

**7th Africa regional meeting on the
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**
Accra, Ghana, 27-29 June 2022

Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on governance and mechanisms to support implementation

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Annex to this note presents the outcome of the Virtual Working Group on governance and mechanisms to support implementation held between October 2020 to February 2021.
2. Further details on the work of the Virtual Working Group on governance and mechanisms to support implementation is available here:
<http://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/VirtualWorkingGroups/tabid/8563/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

Annex: Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on governance and mechanisms to support implementation

1) Introduction

The Co-chairs of the Intersessional Process, in consultation with the ICCM5 President and the Bureau, developed a [scenario note](#) for the path forward to develop recommendations for submission to the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The scenario note served as a basis for the establishment and the work of the four Virtual Working Groups.

2) Mandate and Co-Facilitators

The mandate of the Virtual Working Group on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation, to be co-facilitated by Ms. Karissa Kovner (United States) and Ms. Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn (Thailand), reads as follows:

Make proposals to enable work on the topics to advance in the lead-up to the fourth meeting of the intersessional process. Specific tasks include the following:

- (a) *National, subregional, regional, international, sectoral and stakeholder cooperation and coordination:* Review the entire text of the 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 ([SAICM/IP.4/2](#)), bearing in mind the need for enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement, including in particular section VI, subsection D on enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement;
- (b) *Science-policy interface:* Building on document [SAICM/IP.4/4](#), develop a proposal that:
 - (i) Articulates the rationale or need for a science-policy interface for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;
 - (ii) Describes the potential functions of such an interface;
 - (iii) Recommends the approach to best achieve the science-policy interface functions, either within or outside the “beyond 2020 framework”;
 - (iv) If within the “beyond 2020 framework”, establish the science-policy interface; or, if necessary, create a process to establish it for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its sixth session;
- (c) *Mechanisms for taking stock of progress:* Review section VI, subsection G of the 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 ([SAICM/IP.4/2](#)), on mechanisms for taking stock of progress with the aim of collecting views and making proposals;
- (d) *Mechanisms for updating the “Beyond 2020 Framework:”* Review section VI, subsection H of the 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 ([SAICM/IP.4/2](#)), on mechanisms for updating the framework with the aim of collecting views and making proposals.

- (e) *Subsidiary and ad hoc bodies*, including the open-ended working group for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

A number of documents were made available by the Secretariat in accordance with the mandate to facilitate the work of the group (please click here for [pre-session documents](#)).

3) Process

Participation in the Virtual Working Group was open to all interested stakeholders. 214 people registered for this VWG from all the different SAICM stakeholder groups, different sectors, and all UN regions. The list of participants as of 27 January 2021 can be found [here](#).

Between 27 October 2020 and 4 February 2021, the VWG2 had eight virtual meetings and five rounds of electronic feedback. In these five rounds, the co-facilitators of the VWG and the SAICM Secretariat received 62 electronic submissions from SAICM stakeholders. The calendar of virtual meetings held and electronic input sought can be found [here](#).

The IP3 compilation document ([SAICM/IP.4/2](#)) served as a basis for textual deliberations during the virtual meetings and for the electronic input sought. All relevant documents can be found on the [SAICM website](#), including general information, pre-session documents, outputs and recordings, presentations, views received from stakeholders, and the list of participants.

4) Recommendations of the Virtual Working Group

The Virtual Working Group on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation has three recommendations contained in this outcome document for further consideration by the ICCM5 President, the Bureau, and the Co-chairs of the Intersessional Process. The intention of this outcome document is to codify the three recommendations made by the VWG on: (1) the text of the sections identified in the mandate, which build on meeting document [SAICM/IP.4/2](#), (2) the policy direction related to the Science-Policy Interface, and (3) areas for further discussion.

