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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 (d) of the provisional agenda¹

Development of recommendations for consideration by the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management: Financial considerations

Stakeholder input on the proposed draft ‘Capacity-building Principles’ developed at the third meeting of the intersessional process by the co-chairs of the thematic group on financial considerations

Note by the secretariat

1. The co-chairs of the thematic group on financial considerations at the third meeting of the intersessional process developed proposed draft capacity building principles as an outcome of the discussions in the thematic group. Based on feedback from the ICCM5 Bureau, these principles are included in section VI (F) of the compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (SAICM/IP.4/2).
2. Following the third meeting of the intersessional process, stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide input to the secretariat on the proposed draft capacity building principles. Input was received from the following governments and organizations: Government of Colombia, Government of Madagascar, International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
3. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the compilation of input received from stakeholders. This input has not been formally edited by the secretariat.
4. Participants may wish to review and consider the inputs received during the related discussions.

¹ SAICM/IP.4/1

Annex

Stakeholder input on the proposed draft ‘Capacity-building Principles’ developed at the third meeting of the intersessional process by the co-chairs of the thematic group on financial considerations

Government of Colombia input on Capacity Building Principles

Regarding the document on capacity-building principles, Colombia has expressed that the final outcome of the intersessional process must include more precise and concrete actions regarding capacity building, and not only general principles. In this regard, the activities have to relate to the Overarching Policy Strategy which has already defined the most important elements of capacity building in the context of SAICM. Some elements of importance for Colombia are underlined on the capacity-building section of the OPS as follows:

The objectives of the Strategic Approach with regard to capacity-building and technical cooperation are:

- a. To increase the capacity for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle in all countries as needed, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- b. To narrow the widening gap in capacities between developed countries on the one hand and developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the other hand;
- c. To establish or strengthen partnerships and mechanisms for technical cooperation and the provision of appropriate and clean technology to and among developing countries and countries with economies in transition, maximizing synergies with the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building; 17 Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Overarching Policy Strategy
- d. To develop and implement sustainable capacity-building strategies in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and to promote cooperation among all countries;
- e. To promote coordination of and access to information on capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals and to enhance transparency and accountability;
- f. To include capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals as a priority in social and economic development strategies, including national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategy papers and country assistance strategies, and to make chemicals an important part of national policy;
- g. To encourage stakeholders to develop and promote programmes on chemical safety and scientific research and analysis and to assist with capacity-building programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- h. To encourage and facilitate appropriate use by developing countries and countries with economies in transition of work already done and chemicals management models already established by other countries and international organizations;

Government of Madagascar input on Capacity Building Principles

**Proposal from the Co-Chairs of the thematic group D on financial considerations
Capacity building principles**

Integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of the outcome of [beyond 2020] according to priorities decided by the [Governing Body].

Collaboration

Country driven process, including mutually beneficial partnerships.

Take a multistakeholder and multisectoral approach, including partnership and mechanisms for technical cooperation that incorporates all relevant disciplines.

North-South and South-South networking and sharing of experiences.

Collaborate with existing initiatives on chemicals and waste management, including multilateral environment agreements, United Nations bodies, private sector, civil society and academia, to fill gaps and build upon their work while avoiding duplication.

Knowledge and information

Recognition and sharing of knowledge and expertise within and among regions

Recognize the need to promote coordination of and access to information for the sound management of chemicals and waste in all relevant aspects.

Ensure the full use of national, subregional and regional information and knowledge, as appropriate, to inform global decision making.

Madagascar's proposal:

Ensure each sector is well aware of its responsibility for sound chemicals management and implemented / enforced it according to their capability.

Participation

Full and effective participation of all stakeholders and balanced regional representation and participation.

Gender

Recognize the need for gender equity in all relevant aspects of its work.

ICCA input on Capacity Building Principles

The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed capacity building principles developed by thematic group D on financial considerations.

Capacity building is an essential component of ICCA's commitment to the SAICM objectives. The Responsible Care® program represents the chemical industry's global commitment to continuous improvement in health, safety and environmental protection and the industry commitment to sustainability. One of ICCA's key missions is to help industry implement and strengthen the Responsible Care® program and promote policies that contribute to sustainability and promote innovation in the global chemical industry. ICCA has long encouraged capacity building activities that support implementation of the Responsible Care® program and address regulatory controls and industry practices on chemical manufacturing, use, distribution in commerce and disposal.

ICCA supports the principles outlined by thematic group D. We note that capacity building under SAICM includes a broad scope of activities and stakeholders. For example, in addition to the critical work of building the capacity of governments to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste, we must also build the capacity of industry in developing countries to develop the knowledge, management skills, the processes and capabilities necessary for sustainable chemicals management. ICCA's capacity building activities particularly focus on building such industry capacity, primarily through implementation of the Responsible Care program. It is important to note that Responsible Care is not a substitution to a (basic) chemicals regulatory framework, but it is an additional industry commitment.

Participation in capacity building activities should be tailored to the goal of the particular activity and expertise and role of participants. ICCA encourages capacity building activities to be effectively coordinated amongst stakeholders to avoid duplication and promote cooperation.

