VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON GOVERNANCE AND MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION

TOPICS: NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION; SUB-REGIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION; AND ENHANCED SECTORAL AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Submission by the World Health Organization

8 November 2020

This submission is informed by the views of ministries of health expressed in meetings convened by WHO, including in the margins of the SAICM Intersessional Process meetings, and electronic consultations.

In addition, under Section D, there is a joint proposal from WHO, ILO and FAO.

B. NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION (Page 8, Section VI.B)

Paragraph 2. Based on the first sentence of the compilation text, please explain in no more than two sentences your organization’s view on the government focal point(s) and the primary role of the focal point(s). The first sentence reads as follows:

To facilitate communication, nationally and internationally, each Government should [designate or develop a network of] [a political and a technical national focal point] [to communicate on the SAICM matters and develop a network at the national level of coordinators] that represent the multi-stakeholder and multisectoral nature of [SAICM] [the instrument to communicate on the sound management of chemicals and waste matters].

Comment

National Focal Points should facilitate the participation of other ministries in the beyond 2020 instrument. Representation of the views of all sectors through the focal point is essential. NFPs are expected to reach out to different ministries to ensure a two-way flow of communication (increasing both awareness of SAICM and input from sectors on SAICM-related activities) as well as strengthening national coordination.

This process should link the focal/contact points of relevant instruments and sectoral networks on chemicals, including the WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network of ministries of health, other sectoral networks and the chemical MEAs. A guidance document for NFPs would be helpful.

Paragraph 3. It has been noted that the parenthetical should include the environmental sector. Given the environmental nature of this instrument, the co-facilitators intend to remove the brackets in the parenthesis in further iterations of this section.

Comment  Supported
**Paragraph 4.** There is no existing text on “reporting back on national plans.” Therefore, the co-facilitators, noting that there is no requirement for any stakeholder to have a national plan, propose and request views on the following text for the consideration of this Virtual Working Group on Nov. 19th:

Any stakeholder that chooses to create a national plan of action or program of implementation for itself may, when appropriate, report back to the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

Comment

WHO can support the proposal of the co-facilitators on reporting back on national plans.

---

**D. ENHANCED SECTORAL AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

(Pages 10-11, Section VI.D)

**Paragraph 2.** At the national level, governments, as appropriate, should [undertake][pursue], 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 [promote][encourage] complementary action by relevant stakeholders.

Comment

Consideration of national circumstances is crucial to have success in implementing the new framework. Without considering national differences it will be difficult to achieve a framework which enables all countries to benefit from it and improve the management of chemicals and waste.

**Paragraph 4, 5, 12 and 13.** Please refer to the IOMC submission on these paragraphs.

**Proposed new text to address a gap:**

The following proposal from WHO, ILO and FAO aims to address a gap.

Sectoral engagement would be enhanced by ensuring inclusion of different governmental sector representatives on the ICCM Bureau. At IP3, WHO proposed that regions strive to nominate their Bureau member and regional focal point from different sectors, however some participants expressed the view that this would be difficult to achieve. The following proposal from WHO, ILO and FAO offers an alternative, which would ensure that there would be at least one participant in the Bureau from those sectors.

WHO, ILO and FAO propose that the ICCM President invites a health, labour and agriculture government sectoral representative to participate in the Bureau, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure (as has been done for the SAICM Regional Focal Points). WHO, ILO and FAO offer to facilitate the nominations and to use their networks to support the representatives in their task. Proposed text for inclusion:
“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 each of the agriculture, labour and health sectors. FAO, ILO and WHO shall be invited to facilitate nomination of the representatives”.

----------------------------------