Each of the three recommendations is the result of thoughtful discussion and exchange of views over the course of multiple meetings and opportunities for electronic inputs. During this period, positions evolved, general agreement was able to be reached on a number of issues, and forward progress, as requested by the Bureau, was made in all areas of its mandate, although further work is certainly needed in a number of identified areas. The depth of the discussion and the substantive areas covered are captured in the meeting summaries available [here](#) (“Outputs and Recordings”). In response to the group mandate, the output document is divided in three parts:

- Part I: Textual recommendations based on the convergence of views among stakeholders for Sections B, C, D, E, G, and H;
- Part II: Recommendations for the establishment of a Science-Policy Interface; and
- Part III: Recommendations for further consideration of issues in the “Parking Lot,” a document created by VWG2 to reflect areas of works or particular views that were not able to be addressed in the context of the mandate or needed more time for further discussion and consideration.

5) Next steps and/or recommendations from the Co-facilitators

The VWG was able to make significant progress in the areas of work specified by the mandate and has provided detailed recommendations with respect to Sections B, C, D, E, G, and H and the Science-Policy Interface in addition to identifying a number of issues in the “Parking Lot” that warrant further consideration. As noted above, those recommendations can be found below in Parts I, II, and III.

As Co-facilitators, however, it is our view there is additional work that could be done either before or at the next meeting of the Intersessional Process by stakeholders to further refine or, as appropriate, further develop a number of areas to enhance the progress. Therefore, *in addition* to the recommendations presented below in Parts II and III, the following are specific suggestions for additional areas of future work:

- Japan has proposed an alternative approach under Section G for “Taking Stock of Progress.” The Secretariat will be providing some additional information to facilitate further consideration of Japan’s proposal. Once that information has been provided, further discussion of the Japanese proposal should take place.
- VWG2 was given Sections B, C, D, E, G, and H of Part VI of [SAICM/IP.4/2](#) for consideration. However, there is both overlap – and potentially omissions – in those Sections with other related sections of SAICM/IP.4/2 for which this VWG was not mandated to consider such as, but not limited to, Section A of Part 5 on Institutional arrangements, the rules of procedure, and Section C of Part V on the roles and responsibilities of the Secretariat. An overall review to propose recommendations to eliminate such overlap and any omissions – without being duplicative – should be conducted.
- The footnotes contained in “Part I: Textual Recommendations” of this report, as well as any related footnotes in SAICM/IP.4/2 for sections outside of the mandates of the four VWGs, should be reviewed at the earliest opportunity and, to the extent possible, considered and addressed. Please note that the numbering of footnotes in this Co-facilitators final report will be subject to change in the event that the recommended text is moved forward to the next stage of the process.

Part I – Textual Recommendations

The following text represents the progress of the Virtual Working Group on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation and its recommendations for parts (a), (c), (d), and (e) of the mandate listed above, covering Sections B, C, D, E, G, and H of the compilation text ([SAICM/IP.4/2](#)).

Section B: National Implementation

1. To sustain an integrated approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste, each Government should establish arrangements such as national plans of action for implementation on an inter-ministerial or inter-institutional basis, in consultation with stakeholders, so that concerned national department and stakeholder interests are represented and all relevant substantive areas are addressed.
2. Each government should designate a technical [and] [or] a political national focal point to facilitate communication and coordination at the national, regional, and international levels with respect to the [sound management of chemicals and wastes] [beyond 2020 instrument]. National focal point[s] should, among other duties, attend meetings, disseminate information, develop a network or a mechanism to coordinate national views [that includes consultations with all relevant sectors and stakeholders], and be representative of the country's inter-ministerial or inter-institutional arrangements, where such arrangements exist.
3. To support effective implementation, stronger efforts are required to ensure that national implementation involves the engagement of the appropriate range of stakeholders and sectors (e.g., the health, environmental, agriculture and labour sectors) to address national priorities.
4. Should a [government] [stakeholder] choose to develop a national plan of action or program to further implementation efforts at the national level, such plan or program [may] [should] be used to support its reporting under this Section on the progress made during the reporting period [with respect to the agreed strategic objectives and targets], keeping in mind that such plans or programs are tailored to national actions and measures and should not be duplicative of existing arrangements or other reporting efforts.
5. All stakeholders should undertake actions to [ensure] [promote] progress on the implementation of the strategic objectives and targets at the national level.

