VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS
SET OF QUESTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC FEEDBACK

TOPICS: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO FINANCING THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF
CHEMICALS AND WASTE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

UK FEEDBACK

Note: Please submit your responses/feedback to the questions below to the SAICM Secretariat at saicm.chemicals@un.org, with a copy to eduardo.calderapetit@un.org on or before Friday, 13 November 2020.

a) General overview

(i) Views on the establishment of a clearing house mechanism to track development aid and other possible sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste;

The UK seeks further clarity on the scope and scale that such a clearing house mechanism would entail in addition to how the mechanism could be used by donors. The establishment and maintenance of a clearing house mechanism is likely to require a significant amount of resources. We should therefore also consider existing mechanisms that provide such information, for example, the Special Programme database.

(ii) Views on the establishment of an arrangement, process or subsidiary structure comprising of finance and other relevant experts to keep sound management of chemicals and waste, capacity building, technology, finance and other resource mobilization sources and initiatives under review;

The UK does not support the establishment of a formal subsidiary structure but recognizes an existing gap in facilitating developing countries to access the funds available for capacity building. In our opinion, we believe that an informal group of experts with good knowledge and understanding of existing financial mechanisms could assist in addressing this gap, for example, by signaling to countries where to access financial or in-kind support. The responsibilities of the group of experts may have certain limitations, for example, will not assist in drawing up proposals.

(iii) Additional views on text SAICM/IP.4/2, page 14, paragraphs 1 - 3.

The UK is generally supportive of the text in paragraphs 1 and is open to discussing paragraph 2 and 3 further.

Integrated approach to financing

1. The implementation of the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste, which was designed and agreed as a long term contribution beyond 2020, continues to be essential [to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development] [and to bridge the widening gaps in the capacity to address sound management of chemicals and waste between developed and developing countries]. [It is recognized that the sound management of chemicals and waste is necessary for countries, and] [may] require[s] technical and financial support.

2. [A clearinghouse mechanism should be established under the secretariat of (the agreement) to publicly track development aid for the sound management of chemicals and waste]

3. [All stakeholders agree to establish an arrangement, process or subsidiary structure comprising of finance and other relevant experts to keep sound management of chemicals and waste, capacity building, technology, finance and other resource mobilization sources and initiatives under review.]
b) Mainstreaming  
(i) What concrete mechanisms and actions could achieve mainstreaming for the sound management of chemicals and waste at the national level;

Mainstreaming sound management of chemicals and waste at the national level is fundamental to achieving objectives under the Beyond 2020 Framework. We believe further action needs to be taken collectively both in the public and private sectors. National governments should ensure that more funds are directed towards chemical management by generating additional resources through implementing cost recovery measures such as promoting the internalization of environmental costs by implementing fiscal measures; reviewing Government budgets to improve efficiency and use of existing resources; developing national legislation; as well as put in place incentives that encourage positive action in the chemical sector throughout the supply chain, by extending producer responsibility to encourage the development of new approaches and promote the incorporation of safe-by-design practices.

(ii) Views on text SAICM/IP.4/2, page 15, paragraphs 6 - 7.

The UK is generally supportive of text in paragraphs 6-7 on mainstreaming.

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Mainstreaming

6. Governments should implement actions to promote further mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in national development plans, domestic budgets and relevant sector policies. For developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the mainstreaming of their national chemicals and waste priorities into the development planning processes for funding as part of official development assistance [may] [will] [should] increase their access to [significant] funding for national priorities in relation to chemicals and waste.

7. [Countries should [strive] [seek] to mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste into their development aid priorities.] [Governing bodies of international, regional and national development banks are encouraged to also expressly integrate sound management of chemicals and waste activities in the scope of activities they fund.]
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c) Private sector involvement  
(i) Gather views on how private sector involvement would support implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The private sector is a key player in supporting the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste. The private sector can do more to mobilize resources in this area by reducing harmful expenditure and scaling up investments that positively impact and contribute towards the achievement of the Beyond 2020 Framework objectives and Sustainable Development Goals.

The private sector could further integrate sound management of chemicals and waste in policies and practices in addition to increasing the provision of support in-kind, for example, by providing capacity-building, technical and technological assistance to aid eradicating barriers in managing chemicals and waste.


**d) Dedicated external financing**

(i) How can SAICM inform the GEF replenishment process to increase funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste and what are the priority areas for inclusion in the C&W focal area?

SAICM can inform the GEF replenishment process to focus resources on addressing the key issues of concern adopted under the new framework. The GEF replenishment should support the development and implementation of time specific work programmes with actions for each relevant stakeholder to tackle issues of concern that warrant global action; addressing pollution drivers of biodiversity loss and increasing collaborations and synergizing work programmes across the Multi-lateral Environment treaties.

Increased efforts in integrating green and sustainable chemistry across the supply chain, as well as supplementary investment in sustainable development priorities will contribute towards the strategic objectives of SAICM and the Sustainable Development Goals.

(ii) What concrete actions could support implementation of the beyond 2020 programme of work - for example operationalizing the Overall Orientation Guidance (OOG) - in line with the objectives of the UNEP Special Programme;

(iii) Views on text SAICM/IP.4/2, page 16, paragraphs 12 - 16.

The UK recognizes that finance is an important issue and the need to further strengthen the implementation of the integrated approach to finance. All stakeholders have a crucial role to play in ensuring that resources are mobilized in order to achieve our objectives. The UK would find it difficult to support paragraph 13 and 14 concerning the establishment of an International Fund. It is our view that we should therefore focus on utilizing existing funds and mechanisms available such as the Global Environment Facility and the Special Programme. Activities to increase awareness of these and other existing funds could aid facilitating access to available resources for capacity building initiatives. This could fall to a group of experts as suggested above in a(ii).
Dedicated external financing

12. [Stakeholders should secure funds] [further strengthen the component of dedicated external financing], including development assistance aid, from innovative donor sources, which can be facilitated by mainstreaming at the national level.

13. [All stakeholders agree to the establishment of an International Fund to implement the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, which should be accessible to all stakeholders and should provide support to developing countries, in the form of grants, guarantees and loans; comprised of financial resources provided by the private sector, governments in a position to do so, development banks, philanthropic entities, venture capital, and all other stakeholders.]

14. [All stakeholders agree to initiate the process of implementing the International Fund at ICCM5.]

15. [Donors should continue to provide dedicated external financing, including, for example, to support the Global Environment Facility and other multilateral, regional and bilateral sources of financing, and to support the effective implementation of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals and Waste Management.]

16. [All stakeholders recommend to UNEA that the Special Programme should be reformed to adjust to the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature and scope of the Strategic Approach.]

e) Capacity building

(i) What are the concrete mechanisms and actions regarding capacity building across sectors to support the beyond 2020 programme of work (related to all sections above)?

Background documents:

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

SAICM/IP.4/5 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