague, Czech Republic
 - Africa Regional Meeting, 27 – 29 June 2022, Accra, Ghana
 - Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, 5 – 7 July 2022, Dead Sea, Jordan
 - WEOG / EUJUSSCANNZUK, dates to be confirmed, online

Ms. Torres noted that virtual briefings and online discussions may be convened to further build common understanding on key issues, and to introduce SAICM to new stakeholders, upon request.

19. She stated the primary meeting document for consideration at IP4 will be SAICM/IP4/2 “Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020”. Furthermore, as agreed at the 11th ICCM5 Bureau meeting held in February 2022, the VWG outcomes will be included as addenda to this meeting document. In addition, the outcomes of the regional meetings and any stakeholder submissions prior to IP4 in 2022 as well as the comparison document (SAICM/RM/CEE.7/INF.1) mentioned above can be included as information documents. Outlining the expected outcomes of IP4, she emphasized that IP4 is expected to produce one single document for negotiations at ICCM5.

(b) SAICM/IP4/2 “Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020” text not considered during the Virtual Working Groups on vision, scope, principles and approaches, and strategic objectives

20. Ms. Kay Williams introduced the document SAICM/RM/CEE.7/3: SAICM/IP.4/2 “Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, for consideration by the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. She further introduced text which was not considered during the Virtual Working Groups on vision, scope, principles and approaches, and strategic objectives in preparation for the fourth meeting of the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4).

21. In the ensuing discussion, the participants addressed, among others, the following issues. In relation to the “main general recommendations” section, participants mentioned the need to reflect on all SDGs under the SAICM process and the need to agree on a realistic timeline for achieving the goals of the future framework. In relation to the “vision” section, intervening participants presented diverging opinions as to the preferred option, with some leaning towards the second option, emphasizing the benefits of a simple and meaningful approach. In relation to the “scope” section, Ms. Williams noted that the second paragraph of the text needed to be removed due to an editorial mistake. Participants presented their views on how “waste” should be addressed in the text and discussed the concept of “non-toxic circularity”. In response to the request, the co-chair clarified the difference between “vision” and “scope” with the first focusing on what is a desired state, while the latter on what should be done to reach that desired state and what are the boundaries. When it comes to the “principles and approaches” section, meeting participants discussed the understanding of the meaning of “regional principles”, updating the list, as well as considering the inclusion in this section of elements linked to biodiversity and climate, precautionary principle and human rights. In relation to the “Strategic Objectives” section, participants suggested reflecting more explicitly under Strategic Objective A basic chemical management systems/legislation, including GHS and PRTRs. They also discussed addressing Strategic Objective C on issues of concern and how to best reflect issues of concern in the future framework. ICCM 5 President highlighted the importance of ensuring that the language of the strategic objectives supports effective communication with the decision makers and other stakeholders,

including politicians. Regarding “institutional arrangements”, some participants shared their views on their preferred frequency of the meetings of the international conference (e.g., meeting more often in the initial phase and less frequently later, meeting every two years, meeting every four years) and on the level of expected participation in the meetings of the international conference (high-level vs technical).

(c) **SAICM/IP4/2 “Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020” and the outcomes of the Virtual Working Groups held between October 2020 – February 2021**

22. The IP Co-Chairs informed participants that under this agenda item:
- One and a half hours will be dedicated to each Virtual Working Group.
 - The Virtual Working Group Co-facilitator(s) will provide a 30-minute presentation, introducing the work of the Virtual Working Group, highlighting the methodology used, its outcomes and key issues that the regional group need to be made aware of.
 - The presentation will be followed by a one-hour discussion to provide further explanation and clarification with an overall aim to seek stakeholders’ views, build consensus and reach a common understanding of the outcomes of Virtual Working Groups.

i. Virtual Working Group 1: Targets, indicators and milestones

23. Ms. Silvija Kalnins and Mr. Wajira Palipane, co-facilitators of the Virtual Working Group 1 presented the outcomes of the Group. Ms. Kalnins started by referring to relevant documents in front of the meeting and introduced SAICM/RM/CEE.7/INF.1: Table comparing the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, document SAICM/IP.4/2 “Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020” and the outcomes of the VWG1 (SAICM/RM/CEE.7/4) and its relevant sections.

24. She introduced the mandate, methodology and process related to the technical working group established and mandated by IP3 that met between January and February 2020 (outcomes of its work are available in documents SAICM/IP.4/3 and SAICM/IP.4/INF/15) and the Virtual Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones established and mandated by SAICM Bureau.