Section C: [International,] Regional, and Sectoral Cooperation and Coordination

1. Priorities and capacities for implementation vary among regions according to their different economic and other circumstances.
2. International, regional, and sectoral collaboration play integral roles in supporting the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels, including among trading partners and other regional organizations.
3. International and regional meetings and coordination mechanisms play an important role in enabling stakeholders in each region to exchange experience and identify priority needs in relation to implementation, as well as to develop regional positions on key issues.
4. Regions are encouraged, where appropriate:
 - a) To identify common priorities,

- b) To develop regional implementation plans for the sound management of chemicals and waste, and to consider regional or sub-regional approaches and projects, and
- c) To appoint a regional focal point.

5. Regional focal points are to play a facilitative role within their regions, including undertaking activities determined at the regional level, such as chairing regional meetings, disseminating information of interest to focal points within their region, collecting views from national focal points on matters of interest to the region, identifying opportunities for regional cooperation, assisting in the flow of information and views from the region to its Bureau member, as appropriate, and reporting periodically on the outcomes of their regional meetings and other regional activities.

Section D: Enhanced Sectoral and Stakeholder Engagement

1. The involvement and commitment of all relevant sectors and stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels is important for the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle and waste.

2. At the national level, governments, as appropriate, should undertake, in accordance with their laws, regulations and policies, [taking into account their national circumstances,] actions to build or improve regulatory and non-regulatory frameworks and institutional structures and capacities for multi-sectoral coherence [for the sound management of chemicals and wastes][in the implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument], as well as [urge] complementary action by relevant stakeholders.

3. Relevant regional [conventions] programmes, bodies and processes, such as health and environmental ministerial forums, should support and augment such national efforts, fostering coordination and cooperation.

4. It is also essential that at the international level, relevant international organizations and bodies, in particular the IOMC organizations [and the chemicals and waste-related conventions,] also support national and regional efforts to enable and enhance the participation of stakeholders and sectors and to promote awareness regarding the crosscutting nature of the sound management of chemicals and waste [as an essential element¹] to achieve the sustainable development goals.

5. In addition, mindful of the need to avoid duplication and taking into account their respective mandates [and constituencies], [such][relevant] international organizations and bodies [should be][are] invited to [endorse and adopt][formally recognize] [the beyond 2020 instrument] and strengthen their own engagement on [and ownership of] policies and actions for the sound management of chemicals and waste [through establishing a mechanism to coordinate activities and further include them in their programmes of work and budgets], [including coordinating relevant activities and programmes of work] relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals and targets.

6. The enhanced efforts of all relevant sectors and stakeholders involved in [the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle and waste][the implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument] should include increased or improved: (1) actions by members of individual sectors and stakeholders, (2) collaboration between and among key sectoral and stakeholder groups, and (3) multi-stakeholder and multi-sector dialogue throughout the implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument.

¹ There was only one stakeholder group (A Group of NGOs) that asked for this bracketed text to remain.

7. All relevant sectors and stakeholders [throughout the value chain of chemicals and waste^{2,3}] are invited and encouraged to enhance their contributions, as appropriate, to achieve the shared vision, the objectives and targets of the beyond 2020 instrument.

8. The involvement of industry and the private sector throughout the value chain needs to be significantly enhanced in the beyond 2020 instrument at all levels. The roles and responsibilities of industry and the private sector throughout the value chain in implementing the sound management of chemicals and waste offer a strong basis for enhanced involvement and action and should be clearly identified and developed.

9. Contributions to the implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument are expected to be in the form of workplans, road maps, action items, milestones, pledges, or other appropriate commitments and should contain a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the sector and/or stakeholder, and the intended mechanism for implementation that contributes to the achievement of the objectives and targets, as well as opportunities for joint collaboration or actions.

10. The secretariat is requested to compile the contributions from the relevant stakeholders and sectors and, taking into account the objectives and targets of the beyond 2020 instrument, identify any potential engagement gaps, in consultation with other stakeholders. The secretariat is also requested to prepare an analysis using input from stakeholders and others to identify any additional coordination and collaboration necessary to enhance the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement within the framework of the beyond 2020 instrument.

