



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

SAICM ROADMAP TOWARDS IP4 AND ICCM5

Note by the Secretariat

1. Following the 19th and 20th meetings of the ICCM5 Bureau held on 15 February 2022 and 15 March 2022 respectively, the Roadmap towards IP4 and ICCM5 is presented in the annex to this note, which takes into account the discussions held during the Bureau meetings and written submissions by the Asia Pacific and WEOG regions. As agreed during the 20th ICCM5 Bureau meeting, this document is considered a living document and will be updated as appropriate.

Annex: SAICM roadmap towards IP4 and ICCM5

I. Road map towards IP4 and ICCM 5

A. Timeline

IP4 is scheduled to take place from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Bucharest, Romania. Regional and stakeholder consultations are also scheduled to take place the weekend before IP4 from 27 to 28 August 2022.

Regional meetings have been scheduled as follows:

- GRULAC Regional Meeting, 6-7 May, Montevideo, Uruguay (back to back with the BRS Regional Preparatory meeting)
- CEE Regional Meeting, 12-13 May 2022, Prague, Czech Republic (back to back with the BRS Regional Preparatory meeting)
- Africa Regional Meeting, 28 – 30 June 2022, Accra, Ghana
- Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, dates to be confirmed, Jordan
- WEOG / EUJUSSCANNZUK, dates to be confirmed, online

In addition, a twenty minute slot has been provided during the BRS Regional Preparatory meetings that will be held between end March to mid May 2022.

B. Next steps towards IP4

Step 1: Compile the outcomes and recommendations of the VWGs into one document. The compilation document starts with brief information on the process and mandate of each of the VWGs followed by textual recommendations from the VWGs for review and proposed next steps. This step is complete, and the compilation document is available as SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/2.

Step 2: Prepare a comparison document highlighting the text from three key sources, namely, the current SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy and the 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 4 Virtual Working Group, in a table format. This document will be presented at the above-listed regional meetings.

Step 3: Face-to-face regional meetings prior to IP4 will be organized as listed above. The proposed objectives of the regional meetings are as follows:

1. Consideration of the outcomes of the Virtual Working Groups, UNEA5 resolutions and other developments since IP3 to enhance the effectiveness of the “beyond 2020” SAICM instrument.
2. Undertake strategic discussions to prepare for the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, including on:
 - a. the outcomes of the Virtual Working Groups held between October 2020 – February 2021;
 - b. IP3 outcome text not considered during the Virtual Working Groups, including on vision, scope, principles and approaches, and strategic objectives.
 - c. Other developments since IP3 and the VWG process.
3. Facilitate the exchange of regional information and knowledge, reviewing progress towards the current SAICM objectives.

Detailed agendas for the regional meetings will be developed by the regional Bureau members in cooperation with the SAICM Secretariat.

In addition to face-to-face meetings, virtual briefings and online discussions could still be considered. The goal of these virtual briefings and online discussions would be to provide opportunities to further build common understanding on key issues, as well as introduce SAICM to those stakeholders new in the process. Online discussions can be facilitated by the SAICM secretariat from now to IP4 upon request.

As per standard practice, all SAICM stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide written inputs on the documentation available on the SAICM website.

C. Preparation for IP4

It is recognized that the starting point for discussion is the SAICM/IP4/2 “Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020”.

The work done under the following working groups should be considered a) Technical Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; and b) the 4 Virtual Working Groups. The outcomes of these working groups will be appended to the compilation document as decided by the 11th meeting of the ICCM5 Bureau – Teleconference that was held on 9 September 2020. The above-mentioned comparison table has been prepared by the SAICM secretariat to facilitate stakeholders’ discussions and positions through a comprehensive overview of the texts and understanding of the differences in substance.

Meeting documents

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”.

As agreed at the 11th ICCM5 Bureau meeting, **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/IP.4/INF.2) mentioned above can be included as information documents.