25. She presented the main outcomes of the work of the Virtual Working Group 1 and highlighted the formulations of targets based on points of convergence of views expressed by stakeholders, which include 5 strategic objectives, 25 targets (30 brackets) and over 80 indicators. She noted that the VWG1 proposed the two following options for moving forward:

- Option 1) continuation of work on targets, indicators, and milestones by a policy expert group; and
- Option 2) combine the work of a policy expert group with the work by a sub-group more technical in nature which would prepare specific work on indicators (a specific example in relation to the Strategic Objective D was provided by the co-facilitator).

26. Following the overview of the structure of the outcome document she highlighted the issues raised but not addressed by the group, as well as the following main considerations for moving forwards:

- The need to consider targets together with the strategic objective formulations to establish a comprehensive indicator framework for the new instrument; and
- The need to consider targets in a reiterative process and together with the indicators, in order to capture and develop a comprehensive indicator framework for the instrument, including considerations of resources and capacities for monitoring implementation.

27. In the ensuing discussion, one participant asked about the linkages between the work of the VWG 1 on targets, indicators and milestones and the work on issues of concern, as well as how the work on targets and indicators is expected to continue. Co-facilitator responded that the work is expected to continue at a technical level, but at the same time cannot be separated from a policy level.

28. The Co-chair thanked Ms. Kalnins and Mr. Palipane for the presentation and being available for the questions and answer session.

ii. Virtual Working Group 2: Governance and mechanisms to support implementation

29. Ms. Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn presented the outcomes of the Group. She presented the detailed mandate of the group, which was based on reviewing the text of the compilation of recommendations, as well on the Science Policy. In addition, she provided an overview of the number of participants, the virtual meetings held and the requests for written submissions during the process.

30. She provided an overview of the outputs that were categorized into three parts:

- Part I: Textual recommendations based on the convergence of views among stakeholders for Sections B, C, D, E, G, and H; She highlighted the issues on which progress was made and on which more work needs to be done in each section of the outcomes' documents.
- Part II: Recommendations for the establishment of a Science-Policy Interface. Among the main recommendations in this regard, she highlighted that further dialogue needs to take place on the functions and characteristics of a Science Policy Interface, on the development of the potential options for its scope and placement; and
- Part III: Recommendations for further consideration of issues in the "Parking Lot," a document created by VWG2 to reflect areas of work or views that could not be addressed in the context of the mandate or that needed more time for further discussion and consideration.

31. She concluded her presentation by presenting the next steps and recommendations from the Co-facilitators which include the Japanese proposal for Taking Stock of Progress (Section G) and Updating the Instrument (Section H) and the overlap with related sections of SAICM/IP.4/2 for which the VWG2 was not mandated.

32. In the discussion that followed, participants raised the issue of the relationship and the need to avoid duplication between the future SAICM framework and the process for establishing a policy Science-Policy Panel as mandated by UNEA5. Issues under SAICM such as subsidiary and expert bodies need to be addressed. One participant recalled that under the SAICM process, the Open-Ended Working Group was established to consider issues beyond the original objectives of SAICM, such as the Emerging Policy Issues. It was also noted that all the Conventions had their own scientific bodies. Participants also asked for clarification on the format of reporting and the concept of the proposed "voluntary peer reviews". It was explained that the concept is based on the OECD work on environmental performance reviews. One of the participants encouraged that any reporting under the future SAICM framework is kept simple.

33. The Co-chair thanked Ms. Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn for the presentation and being available for the questions and answer session.

iii. Virtual Working Group 3: Issues of concern

34. The co-facilitators Mr. Thomas Jahre Sverre and Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi presented the outcomes of their Group. They introduced the mandate and process of their group highlighting that the Group had 262 registered participants from all SAICM stakeholder groups, including a number of sectors and all UN regions who met through four virtual meetings and three rounds of electronic feedback.

35. They presented the outcomes of the group referring to the comparison table as displayed in document SAICM/RM/CEE.7/INF.1 and highlighted the broad agreement in the group that the emerging policy issues process has been useful in raising the profile of specific issues globally, but that a clear plan of action is needed. The co-facilitators concluded their presentation with a set of recommendations from the virtual working group aiming including elements of an omnibus resolution on the existing SAICM EPIs and other issues of concern.