11. The international conference may decide to request periodic updates on the implementation of the contributions from the relevant sectors and stakeholders to consider and assess whether enhanced levels of sectoral and stakeholder engagement have resulted in progress toward the achievement of the common objectives and targets or whether particular actions within the beyond 2020 instrument require additional enhancement or engagement.⁴

12. All efforts to enhance sectoral and stakeholder engagement should be expected to lead to strengthened cooperation and coordination with respect to the [sound management of chemicals and waste][implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument], following a common and shared [and timeless] vision to be adopted by ICCM5 [, [taking into account any engagement] [and endorsed] [and formally recognized] by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), other relevant international bodies such as the governing bodies of the IOMC members, and relevant MEAs [to secure the necessary ownership⁵].

[13. To improve the multi-sectoral cooperation and coordinating structure focused on chemicals and waste, the IOMC should promote broad membership and participation of relevant intergovernmental bodies, including international organizations and secretariats of chemicals and waste related conventions, and seek guidance from governmental representation from their respective governing bodies to strengthen their sound management of chemicals and waste prioritization, coordination, engagement and support for national implementation, within their respective mandates.]

² IP4 may want revisit the phrase “throughout the value chain of chemicals and waste” in this section to determine whether further definition or clarity is needed and to consider whether there is duplication of content with, for example, paragraph 1 or other paragraphs of this Section.

³ There was only one stakeholder group (A Group of NGOs) that asked for this bracketed text to remain.

⁴ IP4 may want to consider whether this paragraph is duplicative of content in Sections A and/or G.

⁵ There was only one stakeholder group (A Group of NGOs) that asked for this bracketed text to remain.

Section E: Subsidiary and Ad hoc Expert Bodies

Based on its review, the VWG does not see a need for the Beyond 2020 instrument to contain a Section E on subsidiary and/or ad hoc bodies that provides for any *procedural* mechanisms. The VWG recommends that this section, as presented in [SAICM/IP.4/2](#), be deleted. This view takes into account a number of factors, including:

- Section A already identifies the international conference as the body that would establish the subsidiary bodies, and the VWG supports that text;
- the rules of procedure ([here](#), p. 106-115) provide for the arrangements for how the international conference establishes any subsidiary bodies (Rule 23) and call for the international conference to keep things under review (Rule 23, paragraph 3), and are expected to do so going forward;
- the rules of procedure outline the participation in such subsidiary bodies (Rule 3), and are expected to do so going forward;
- the range of options outside of Section E to formalize, if so desired, the continuation of the OEWG; and
- the precedent already in place for the international conference to assess the need for and to form bodies when deemed necessary, as was done for the OEWG through Resolution II/6 ([here](#), p. 41).

Further review and substantive consideration do need to be given to Section A, Rules 3 and 23, and the options related to the OEWG to ensure that the goals and priorities of the stakeholders are able to be met. In addition, further consideration should be given to any potential substantive functions that the stakeholders may want to formalize in the text and, should such functions be agreed to during the Intersessional Process, their form (i.e. subsidiary body, ad hoc expert groups, , etc.) would also need to be considered (the list of potential functions discussed, but not finalized, can be found [here in Annex A](#)).

Therefore, Section E in the compilation text would be deleted, with the following footnote (x) inserted after the Section header:

Section E^X:

X = The Virtual Working Group on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation (VWG2) recommends that the Intersessional Process take note of the need for further review and substantive consideration of Section A, Rule 3, and Rule 23 to ensure their sufficiency to establish any desired subsidiary or ad hoc bodies, as well as the need to further consider options related to the continuation of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG). In addition, the VWG identified a number of potential functions (see [here](#), Annex A) that warrant further discussion and consideration. These functions are substantive in nature and their form (i.e. subsidiary body, ad hoc expert bodies, etc.) could be considered if their function is agreed to during the intersessional process.

