Switzerland - Submission VWG on Targets, indicators and milestones

General comments

Switzerland welcomes the process of the virtual working groups (VWG) and believes that it can make considerable progress in the preparation for ICCM5. We thank for the opportunity to provide written input to the VWG on Targets, indicators and milestones.

Switzerland supports the endeavor of preparing not only objectives but also targets and milestones to by recommended to ICCM5 for adoption. In all of the strategic objectives waste should be captured as it is an important dimension of the future sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020. In doing so the same approaches as for chemical issues should be adopted and no issues should be excluded from the scope.

The number of targets under each objective can be different from objective to objective.

Comments on targets under objective A

In Switzerland’s view the targets under this objectives are pertinent for the objective but are not complete: We suggest to add a target on third-party (private/non-governmental) standards, labelling and certification schemes. As part of the post 2020 framework for the sound management of chemicals and wastes stakeholders can utilize standards, labels and certification schemes to foster sound management of chemicals and waste on the national level and within sectors, including for addressing issues of concern. The new framework should foresee that standards, labels and certification schemes can be analyzed and discussed. The aim is to increase transparency, comparability and visibility of good practices after having reviewed the different requirements of such standards, labels and schemes from the point of view of the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Such a target will help industry and NGOs to assume their responsibilities to prevent harm from chemicals throughout their life cycle as non-governmental standards are voluntary schemes that complement and relate to legal frameworks established by Governments to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

Switzerland thus proposes to insert as target A4 bis the following wording:

(By xx) minimum requirements for third-party/private/non-governmental standards, labels and certification schemes are defined and reviewed on an ongoing basis, potential for harmonization is explored and adherence increased and applied by private sector and monitored by governments and other stakeholders.

For further explanation on the importance of considering third-party/private/non-governmental standards, labels and certification schemes please refer to document SAICM/IP.3/INF/11 The role of private standards, labels and certification schemes in the Post 2020 Chemicals and Waste Framework.