



# STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT



7<sup>th</sup> Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Prague, Czech Republic, 12-13 May 2022

**AGENDA ITEM 4 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**

**iii. Virtual Working Group 3: Issues of concern**

**Presenters:** Sverre-Thomas Jahre (Norway) and Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana - online)

# For our discussion on VWG3 (Issues of concern)

- **One and a half hours** dedicated to VWG3 discussion
  - **30 min. presentation:**
    - Introduction of the VWG3;
    - Methodology and process;
    - Outcomes; and
    - Key issues.
  - **One-hour discussion**
    - Further explanation and clarification;
    - Seek stakeholders' views, and
    - Reach a common understanding on the VWG3's outcomes.

SAICM/RM/CEE.7/INF.1

- SAICM/RM/CEE.7/6
- SAICM/RM/CEE.7/INF.1:  
(Specifically from page 86 to 102)

Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) (and relevant ICCM resolutions)	Original text from the Compilation Document – SAICM/IP.4/2 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	Proposed new text from VWGs
Annex to Resolution II/4 Modalities for considering emerging policy issues	ANNEX B <sup>81</sup>	<b>TEXTUAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b> 1. In response to part (a) and (b) of the mandate, the proposed text for issues of concern is set out below. The text recommendations have been developed by the co-facilitators of VWG3 based on the discussions at the virtual meetings and the written inputs received. The co-facilitators proposed text includes a brief rationale that sets out the background and context.
	Issues of [international] concern	Issues of [international] concern <b>Alternative Proposed Titles</b> <sup>82</sup>  (i) Issues of [International][Global] Concern [or Interest] (ii) Preventing and addressing issues of concern (iii) Issues of concern that warrant global action (iv) [Broader] Issues for common action (v) Priority issues for global action (vi) Issues of focus (vii) Issues to advance sustainability

The mandate was to make proposals to enable work on the issues of concern to advance in the lead-up to the fourth meeting of the intersessional process, building on annex B to the compilation of recommendations (SAICM/IP.4/2).

Specific tasks included the following:

- (i) Review annex B to document SAICM/IP.4/2 and identify possibilities for compromise and alternative text in areas of divergence and identify any gaps;
- (ii) Develop proposals for draft procedures for the identification, nomination, selection, review and prioritization of the issues of concern, determining the need for further work and the time needed for considering issues of concern, drawing on experience from existing forums;
- (iii) Develop proposals on how to deal with emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.

- Open participation to all interested stakeholders.
- 262 people registered for this VWG from all SAICM stakeholder groups, different sectors and all UN regions ([List members VWG3 Issues Final.pdf \(saicm.org\)](#)).
- Between 16 November 2020 and 2 February 2021, the VWG 3:
  - Four virtual meetings and three rounds of electronic feedback. ([Revised schedule VWG Issues Nov26.pdf \(saicm.org\)](#))
  - 44 electronic submissions from SAICM stakeholders.
- **From an overarching perspective**, the VWG3 agreed that process for addressing issues of concern should be simple, inclusive and transparent.
- **In moving forward**, the process for addressing issues of concern should also promote greater ownership and enhanced implementation and should also include consideration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



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## Virtual Working Groups - 2020 / 2021

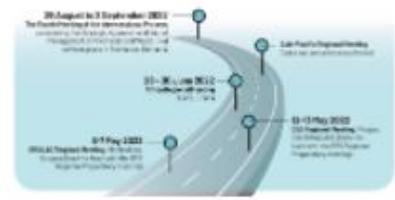
With restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the postponement of the [fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 \(IP4\)](#) and the [fifth session of the International conference on Chemicals Management \(ICCM5\)](#), the ICCM5 Bureau and the co-chairs of the intersessional process have proposed to establish a number of Virtual Working Groups (VWGs) to support the work of the intersessional process to advance its deliberations.

The **purpose of the proposed VWGs** is to develop proposals for tangible outcomes including notes identifying gaps, compromise text proposals, and new or alternate text, as appropriate. The outcomes of the VWGs will be presented in meeting documents and discussed at IP4.

The VWGs are NOT intended to replace formal face-to-face discussions at IP4 and/or negotiations that will take place at ICCM5 but rather are intended to further build understanding and prepare delegates for these important negotiations.

The VWGs are being established to work on a few specific, concrete and rather technical issues that are in need of further development and are well-suited for virtual work. VWGs will be formed on the following issues:

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



### Regional Meetings 2022 IP4

Time is indicated as Central European Time (CET) - (UTC +1)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
12 Oct	13 Oct	14 Oct	15 Oct	16 Oct
19 Oct	20 Oct	21 Oct	22 Oct	23 Oct
WHO TB			TB	
26 Oct	27 Oct	28 Oct	29 Oct	30 Oct
	VWG2 14:00-15:00			



## OUTCOMES OF VIRTUAL WORKING GROUPS

- **VWG 1 on targets, indicators and milestones** agreed further deliberation is needed to develop draft targets (incorporating a SMART approach) before extensive work can be dedicated towards indicators and milestones.
- **VWG 2 on governance and mechanisms** - Governments should establish arrangements such as national plans of action for implementation, strengthened multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement, mechanisms for taking stock of progress, etc.

\*\*\*\*\* There was also strong support for **strengthening the science policy interface for the chemicals and waste agenda**.

• On **issues of concern, VWG 3**, broad agreement 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.

- **VWG 4** acknowledged the need to elaborate the integrated approach to **financing** for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

<p><b>Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) (and relevant ICCM resolutions)</b></p>	<p><b>Original text from the Compilation Document – SAICM/IP.4/2 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</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed new text from VWGs</b></p>
<p><b>Annex to Resolution II/4 Modalities for considering emerging policy issues</b></p>	<p><b>ANNEX B<sup>81</sup></b></p>	<p><b>TEXTUAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b> 1. In response to part (a) and (b) of the mandate, the proposed text for issues of concern is set out below. The text recommendations have been developed by the co-facilitators of VWG3 based on the discussions at the virtual meetings and the written inputs received. The co-facilitators proposed text includes a brief rationale that sets out the background and context.</p>
	<p><b>Issues of [international] concern</b></p>	<p>Issues of [international] concern <b>Alternative Proposed Titles</b> <sup>82</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Issues of [International][Global] Concern [or Interest]</li> <li>(ii) Preventing and addressing issues of concern</li> <li>(iii) Issues of concern that warrant global action</li> <li>(iv) [Broader] Issues for common action</li> <li>(v) Priority issues for global action</li> <li>(vi) Issues of focus</li> <li>(vii) Issues to advance sustainability</li> </ul>

## At ICCM5:

Agree to an omnibus resolution on the existing SAICM EPIs & other issues of concern that:

- i. Recognizes the efforts and progress;
- ii. Welcomes the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern made by UNEP following resolution UNEA 4/8;
- iii. States the intention to determine and set the path forward on the existing SAICM EPIs and other issues of concern in the beyond 2020 instrument at its next session [ICCM6];
- iv. Highlights any immediate and specific priority actions to ensure that efforts and momentum continue where appropriate;
- v. Requests the responsible IOMC organizations, in consultation with stakeholders, to propose a draft work plan with clear timelines and milestones to ICCM6, including: (a) an assessment on how they contribute to achieving the Strategic Objective(s) and Targets of the new instrument; and (b) proposing additional indicators as needed for relevant targets.
- vi. From [ICCM6] onwards, notes that any existing EPIs and other issues of concern that continue under the new instrument would follow procedures that are established for 'issues of [international] concern' under the beyond 2020 instrument.