E.^X ~~Subsidiary and ad hoc expert bodies~~

~~1. The international conference should have the ability to establish subsidiary and ad hoc, time limited groups to study and provide advice to the international conference on scientific, technical and/or policy issues not already [addressed in the framework of] [covered by] existing forums.~~

~~2. Such groups should be [open ended] geographically balanced, transparent, flexible and academically credible [with strict conflict of interest policies in place and be implemented]; promote two-way dialogue between disciplines and between science and policy; promote awareness raising activities; and incorporate strict standards of rigor, including peer review, to be approved by the international conference. The functions could include but are not limited to:~~

- ~~a. [Identifying, prioritizing and providing recommendations to address chemicals and waste issues of [international] concern];~~
- ~~b. Facilitating implementation in developing countries through, for example, basic regulatory schemes;~~
- ~~c. Assessing the scale, sources and health and environmental costs of chemicals and waste; analysing and developing response options;~~
- ~~d. Facilitating innovation and making recommendations that maximize the benefits of sustainable and safer alternatives;~~
- ~~e. Developing indicators to support the effective review of the objectives, targets and milestones and the effective functioning of the instrument.~~

Section G: Taking Stock of Progress

1. All stakeholders are [encouraged][invited] to contribute to the assessment of the progress of the beyond 2020 instrument⁶ in meeting the vision statement by providing information on their implementation efforts to meet the strategic objectives and their associated targets, taking into account the indicators, milestones, and contributions of all relevant sectors. By doing so, stakeholders can identify successful outcomes, as well as any gaps or challenges, drive opportunities for scaling up and improvement, share information, and assess the need for enhanced implementation efforts, and, if necessary, further prioritize their engagement and activities.

2.⁷ Reporting processes should occur regularly and sufficiently often to provide for the effective assessment of the progress of the beyond 2020 instrument in meeting the vision statement.

3. All stakeholders should provide information related to their implementation efforts to⁸ the Secretariat for its compilation, [analysis], and presentation of the report to the international conference for its review. Stakeholders should provide such information in an organized and transparent manner, consistent with any guidance or template provided by the international conference. Such information may also include reporting on voluntary commitments as well as pledges or similar activities.

4. The information provided by stakeholders should focus on efforts to implement the agreed strategic objectives and targets, taking into account the indicators, milestones, and contributions from all relevant

⁶ Brazil notes that for all the recommendations of the VWG, there is not yet agreement nor a final decision on the name or form of the Strategic Approach. Therefore, it will be important to ensure that once such a decision is made, the terminology currently noted as “the beyond 2020 instrument” will need to be revised.

⁷ As this Section is considered, it is important to note that the timeframes for the reporting and the assessment of information and data provided in Section G and updating process in Section H will need to be harmonized and, therefore, should be discussed together.

⁸ The VWG requests that both the task of receiving reporting from stakeholders and the task of reporting to the international conference on the progress of the instrument in attaining the strategic objectives and targets be referred to the next stage of the process for consideration under Part V on Institutional Arrangement and, in particular, Section C on the role of the Secretariat. Text similar to “Receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress of implementation efforts and to disseminate such information as appropriate” and “Reporting to the international conference on the progress of the instrument in attaining the strategic objectives and targets” (this task would include the compilation, [analysis,] and presentation of a report for the international conference) could be placed in brackets in Part V, Section C, and identified as an issue flagged for consideration by VWG2.

sectors to allow the international conference⁹ to assess the progress in implementing the beyond 2020 instrument¹⁰ and in fulfilling the vision in a comprehensive manner.

5. Stakeholder data and information should be made available and be able to be shared publicly to allow for a comprehensive and cooperative review¹¹ by the international conference of the overall progress in achieving the vision, strategic objectives, and targets, as well as to propose recommendations to address any identified gaps.

6. The beyond 2020 instrument invites the sharing of data and information from complementary reporting processes of relevant agreements, initiatives, and the IOMC and other organizations in order to take into consideration, as appropriate, any linkages with such agreements, initiatives, or organizations and to minimize the reporting burden for all stakeholders.

¹²[7. Institutional arrangements for taking stock of progress on the sound management of chemicals and waste should include a multi-stakeholder periodic review process, facilitated by the secretariat, to review progress and, in cooperation with the Secretariat, prepare the report for the international conference that summarizes implementation progress and outlines recommendations.]

