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

Bucharest, Romania, 23-27 March 2020

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda<sup>1</sup>

**Development of recommendations for consideration by the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management: Governance and implementation**

**Promoting multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation – summary of known obstacles and possible incentives**

**Note by the secretariat**

1. Participants at the third meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand, October 2019, requested the secretariat to prepare a paper summarizing known obstacles and possible incentives for strengthening multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation beyond 2020.
2. Accordingly, in the annex to the present note, the secretariat has the honour to circulate reflections on known obstacles and possible incentives to promote multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation.
3. Participants may wish to review the paper and consider it in the deliberations.

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<sup>1</sup> SAICM/IP.4/1

## Annex

### Promoting multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation – summary of known obstacles and possible incentives

#### I. Introduction and Background

Since its inception in 2006, the voluntary and multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder nature of SAICM has been viewed as one of its core strengths. As described in the Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 - 2015<sup>2</sup>, the Strategic Approach has provided a space for government and non-government actors alike to discuss and deliberate on the management of chemicals and waste. It has also allowed non-government actors to have a voice in decision-making bodies so that their perspectives and priorities could be heard and considered as resolutions were framed and agreed. At the same time, as highlighted by the Independent Evaluation, some relevant stakeholders and sectors have been missing or underrepresented in SAICM's process and structure.

*“Despite the multi-stakeholder ambition of SAICM, several important groups of stakeholders are missing from the SAICM process and structure.*

*The role of National Focal Points (NFPs) is central for the delivery of the SAICM agenda at the national level. However, over 80% of NFPs are located within the environment sector with few representing the agriculture, health or labour sectors. A general lack of cooperation and collaborations between ministries is limiting the multi-sector ambition of SAICM.*

*Industry representation at SAICM is limited to the chemical producing industry. Many organizations with an interest in the SAICM agenda are absent. These include downstream uses of chemicals, retailers, downstream users that have created labelling schemes often driven by consumer demand.”*

Further, the evaluation also concluded that:

*“Greater capacity and increased representation of the health, agriculture, finance and industrial sectors within government national and regional focal points will support efforts to mainstream the sound management of chemicals across government departments.”*

With this in mind, and at the request of participants at the third meeting of the intersessional process held in Bangkok, Thailand, in October 2019, the secretariat prepared this paper with the aim of providing a summary of known obstacles and possible incentives for strengthening multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation in the beyond 2020 instrument in order to support its future mission.

The paper draws on various sources which are relevant to the discussions on promoting multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation including the following:

1. Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, for consideration by the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management: Section D. Enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement ([SAICM/IP.4/2](#)).
2. Stakeholder workshop on strengthening governance for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, Frankfurt, Germany, 14-16 January 2020 ([SAICM/IP.4/INF/6](#)).
3. The International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management: a FAO/WHO voluntary framework promoting multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral engagement ([SAICM/IP.4/INF/16](#)).
4. Additional measures to achieve multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement, prepared by the co-chairs of the intersessional process ([SAICM/IP.3/3](#)).
5. Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management from 2006-2015 ([SAICM/IP.3/INF/3](#)).

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/reporting/FinalReport\\_Independent-Evaluation-SAICM-2006-2015.pdf](http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/reporting/FinalReport_Independent-Evaluation-SAICM-2006-2015.pdf)

6. Inputs to the beyond 2020 process on additional measures to achieve multisectoral engagement ([Submission by the World Health Organization, June 2019](#)).
7. Background information: overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals ([SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/2](#)).
8. [Summary of the Health Sector Meeting held on Tues, 1 October 2019, as part of the third meeting of the intersessional process considering SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020](#).
9. Proposal from Co-Chairs of thematic group D on financial considerations: Capacity building principles ([SAICM/IP.4/2](#)).

## II. Status of Stakeholder and Sectoral Participation

Since SAICM's inception in 2006, the following stakeholders have been primarily involved in SAICM's process and structure:

- |               |          |            |
|---------------|----------|------------|
| ✓ Governments | ✓ IGOs   | ✓ Labour   |
| ✓ NGOs        | ✓ Health | ✓ Industry |

Among these, SAICM has government (national and regional), non-governmental (including private sector) and inter-governmental representatives who have acted as focal points and have served as conduits for communication on Strategic Approach matters (see Figure 1 and Table 1 below).

Figure 1.