In line with the SAICM spirit, we continue to welcome opportunities for partnering with stakeholders on specific projects to close the gap between developed and developing countries in terms of having the basic capacity to produce, manage and use chemicals safely, by providing in-kind as well as financial contributions. ICCA encourages capacity building activities to first focus on the basics—implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling (GHS) and establishment of a chemical inventory. Recognizing the importance of GHS adoption, ICCA is partnering with like-minded stakeholders to establish “a GHS coalition” for achieving global GHS implementation. Additionally, in order to support local governments in their efforts to set up or improve their legislative chemicals management frameworks, industry has a dedicated team of colleagues providing their knowledge, expertise and time to explain the ICCA regulatory toolbox across the globe.

One of the most consistent themes in the intersessional process discussions is the need for better tracking and measuring progress toward the SAICM objectives. In that vein, we encourage the consideration of capacity building principles that recognize the need to set clear objectives for capacity building activities and establish mechanisms to measure progress from those activities. The specifics of such metrics can be established through the targets and indicators process.

ICCA looks forward to providing additional comments on the revised principles before and/or during the 4th Intersessional Process Meeting.

IPEN input on Capacity Building Principles

This submission is in response to requested input on the proposed capacity building principles developed by the IP3 thematic group D on financial considerations.

Contact group co-chair proposal on capacity building principles

Integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of the outcome of [beyond 2020] according to priorities decided by the [Governing Body].

Coordination

Broaden Montreal Protocol units to funded chemical units that serve as coordinating multi-disciplinary national operations for implementation of SAICM, and the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions

Rationale: One way to increase the political priority of SAICM and chemicals management within countries would be to formalize coordination of the inter-ministerial committee recommended in the SAICM agreement. One way to do this would be to utilize a pre-existing structure to assume this responsibility. The Montreal Protocol supported the development and operation of national ozone units in 147 countries, including a peer support system and regional networks. These units have been generally acknowledged to have played a key role in the successful implementation of the Protocol. These ozone units could be broadened and serve as focal points for implementation of SAICM, and the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions.

The idea of expanding the ozone units to serve as chemical units emerged during the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, launched by the UNEP Executive Director in 2009. It appeared again during discussions of the financing mechanism for the Minamata Convention, which concluded in 2012.

Ideally, the chemical units would locate chemical safety responsibilities in a single effectively-operated institutional arrangement. The updated chemical units could have a multi-disciplinary nature, including a role in coordination, regulation, financing /mainstreaming, compliance, needs assessment, reporting and others. The units should interface with all stakeholders as well as the regional centers established by the Basel and Stockholm Conventions. The efforts to establish synergies in the chemicals conventions have primarily focused on the secretariats. This proposal focuses on synergies at the national level.

Collaboration

Country driven process, including mutually beneficial partnerships.

Take a multistakeholder and multisectoral approach, including partnership and mechanisms for technical cooperation that incorporates all relevant disciplines.

North-South and South-South networking and sharing of experiences to facilitate learning by doing.

Collaborate with existing initiatives on chemicals and waste management, including multilateral environment agreements, United Nations bodies, private sector, civil society and academia, to fill gaps and build upon their work while avoiding duplication.

Knowledge and information

Recognition and sharing of knowledge and expertise nationally and within and among regions

Recognize the need to provide comprehensive information about chemicals and promote coordination of and access to it for the sound management of chemicals and waste in all relevant aspects.

Ensure the full use of national, subregional and regional information and knowledge, as appropriate, to inform global decision making.

Participation

Full and effective participation of all relevant government ministries and stakeholders nationally and balanced regional representation and participation.

Gender

Recognize the need for gender equity in all relevant aspects of its work.

WHO input on Capacity Building Principles

Proposal from the Co-Chairs of the thematic group D on financial considerations Capacity building principles

Integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of the outcome of [beyond 2020] according to priorities decided by the [Governing Body].

Collaboration

Country driven process, including mutually beneficial partnerships.

Participate in and encourage taking a multistakeholder and multisectoral approach to developing sustainable, effective and operational multisectoral coordination network, partnership and mechanisms for cooperation to maximize collective efforts.

North-South and South-South networking and sharing of experiences.

Collaborate with existing initiatives on chemicals and waste management, including multilateral environment agreements, United Nations bodies, private sector, civil society, global and regional networks, academia and risk analysis groups and institutions, to fill gaps and build upon their work while avoiding duplication.

Knowledge and information

Recognition and sharing of knowledge and expertise within and among regions.

Recognize the need to promote coordination of and access to information for the sound management of chemicals and waste in all relevant aspects and for all stakeholders.

Ensure the full use of national, subregional and regional information and knowledge, including that developed by academia and scientific forums, as appropriate, to inform global decision making.

Training

Ensure access to appropriate training by all relevant stakeholders and sectors involved in the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Participation

Full and effective participation of all stakeholders representing all relevant sectors/ disciplines and balanced regional and sectoral representation and participation.

Gender

Recognize the need for gender equity in all aspects relevant to the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.