¹³[7_{bis}. These reports should facilitate discussion among stakeholders and allow for adaptation and response to any issues of concern.]

[ALT 7,7_{bis}. To improve implementation efforts and strengthen the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, the Secretariat may facilitate, upon request by a government, voluntary peer reviews.]

8. The overall effectiveness of the beyond 2020 instrument should also be independently evaluated, taking into account the stakeholder reported data and information presented by the Secretariat and evaluated by the international conference. This overall evaluation should take place [after sufficient time has elapsed] [as decided by the international conference] [[possibly [in conjunction with] [at the same time as] the review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.]

⁹ The VWG notes the need to ensure in Section A (Part V) that the international conference is tasked with evaluating and reporting on the implementation of programmes that are fulfilling the vision with a view to reviewing progress on the strategic objectives and targets, and updating the programme of work as necessary. The VWG refers this task to the next stage of the process for consideration.

¹⁰ The VWG notes the importance of the comment in the Parking Lot from a number of stakeholders on Section G, paragraphs 1 and 2, related to the need for future consideration of a template or guidance to ensure that all aspects of the instrument are included in the reporting.

¹¹ Should the VWG recommend that there be an ad hoc or periodic review group, then the text of this section should be further considered to take into account the functions of that periodic review group and the potential linkages to Sections A and H should be further considered.

¹² Only one stakeholder group (A Group of NGOs) asked for this paragraph to be retained (please see the summary from the 7th virtual meeting of the VWG held on 14 January 2021).

¹³ Only one stakeholder group (A Group of NGOs) requested this paragraph be included, with support from SDPI.

Section H: Mechanism for Updating and Revising the Framework¹⁴

1. The international conference [may update] [may consider initiating a process to update] or revise the beyond 2020 instrument after taking into account: the assessment of the information and data called for from all stakeholders under Section G (Mechanisms for Taking Stock of Progress) and the results of the periodic evaluations called for by the international conference to review the overall effectiveness of the beyond 2020 instrument.

2. Such updates or revisions may be proposed by any [government] [stakeholder] and will require formal adoption by the international conference. The text of any proposed update or revision shall be communicated to all stakeholders and focal points by the Secretariat at least six months in advance of the international conference. The budget for the process to update or revise the instrument will be provided for via the operational budget adopted by the international conference.

¹⁴ If this section impacts the work and mandates of the international conference under Section V. Institutional arrangements and its rule of procedures, those should be updated accordingly. One member of the VWG also called attention in general under this section to the need to ensure consideration of, and potentially consistency with, the rules of procedure.

Part II – Recommendation for further progress on the Science-Policy Interface

The following represents the progress of the Virtual Working Group on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation and its recommendation for part (b) of the mandate listed above.

The Virtual Working Group on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation (VWG2) discussed the concept of a Science-Policy Interface (SPI) in three of its VWG meetings, received written submissions, hosted a technical briefing on the Science Policy Interface paper prepared by UNEP ([SAICM/IP.4/4](#)), and considered a [paper drafted by the Co-facilitators](#) with their reflections related to a Science-Policy Interface based on the above-mentioned consultations.

Collectively, the VWG confirmed a number of points of agreement, as well as identified areas for further work. The following are points of agreement and represent the starting point for future discussion.

- There is a confirmed need for some form of a SPI. While stakeholders have a wide range of rationales for supporting such a need, there is no disagreement on its desirability.
- Any SPI mechanism designed to meet this need should be inclusive of all relevant stakeholders and sectors, encouraging new channels to spur the involvement of academics, industry, scientists, NGOs, labor, health, and other civil society representatives.
- Any SPI should be mindful of the need to ensure expertise from developing countries and indigenous communities and to take into account local knowledge and gender considerations.
- Any SPI should not be policy prescriptive.
- Provide clarity to ensure that the work of any SPI would not be duplicative of existing efforts, including efforts under the scientific bodies of existing multilateral environmental agreements.