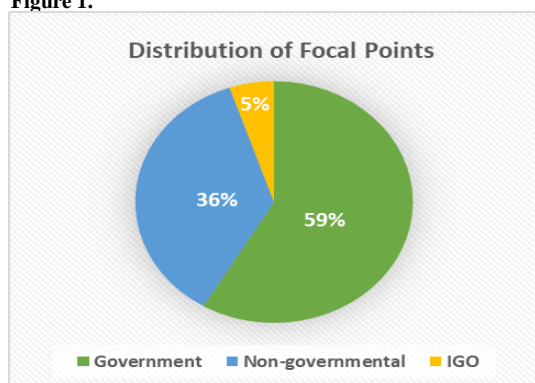
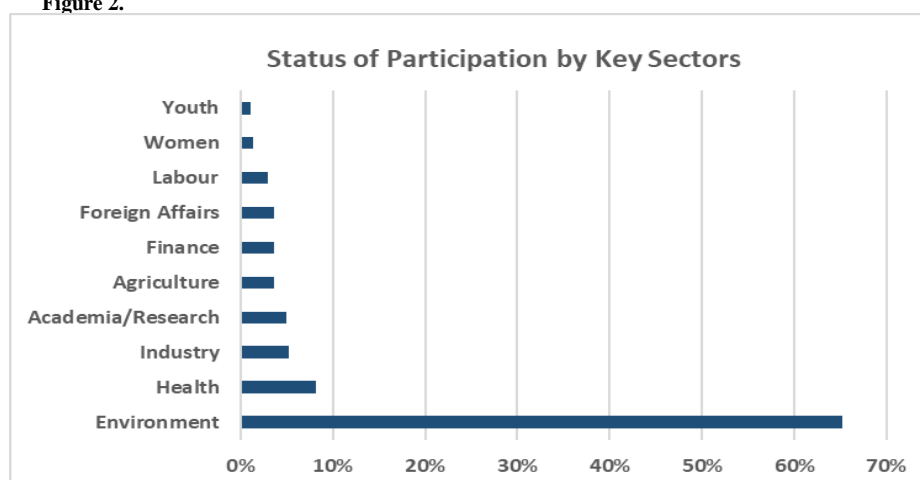


Table 1.

Stakeholder	Focal Points	
	Male	Female
Government	123	80
Non-governmental	81	45
IGO	12	6
<b>Total Focal Points</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>131</b>

Figure 2 below illustrates sectoral representation within SAICM's process and structure since 2006. As highlighted by the Independent Evaluation, the environment sector is the most significantly represented sector while some other relevant sectors have been missing or are under-represented. Note, some ministries and organizations are involved in more than one sector and have been counted more than once.

Figure 2.



### III. Known Obstacles Limiting Engagement

Obstacles that have thus far contributed to limited engagement of some sectors and stakeholders beyond the environment sector include:

- × Lack of awareness of the benefits of engagement
- × Limited opportunities and/or not capitalizing on existing options for participation, e.g., at intersessional meetings where key issues are discussed
- × Weak communication, e.g., between sectors
- × Differing priorities and unaligned goals
- × Overlapping mandates with differing non-complementary strategies
- × Limited space provided at meetings for formal coordination amongst sectors, e.g., health and labour
- × Roles and responsibilities not clearly identified nor adequately developed
- × General perception that meetings are targeted at environment sector participation
- × Decreased level of funding to support different sectors in recent years
- × Lack of political will, e.g., to mainstream SAICM objectives across relevant ministries
- × Not clearly demonstrating linkages and work done by different sectors to address SAICM's objectives
- × Insufficient resources, e.g., to support under-represented stakeholders
- × Lack of willingness to share confidential business information

### IV. Benefits of Participation

As indicated by the Independent Evaluation and Global Chemicals Outlook II<sup>3</sup>, achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste through the beyond 2020 instrument can only happen if all relevant sectors and stakeholders participate and are committed to contributing to the sound management of chemicals and waste at local, national, regional and global levels. For example, by contributing to knowledge sharing, policy development and implementation of legislation. To encourage such commitment and involvement of all sectors and stakeholders, it is thus important to highlight the many benefits of participation.

#### **Broader benefits of participation:**

- ✓ Delivering on a common set of objectives, goals and targets.
- ✓ Strengthened cooperation and coordination across all relevant sectors.
- ✓ Fostering linkages between existing initiatives will help fill gaps, tap into complementary knowledge and expertise, and build on existing work while avoiding duplication of effort.
- ✓ Being part of a global network and community where all sectors and stakeholders feel they have an important role to play.
- ✓ Contributing to cross-cutting national and global commitments towards the SDGs and other relevant international environment, health, labour and agriculture agreements and agendas.

**Targeted messaging could also be used to encourage participation and collaboration of specific groups, especially the following stakeholder groups identified in the Independent Evaluation as not yet adequately represented in SAICM:**

#### **i) Chemical and waste management stakeholders along the entire value chain**

Possible targeted messaging of the benefits of engagement include:

- sound chemicals and waste management increases efficiency of manufacturing and production practices while improving public image. This can have positive impacts on business growth, e.g., consumer demands for more sustainable products.
- keep abreast of latest policy developments and regulatory changes national and internationally.
- get access to and engage with other stakeholder groups not easy to connect with.
- share the common goal of achieving a more harmonized approach or global standards in labelling and trade through international agreements or programmes to facilitate the flow of products and services from one region to another.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/policy-and-governance/global-chemicals-outlook>

**ii) Academic/Scientific community (strengthening the science-policy interface)**

Possible targeted messaging of the benefits of engagement includes:

- network and make connections to foster joint publications and research on new and emerging issues of concern relevant to the chemicals and waste agenda.
- share relevant information developed and processed by academia and scientific forums.
- contribute to increasing the visibility of common areas of knowledge and research.
- offer knowledge and expertise through advisory roles, e.g., assessments and scientific advisory boards.