36. In the ensuing discussion, one participant asked if physicochemical properties should not be listed under the criteria set out in Annex B of the compilation document. Co-facilitators informed that they proposed to delete this part to avoid duplication as this information is generally captured under the section on information requirements. One participant supported this deletion. In relation to the proposed definition of an issue of concern, which comes from resolution ICCM II/4, participants requested and received clarification from co-facilitators on some elements of the wording proposed, including deletion of the terms “international” and “waste” as well as an understanding of “insufficiently addressed” and “generally recognized”. IP co-chair asked about the linkages of the work on issues of concern with the establishment of the science policy panel on the sound management of chemicals and waste and pollution prevention. In response, the co-facilitators indicated that the SPP will undertake horizon scanning and develop assessment reports both of which will include policy options for action which can be taken up by the new framework in consultation with the Conference, but ultimately the ICCM5 will decide on this matter.

37. The Co-chair thanked Mr. Thomas Jahre Sverre and Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi for the presentation and being available for the questions and answer session.

iv. Virtual Working Group 4: Financial considerations

38. Mr. Reggie Hernaus presented the outcomes of the group. He provided an overview of the mandate and process of the work of the group and highlighted that 166 people registered for this VWG from all SAICM stakeholder groups, including different sectors and all UN regions and convened 4 virtual meetings and 3 rounds of electronic feedback. He presented the outcomes of the Group and highlighted the consolidated views, recommendations and proposed cleaned redline texts. The group agreed to include a chapeau paragraph to section VII on Financial Considerations with a proposed text to highlight the need for adequate, predictable and sustainable financing, technical assistance and technology transfer for the implementation of the Strategic Approach. He also pointed out the three following outcomes:

1. Stakeholders unanimously supported strengthening the financing of the Secretariat with contributions from all stakeholders, although details on how these contributions should be reflected in the beyond 2020 instrument have not been agreed on.
2. Stakeholders provided inputs to the draft resource mobilization strategy and the review document on cost-recovery mechanisms and other economic instruments for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste. The Secretariat will use these inputs to prepare revised versions of both documents; and
3. The co-facilitators and stakeholders also launched an Open Discussion on capacity building and defined concrete mechanisms and actions regarding capacity building across sectors to support the beyond 2020 programme of work.

39. RECETOX representative asked about the details of the GEF-8 Replenishment for the GEF trust fund and its implication to the work under SAICM, as well as noted the need to increase the funding for the implementation of SAICM and ensure that various stakeholders contribute to the financing of these activities. Co-facilitator and a representative of SAICM Secretariat provided further information on the GEF-8 Replenishment. One of the IP Co-chairs invited the SAICM Secretariat to gather and present, to SAICM stakeholders, information on the funding opportunities available. A representative

of the SAICM Secretariat informed about the communication with the GEF Secretariat, publication of a study on industry involvement in the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste and ongoing work on the analysis of SAICM priority areas under the GEFs mandate (to be published in the coming months). She also noted that UNEA5 agreed to a 5-year extension of the Special Programme on chemicals and waste. Participants also interacted with the co-facilitator to have a better understanding of the functions of the proposed clearinghouse mechanism to track development aid. In the context of an upcoming discussion on the future framework, some participants highlighted the relevance of the SAICM QSP in the past for their efforts in improving chemicals management at a national level. In the context of resources for the SAICM Secretariat, an idea of reflecting the UN scale of assessment was discussed, with diverging views coming from intervening participants. Some participants also noted that the structure of the SAICM Secretariat needs to reflect the tasks of the Secretariat under the new framework. A representative of the SAICM Secretariat informed that the core budget of the Secretariat is limited and ensuring core funding is essential. Finally, co-facilitator brought the attention of the meeting participants to the use of the term “low and middle income countries” instead of “developing countries” in the proposed text.

40. The Co-chair thanked Mr. Reggie Hernaus for the presentation and being available for the questions and answer session.

41. Following the discussions on all Virtual Working Groups and in response to the question asked by one of the regional meeting co-chairs, the participants of the CEE meeting agreed that the outcomes of the work of the Virtual Working Groups can be used as a basis for discussion at the IP4 meeting in Bucharest.

Item 5: Logistical preparations for the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

42. ICCM5 President presented an update on the preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2023. She expressed her regrets for not being able to confirm the exact dates for ICCM5 yet but advised participants to get prepared for the third quarter of 2023. She encouraged the CEE countries to secure appropriate participation in the High-Level Segment of ICCM5.

43. The representative of Romania presented an update on preparations for the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. She presented the proposed meeting dates for IP4 scheduled to take place in face-to-face mode from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Bucharest, Romania and expected to have a total of 250 participants. The Host Country Agreement between UNEP and Government of Romania should be signed soon. Information on the meeting venue will be provided latest by mid-June 2022.

Item 6: Exchange of regional information and knowledge, reviewing progress towards the current SAICM objectives.