The VWG also began the process of identifying what the functions (see [here](#), Annex B) and the characteristics of a SPI could be, irrespective of the scope and placement of the SPI. Further work is needed in both of those areas. The questions of scope and placement of a SPI also remain outstanding. While there is a sense that a number of options could be possible in terms of scope and placement, the two options most frequently highlighted included establishing a SPI mechanism within the beyond 2020 instrument (potentially through a subsidiary or ad hoc body) or, recognizing that the IP is well-positioned to detail the needs for a broad or overarching SPI, calling for an intergovernmental SPI body for the chemicals and waste cluster (which would need to be agreed to at a higher political level within the UN system).

The VWG recommends that further dialogue take place to make further progress on the functions and the characteristics of a SPI, as well as development of the potential options for its scope and placement.

Part III -- Recommendations for Further Consideration: “The Parking Lot”

During the course of its work, the co-facilitators of the Virtual Working Group on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation created the concept of the “Parking Lot” as a place for the group to consolidate and highlight issues that need further discussion; it represents a codification of “mental notes” that the group or members of the group agreed it either did not want to overlook or would not be able to resolve until a later stage of the overall Intersessional Process. The issues in the Parking Lot range from strongly held views of certain stakeholders to ideas that were suggested but not discussed, and are therefore presented informally in the order that the sections for which they are relevant appear in the textual recommendations of the VWG (Part I). The VWG recommends that further discussion take place with respect to the issues listed below.

Section B

USA: Footnote for “waste”: Given that this is the first reference to “waste” in this document, the United States is highlighting it to ensure that footnote 1, which notes that the brackets around chemicals and [their associated] waste apply to consideration of waste across the entire text, is recognized and duly noted.

Paragraph 1

A Group of NGOs: Add “National action plans should be aimed at achieving the targets and indicators for the Strategic Objectives and Issues of Concern.” This paragraph was not open for comment during the VWG meeting as there were no existing brackets to resolve. It has been placed in the parking lot in the event that the stakeholders wish to consider new text at a later time.

Section D

FAO, ILO, WHO: Proposed new text to address a gap: “In light of the multisectoral character of SAICM, and in accordance with Rule 15 paragraph 5 of Rules of Procedure, the ICCM President shall invite to the Bureau one government representative from the each of the agriculture, labour and health sectors. FAO, ILO and WHO shall be invited to facilitate nomination of the representatives”. There was not sufficient time to discuss this possible addition; further consideration of whether to accept it is needed.

IOMC: Proposed new text to replace paragraph 13: “To contribute actively to the implementation of the beyond 2020 framework, the IOMC should continue to promote broad engagement and coordination of the policies, work programmes, and activities of relevant intergovernmental organizations, further strengthening international cooperation and multi-sectoral engagement in the sound management of chemicals and waste.”

Section G

Paragraphs 1 and 2

UNEP, SDPI Pakistan, GAHP, EU/MS, USA, and ICCA with input from others: There was a high level of interest in ensuring that the reporting by all stakeholders is provided to the Secretariat in such a way that the information can be compiled and considered in a standardized, productive, and understandable way such that the international conference can use the information to assess progress. Text was added to paragraph 2 to note that reporting by all stakeholders should be consistent with any guidance or template provided by the international conference, but the intersessional process might want to consider whether to provide further direction in the text to creating such guidance or template.

ALT 3_{bis}

At the end of the process, the VWG did not have time to consider Switzerland's proposal for a potential process to conduct Voluntary Peer Reviews (VPRs), currently included as a concept in Section G, ALT 3_{bis}. This is left for further consideration of the VWG in the future, with the following process details below:

1. Request

A country requests a VPR and develops, in collaboration with the SAICM Secretariat, the terms of reference (TOR). A call for experts is launched, and the Secretariat assembles the review team.

2. Review

The team of experts undertakes the review, in general through a country visit. They meet with representatives of government and stakeholders. The focus would be the questions specified in the ToR. The outcome of the review is a report by the group of experts.

3. Publication and Launch of Report

The publication of the report provides an opportunity to discuss the findings with stakeholders in the country and allows attention to be drawn to issues where improvement is envisioned. Making it available on the SAICM website can also help inform interested stakeholders in other countries.