

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

Preparing for the Fourth Meeting of the Intersessional process to consider SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 – Virtual Working Groups

Co-chairs Webinar

October, 2020



Overview

- ▶ The Intersessional Process - Overview
 - ▶ Maintaining momentum - The Plan Forward
 - ▶ Virtual Working Groups – Modalities and Mandates
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The Intersessional Process (IP)

- ▶ In 2015, the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) initiated an intersessional process (IP) to prepare recommendations on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for consideration at ICCM5.
 - **First meeting (IP1):** 7-9 February 2017, Brasilia, Brazil
 - **Second meeting (IP2):** 13-15 March 2018, Stockholm, Sweden
 - **Third Open Ended Working Group (OEWG3):** 6-9 April, 2019, Montevideo, Uruguay
 - **Third meeting (IP3):** 29 Sept-04 Oct 2019, Bangkok, Thailand
- ▶ **Upcoming**
 - **Fourth meeting (IP4):** March 2021, Bucharest, Romania (postponed from March 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic)
 - **ICCM5:** July 5-9, 2021 Bonn, Germany (postponed from Oct 2020)

Goals of the Intersessional Process

- ▶ The eventual goal of the intersessional process is to finalise recommendations for consideration by ICCM5. This should include at a minimum recommendations for:
 - ✓ Clean text for a new voluntary multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder instrument for beyond 2020 (an updated and strengthened version of the current SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS))
 - ✓ A path forward for implementing the new instrument
 - ✓ Elements of a high-level declaration building on the Dubai Declaration and possibly incorporating aspects on improved governance

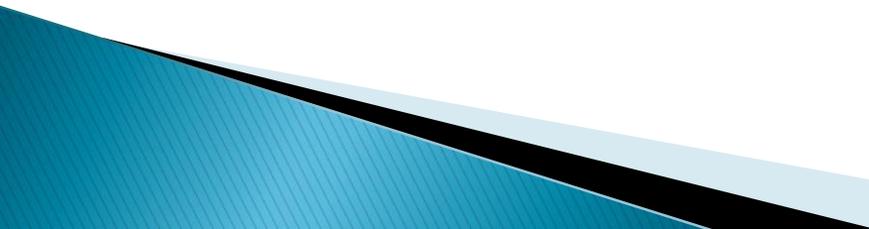
Progress since IP3

- ▶ **Following IP3, a lot of work was done in preparation for IP4**
 - **Compilation paper for discussion (SAICM/IP.4/2)**
 - Provides a summary of progress so far based on outcomes of IP1, IP2, OEWG3 and IP3, and Co-Chairs paper
 - **Technical Working Group on Targets and Indicators (SAICM/IP.4/3)**
 - Two e-meetings - January 10 and February 3rd, 2020, and one face to face meeting - February 13-14, Geneva
 - **Other reference materials**
 - On mobilizing resources and cost recovery, capacity building principles, proposals for a new name, and science policy
 - **Workshops and/or INF documents**
 - On a variety of topics (e.g. strengthening governance, issues of concern, linkages with other clusters, and enhancing multi-stakeholder/multi-sectoral participation)

Maintaining Momentum – The Plan Forward

- ▶ Following postponement of IP4, stakeholders expressed a strong desire to take advantage of the existing momentum and to use the additional time to continue making progress.
- ▶ In response, the Co-Chair's Scenario Note sets out a plan forward to support continued progress through **Online Technical Briefings** and **Virtual Working Groups**.
- ▶ **Online Technical Briefings:** to inform stakeholders will be facilitated by the Secretariat. Information on these will be posted on the SAICM website. www.saicm.org
- ▶ This presentation is focused on the **Virtual Working Groups**.

Virtual Working Groups (VWGs)

- ▶ An opportunity to enhance understanding and advance dialogue on a few specific, concrete and more technical issues building on previous deliberations
 - ▶ NOT intended to replace formal face-to-face discussions at IP4 and/or negotiations at ICCM5
 - ▶ Participation is **open to all** who wish to participate
 - ▶ Responds to need for equitable representation, transparency and inclusiveness by using a variety of modes of work (virtual meetings and written input). Details on modalities are available on the SAICM website www.saicm.org
 - ▶ Co-facilitators will determine the best mix of modalities for transparency and participation.
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Virtual Working Groups – Topics

▶ **Topics:**

- (i) Targets, indicators and milestones;
 - (ii) Governance and mechanisms to support implementation;
 - (iii) Issues of concern; and
 - (iv) Financial considerations.
- ▶ **Mandates** for each VWG have been developed and are posted on the SAICM website. www.saicm.org. Each VWG will have a designated web page where background materials and outcomes of ongoing discussions will be available.