44. Co-chair invited representatives from the CEE region to share information on activities related to SAICM objectives.

45. The representative of Montenegro provided information on activities at national level including the upcoming project under the Special Programme supporting the implementation of Basel, Minamata and Stockholm Conventions and forthcoming completion of a project on PCBs. She also asked advice from the region on how to best address obsolete chemicals.

46. The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided updates on new legislation on chemicals adopted since 2018 in the country as well as on the status of ratification of various MEAs on chemicals.

She also underlined that the country is relying to a large extent on external support in its efforts and presented main challenges in further improving the chemicals management framework.

47. The representative of Estonia provided information on actions related to the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation.

48. The representatives of Poland and RECETOX informed about the EU 2020 chemicals strategy for sustainability and main actions planned for its implementation.

49. The representative of RECETOX informed that RECETOX has been nominated as the WHO collaborating centre and that it takes part in the EU initiatives related to human biomonitoring. She also informed about the involvement in the European Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC).

50. The representative of Georgia informed about cooperation with Czechia under the project to align to the EU legislation on chemicals, as well as other activities in the area of chemical safety and security.

51. The representative of North Macedonia informed about the outcomes of the UNIDO/GEF project on Removal of Technical and Economic Barriers to Initiating the Clean-up Activities for Alpha-HCH, Beta-HCH and Lindane Contaminated Sites at OHIS in Macedonia.

Item 7: Other matters

52. Under this agenda item, one of the co-chairs initiated the discussion on the CEE region participation in the IP4 meeting. He informed that in line with planning for the previous Intersessional Process meetings, there will be funding available for three funded CEE regional representatives for the meeting, as well as for the Bureau members. He proposed to reflect in the nominations the past participation in the IP meetings, the participation in the CEE regional meeting and the expected availability and geographical as well as gender balance. In the ensuing discussion the CEE region nominated Armenia, Georgia and Montenegro as the CEE regional representatives that will be funded for IP4. These nominations need to be formally confirmed and will be communicated to the Secretariat.

Item 8: Closure of the meeting

53. The meeting co-chairs, ICCM5 President, the representatives of the host country and the SAICM Secretariat provided closing remarks thanking participants for their active participation and contribution to discussion at the meeting and the meeting was closed at 3.40 p.m. on Friday, 13 May 2022.

Annex 1: Terms of reference for the regional focal point for the Central and Eastern European region

1. The roles and responsibilities of the Central and Eastern European regional focal point for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) are:

(a) To facilitate SAICM implementation efforts in the region through the SAICM national focal points;

(b) To facilitate sharing of experience in SAICM implementation with other regions;

(c) To facilitate regional meetings on SAICM jointly with the CEE Bureau Member and in consultation with the SAICM secretariat; If the Regional Focal Point will not be able to facilitate the Regional Meeting, the Region might decide to appoint the alternate regional representatives to co-facilitate meeting.

(c bis) The Regional Focal Point and/or the CEE Bureau Member might proposed to invite other parties to co-chair the regional meeting or part of the meeting, if it is relevant to the meeting agenda.

(d) To solicit and summarize input from SAICM national focal points, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other SAICM participants in the region on issues and matters being addressed by SAICM, including the identification of regional and sub-regional priorities;

(e) To identify regional and sub-regional projects, if any, and assist in identifying potential sources of funds for the implementation of such projects in cooperation with SAICM national focal points and the SAICM secretariat;

(f) To prepare regional progress reports for submission to regional meetings and to facilitate reporting by Central and Eastern European stakeholders to the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as appropriate;

(g) To present regional views to the SAICM secretariat, the International Conference on Chemicals Management and other relevant forums, as appropriate;

(h) To liaise with regional and sub-regional bodies on SAICM implementation;

(i) To facilitate, in consultation with national focal points, the nomination and designation of regional representatives for SAICM ad hoc working groups and committees, if necessary, for the purpose of ensuring equitable geographical representation for the region;

(j) To maintain close contact with the SAICM secretariat and to assist in the dissemination of information to SAICM national focal points.

2. The Central and Eastern European SAICM regional focal point will serve for one term, preferably on a rotational basis, for the period between sessions of the Conference. Rotation may be done among sub-regions, considering also rotation between EU member countries and non-EU member countries if feasible, and due consideration of rotation between sectors may be given if appropriate. Election of the regional focal point would be done by consensus.

Appointment of the Regional Focal Points remain in the discretion of the Region. As a matter of procedure in respect to the procedure relevant for adoption of decision established in the Rules of procedure for ICCM.

Annex 2: List of Participants

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