**V. Possible Incentives and Actions to Promote Participation**

Promoting buy-in and participation of all stakeholders and sectors, particularly of under and non-represented stakeholders, could be improved through the following incentives and possible actions:

**1. Sharing ownership and accountability by establishing a common vision, goals and targets beyond 2020**

Encouraging shared ownership and accountability could be achieved through the following suggested actions:

- Hold consultation meetings with missing or underrepresented stakeholders and sectors, at national, regional and international levels.
- Look for synergies and create common goals, targets and indicators of relevance at national, regional and international levels.
- Develop a “protocol”, i.e., measures to be used, on multi-sectoral engagement as part of the adopted texts for the future beyond 2020 instrument.
- Ensure balanced representation of relevant sectors and that all activities are multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary in nature.
- Create workplans, road maps, action items, milestones, pledges, or other appropriate commitments towards achieving common goals and targets with clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the sector and/or stakeholder. For example, at the national level, this could be a task of the inter-ministerial committees called for in the beyond 2020 instrument.
- Make official commitments, e.g., renewing or establishing formal recognition by governing bodies of international organizations and other stakeholders.

**2. Acknowledging and rewarding efforts**

Establish a system to issue awards, recognize and increase the visibility of efforts made by all stakeholders and sectors contributing to the sound management of chemicals and waste.

**3. Giving everyone a voice**

Engage and involve all relevant groups in projects, meetings, outreach and knowledge management efforts to ensure all voices are heard.

**4. Better demonstrating the connections between chemical safety and relevant sectors for achieving the SDGs and a circular economy**

Although awareness of the connections between chemical safety and certain sectors, e.g., waste/recycling, pharmaceuticals, has been improving, more effort should be targeted to better demonstrate the connections with other sectors, e.g. finance.

**5. Highlighting the costs versus benefits of inaction**

Perform a cost/benefit analysis of the potential ‘savings’ proper management of chemicals and waste would bring. This would be a powerful tool to engage ministries not well represented, e.g., finance and planning.

**6. Encouraging wider joint actions**

Already a valuable element of SAICM, further efforts could be made to encourage wider joint actions on projects and programmes and have these acknowledged and formalised. Joint actions could include:

- joint thought pieces/scientific papers linking sector agendas on common issues
- opportunities to network with stakeholders within sectors
- associating sector-specific meetings with the overall beyond 2020 instrument

**7. Capitalizing on key events and meetings**

Ensure key events are fully capitalized on in ways that would strengthen engagement. For example, by:

- providing a space for multi-sector and multi-stakeholder actions, e.g., side events, exhibition space
- holding sector days supported by communication
- encouraging all groups to contribute to meeting preparation, e.g., agendas and overall planning
- scheduling time for sectoral coordination at meetings (currently provided for stakeholders)
- convening thematic sector conferences or meetings

**8. Providing opportunities to contribute to communication and knowledge sharing efforts, emphasizing linkages to the SDGs**

Encourage contributions from all sectors and stakeholders to communication and knowledge sharing efforts, for example:

- publications
- campaigns
- web articles/opinion pieces
- interviews
- outreach efforts, e.g., spreading shared messages via Twitter, Instagram, etc.

**9. Identifying gaps and providing resources to build the capacity of stakeholders in need**

Engage with stakeholders to identify existing gaps and provide resources to address capacity needs, for example, through provision of:

- technical assistance and technology transfer
- financial support, e.g., to attend meetings and cross-sectoral workshops
- support to activities targeted at building national capacity

**IV. Possible Next Steps**

1. Use ICCM5 as an opportunity to promote enhanced engagement with underrepresented stakeholders and sectors, e.g., providing speaking opportunities and exhibition space.
2. Review the role of national and regional focal points in the beyond 2020 instrument, including the possible guidelines for SAICM national focal points as set out in information document ([SAICM/IP.4/INF/7](#)).
3. Build the capacity of national focal points to enhance their work with stakeholders and in multi-stakeholder processes by developing and building on existing cross-sectoral arrangements at the national level to understand and address institutional barriers and share successes.
4. Develop a communication strategy and action plan to raise awareness at all levels of the important issues and developments regarding the sound management of chemicals and waste.
5. Review section VI.C of the compilation document ([SAICM/IP.4/2](#)) on sectoral cooperation and coordination to ensure it supports enhanced participation of all relevant stakeholders and sectors.