A number of the working documents prepared for IP4 when scheduled in March 2020 have been considered through the Virtual Working Group process. In addition, decisions, and international developments, such as the UNEA5.2 resolutions adopted in March 2022 on the sound management of chemicals and waste and on a science policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, should be considered in the further intersessional process. The following documents will therefore be provided for consideration at IP4:

Document symbol	Document name
a) SAICM/IP.4/1	Provisional agenda
b) SAICM/IP.4/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
c) SAICM/IP.4/2	Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 <i>(to be updated with current information)</i>
d) SAICM/IP.4/2/Add.1	Outcome of the Virtual Working Group 1 on Targets, Indicators and Milestones
e) SAICM/IP.4/2/Add.2	Outcome of the Virtual Working Group 2 on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation

Document symbol	Document name
f) SAICM/IP.4/2/Add.3	Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Issues of Concern
g) SAICM/IP.4/2/Add.4	Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Financial Considerations
h) SAICM/IP.4/3	Proposals for the name of the beyond 2020 instrument
i) SAICM/IP.4/INF.1	Scenario note (<i>to be developed</i>)
j) SAICM/IP.4/INF.2	Comparison table of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, 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 Virtual Working Groups
k) <i>Other information documents to be determined</i>	

D. Expected Outcomes of IP4

In terms of the expected outcomes of IP4 as a milestone towards ICCM5, the following approach will be taken:

IP4 considers (i) Strategic Objectives and Targets, Indicators and Milestones; (ii) Governance and mechanisms to support implementation; (iii) Issues of Concern (and emerging policy issues); (iv) Financial considerations; and (v) other issues or gaps identified in the compilation of recommendations (SAICM/IP.4/2) and the comparison document (SAICM/IP.4/INF.2).

IP4 is expected to produce a single document as the basis for discussion and further negotiation at ICCM5.

In addition, IP4 is expected to:

- a) Continue implementing the ICCM4 mandate.
- b) Recommend the forwarding of any pending OEWG3 and IP3 issues for consideration if not already addressed in the SAICM/IP4/2 “Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020” document and/or the outcomes of the VWGs.
- c) Recommend actions and timelines for intersessional work if needed and agreed upon.
The Bureau at its 15th meeting requested the SAICM Secretariat to provide a rationale on the proposal to possibly reconvene IP4 and an additional OEWG meeting prior to ICCM5. The rationale can be found [here](#). The Bureau concluded at its 18th meeting to keep the decision to have IP4 as decided by OEWG3 and take a decision following IP4 if an additional OEWG4 is needed or helpful for a successful outcome of ICCM5.
- d) Confirm by acclamation or elect the IP Co-chair vacant position.

E. Logistics: Proposed timing and organization for IP4 and ICCM5

IP4 is scheduled to take place from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Bucharest, Romania. Regional and stakeholder consultations are also scheduled to take place the weekend before IP4 from 27 to 28 August 2022.

ICCM5 will be scheduled for in the third quarter of 2023 in Bonn, Germany. However, the Covid-19 pandemic could continue to affect the ability to convene physically. Hence, the following options are being considered:

OPTION 1: IP4 held in face-to-face mode

IP4 will be held in face-to-face mode without opportunities to participate online in the deliberations there.

Based on previous experience, IP meetings usually have a total of 250 participants.

OPTION 2: To be developed as a fall-back

Whilst an IP4 in face-to-face mode is an absolute priority, another priority is to conclude the intersessional process and decide on the future international chemical and waste management instrument. For this reason, it is necessary to consider possible restrictions that may arise due to the pandemic. The IP Co-Chairs, ICCM5 President and Secretariat in close cooperation with the Bureau and thus, all stakeholders, will elaborate on potential variations for handling such a situation if the pandemic results in additional/new travel restrictions, and considering the experiences with other international negotiation processes that have been undertaken. The final decision, however, on convening IP4 using modalities other than an inclusive face-to-face mode remains with the stakeholders.

II. Progress report to date since IP3 and subsequent activities (October 2019 to December 2021)**A. Recommendations for the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

The third meeting of the Intersessional Process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP3) held in October 2019 in Bangkok established four thematic groups to advance the work on key areas.

The thematic groups considered the outcomes of the 3rd Open-ended Working Group and reflected on the results of the finalized Independent Evaluation for 2006-2015. The thematic groups were mandated to develop further recommendations. IP3 focused on issues not yet finalized at the OEWG3 with a view to achieve finalization at the fourth meeting of the intersessional process and submission to the Conference at its fifth session for consideration and possible adoption.

As mandated at IP3, the Secretariat, in consultation with the co-chairs of the intersessional process and the ICCM5 Bureau prepared for the consideration of the participants of IP4 the document SAICM/IP4/2 “**Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**”. The document can be found [here](#).

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 proposed a series of activities to allow SAICM stakeholders to continue deliberations on document SAICM/IP4/2 online, namely through the establishment of virtual working groups and regional briefings.