VWG: Targets, Indicators and Milestones

- ▶ **Co-facilitators:** Silvija Kalnins, Latvia and Wajira Palipane, Sri-Lanka
- ▶ **VWG Mandate:** Build on the outcome of the Technical Working Group established at IP3 to refine targets, consider possible indicators, and specifically to:
 - (i) Finalize the targets proposal currently set out in SAICM/IP.4/3, with a view to enable multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral commitment and action, where appropriate;
 - (ii) Develop a set of recommendations for a process to establish indicators and milestones for finalized targets.

References: SAICM/IP.4/3 and SAICM/IP.4/INF/15

VWG: Governance and mechanisms to support implementation

- ▶ **Co-facilitators:** Karissa Kovner, USA and Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn, Thailand
- ▶ **Mandate:** Make proposals that progress work on the following topics in lead-up to IP4:
 - (i) **National, sub-regional, regional, international, sectoral and stakeholder cooperation and coordination**
 - Review the entire text keeping in mind the need for enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement, including in section 6.D on enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement.
 - * Possible reference: SAICM/IP.4/INF/5

Governance and mechanisms to support implementation

(ii) **Science-policy interface**

- Develop a proposal that articulates the rationale or need for science-policy interface for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; describe its potential functions; and recommend the approach to best achieve these functions, either within or outside of the beyond 2020 framework. *Reference SAICM/IP.4/4

(iii) **Mechanisms for taking stock of progress**

- Review section 6.G on mechanisms for taking stock of progress with the aim of collecting views and making proposals.

(iv) **Mechanisms for updating the framework**

- Review section 6.H on mechanism for updating the framework with the aim of collecting views and making proposals.

(v) **Consider subsidiary and ad hoc bodies, including the OEWG**

VWG: Issues of Concern

- ▶ **Co-facilitators:** Sverre Thomas Jahre, Norway and Sam Adi-Kumi, Ghana

 - ▶ **Mandate:** building on Annex B of SAICM/IP.4/2 Compilation of recommendations. Specific tasks include:
 - (i) Review Annex B of SAICM/IP.4/2; identify possibilities for compromise; alternative text in areas of divergence; or gaps;
 - (ii) Develop proposals for draft procedures for the identification, nomination, selection, review and prioritization of new issues of concern or interest;
 - (iii) Develop proposals on existing Emerging Policy Issues and other Issues of Concern.
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Previous work on Issues of Concern

- ▶ IP3 thematic group proposed text on :
 - A. Definition of an issue of [international] concern;
 - B. Criteria for nominating an issue of concern;
 - C. Information Requirements
 - D. Mechanisms for adoption of issues of [international] concern and for monitoring their progress including
 - E. Identification, Nomination, Selection, Review and Prioritization
 - F. Mechanisms for implementation
 - G. Tracking progress including monitoring and reporting against milestones
 - H. Criteria for determining the need for further work on an issue
- (**Reference:** Annex B of document SAICM/IP.4/2)

VWG: Financial Considerations

- ▶ **Co-facilitators:** Jonah Davis Ormond, Antigua and Barbuda and Reggie Hernaus, The Netherlands

- ▶ **Mandate:**
 - (i) **Integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste:**
 - Mainstreaming; Private sector involvement; External financing
 - UNEP's Special Programme
 - Global Environment Facility
 - (ii) **Capacity building:**
 - Review the inputs from stakeholders presented in SAICM/IP.4/5.
 - Make proposals for the financing aspect of capacity building principles
 - Recommendations for financing concrete mechanisms and actions regarding capacity building across sectors.

VWG: Financial Considerations

(iii) Strategic partnerships:

- Develop proposals for a set of recommendations on financing strategic partnerships within and across sectors and stakeholder groups.

(iv) Consider proposals for financing the Secretariat:

- Develop proposals for the modalities (core budget and contributions of all stakeholders) for financing the Secretariat.

(v) Cost recovery mechanisms and other economic instruments:

- Develop proposals for, collect comments and give feedback to the Secretariat on review of cost recovery mechanisms and other economic instruments for financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste. Reference: (SAICM/IP.4/7)

(vi) Draft resource mobilization strategy:

- Develop proposals for, collect comments and give feedback to the Secretariat on the proposed resource mobilization strategy Reference: (SAICM/IP.4/6)

Final Notes

- ▶ We recognize that many of the topics are complex and time is limited. It will be important for participants to review the reference materials and come prepared to build on previous discussions and outcomes.
 - ▶ Again, the intention is not to replace face to face negotiations but rather further and enhance the dialogue by sharing views, brainstorming and building understanding in preparation for these important negotiations.
 - ▶ We are living in unprecedented times and we appreciate your ongoing commitment to this important process. Our ultimate goal is to protect human health and the environment from harmful effects of chemicals and waste.
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