The following topics were considered by the technical working group on targets, indicators and milestones in January/February 2020, and by the virtual working groups between October 2020 – February 2021:

(i) Targets, milestones and indicators

At IP3 the thematic group on targets, milestones and indicators identified a way to progress in the formulation of targets and their respective indicators prior to the fifth session of the Conference.

A technical working group was established and tasked to advance work on targets, indicators and milestones in preparation for the fourth meeting of the intersessional process. The outcome of the group: meeting document (SAICM/IP.4/3) and an information document (SAICM/IP.4/INF/15) were made available for consideration by IP4. More information on the Technical Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones for SAICM can be found [here](#).

The outcome of the Virtual Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones is available [here](#).

(ii) Governance and mechanisms to support implementation

During IP3, the group agreed some clean text with remaining brackets. The Secretariat was requested to develop a paper summarizing known obstacles to, and possible incentives to enhance multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation, considering any input received from stakeholders, which is available [here](#).

The outcome of the Virtual Working Group on governance and mechanism to support implementation is available [here](#).

(iii) Issues of concern

During IP3, diverging views emerged during the deliberations on issues of concern, such as defining an issue of concern, the degree of significance of adverse effects, the criteria for nomination of an issue of concern, and the procedure to be followed. In addition, there were diverging views on existing emerging policy issues, notably, around the issue of continuing the work on those topics with the view to reaching the originally set targets, including a review of progress made to date to identify achievements and assess areas requiring further work. The thematic group did not have sufficient time to find solutions. During the VWG discussions the Annex of ICCM resolution II/4 was used as basis for the discussions and further developed with regard to the issues remaining open after IP3. The group agreed that the document would be further deliberated at the fourth meeting of the Intersessional Process.

The outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Issues of Concern is available [here](#).

(iv) Financial considerations

During IP3, the group deliberated on revised paragraphs drafted on mainstreaming, private sector involvement, including involvement of the financial sector, and dedicated external financing. Discussions took place on the need and means for additional fundraising for the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste. The thematic group also considered the conference room paper put forward by Switzerland and Norway on financing the secretariat. There was a brief exchange of views on capacity building and how to reflect that in the outcome document as capacity building is considered an important tool to implement the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Financial Considerations is available [here](#).

B. High-Level Declaration Informal Drafting Group

The ICCM5 President initiated an informal process for the development of a possible ICCM5 High-level Declaration in consultation with the ICCM5 Bureau. A High-level Declaration informal drafting group was established in September 2020 to compile, organize and synthesize input, views and proposals received from SAICM stakeholders that could inform the scope, structure and content of a possible High-level Declaration on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Based on these outcomes and other possible proposals, ICCM5 may draft a High-Level Declaration for consideration and possible adoption by an ICCM5 High-level Segment.

Information related to the High-level Declaration informal drafting group, including the Co-facilitator's final report, is available [here](#).

C. Survey on stakeholders' experience of the virtual working group process (June to July 2021)

On 16 June 2021, the SAICM secretariat launched a survey on stakeholders' experiences of the virtual working group process conducted between October 2020 and February 2021. The survey is available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

The responses to the survey can be found [here](#).

The summary of responses (*revised by 27 August 2021*) can be found [here](#).

D. Regional Briefings held on 7 and 8 September 2021

The ICCM5 Bureau at its meeting held on 21 July 2021 agreed to convene regional briefings in early September 2021 with the following objectives:

- To inform the regions on the results of the survey on the experience of the virtual working group process and its implications for the design of possible future virtual work;
- For the IP Co-chairs to present a way forward in the intersessional process;
- To give regions the opportunity to provide feedback to the SAICM Secretariat and IP Co-chairs; and
- To give regions the opportunity to discuss their perspectives amongst themselves.

The regional briefings were well received, and future regional briefings were proposed to be held prior to IP4, preferably in an in-person format. Participants considered it a useful exercise in building up common understanding and consensus regionally and sharing information on key issues in preparation to IP4. More information on the regional briefings can be found [here](#). This feedback contributed to the decision to convene the Regional Meetings outlined in Section I.A. above.

In conclusion, opportunities for engagement following IP3 in October 2019 included the technical and virtual working groups, regional and other stakeholder consultations, as well as the survey. These activities enabled the development of tangible outcomes, including notes identifying gaps, compromise text proposals, and new or alternate text. These will inform considerations by stakeholders at IP4 in their process of developing a single document of recommendations as mentioned above, which will become the basis for ICCM5 or - depending on progress made at IP4 and decisions by stakeholders how to proceed afterwards - for further intersessional work until then.