Introduction

The third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) requested the secretariat to develop a simple Strategic Approach progress report for the period 2017–2019 that, using existing data, would provide an overview of the Strategic Approach activities, accomplishments, and challenges for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session (ICCMS).

A fourth Progress in Strategic Approach Implementation 2017-2019, in its revised version, was presented at the seventeenth meeting (online) of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management for its fifth session on 21 July 2021[1].

The Strategic Approach secretariat invites all the stakeholder groups to respond to this survey. That will provide the secretariat time to analyze and review all submissions and include relevant information in the overall Strategic Approach simple progress report for the extended period between 2017-2022 (reflecting the postponement of ICCMS) to be provided to ICCMS. It would also address progress in the implementation of the SAICM overall orientation and guidance.

Your participation in this process is important to ensure that the SAICM report on progress can provide a complete and accurate picture of SAICM implementation and provide useful information to assist in setting future priorities for the global sound management of chemicals and waste.

You are kindly invited to provide a single consolidated response to this survey for your country or organization by Monday 12 June 2023. The survey tool is aligned with the 20 indicators agreed to at the second session of ICCM (ICCM2) in May 2009 listed in Annex 1. In providing your answer you might wish to take into consideration these indicators for reporting by stakeholders on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.


CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact information is requested to be provided so that in the case of any ambiguous answers or errors, the SAICM secretariat can make direct contact with the respondent.

1. Your title *

Mrs
2. Your Given Name *

Džejna

3. Your Family Name *

Milaković Ramadani

4. Name of Government/Organization *

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

5. Your position within your Government/Organization *

Head of Department for Chemicals and Biocides

6. Your telephone number, including country code and area code (e.g. 44 22 123-4567) Telephone extension, if applicable *

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7. Email *

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8. Would you be willing to be contacted to answer a few questions on your experience with this survey? *

- Yes
- No

INFORMATION ON PROGRESS

Please specify activity(ies) that your Government/Organization took during the period of 2020-2022* in relation to:

*Note: In providing your answer you might wish to take into consideration indicators for reporting by stakeholders on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, listed in the Annex of SAICM/ICCM2/3 - Proposal on modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation. To access the file, please click on https://saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/ICCM2/doc/ICCM2%203%20reporting%20E.pdf
9. Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is a country with complex governmental organization. As such, it needs to improve actions that lead to better multisectoral engagement. In 2020-2023 countrywide strategy on environmental protection “ESAP 2030” (https://esap.ba/) was being drafted, resulting in engagement of different sectors (environment, health, industry, agriculture etc.). BiH supports WHO Chemicals Road Map, and in 2021, with a support of WHO BiH created a “Group of Experts” in health sector with a role to promote chemicals management in the health sector. More needs to be done regarding reinforcing multisectoral engagement. It has been promoted via different projects/workshops in health and environment (and there are legislative mechanisms in place that support it) but more significant engagement is needed from the labor, agriculture, industry, NGOs, academia in particular, with environment and health. The United Nations Environment Program (UN Environment) co-operates with the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS) in regard to the United Nations Project entitled “Chemicals and Wastes in Agenda 2030: Capacity Building for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and monitoring in countries in the development”.

10. Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

2020-2023 BiH, with a support of Swedish SEI drafted the countrywide strategy on environmental protection “ESAP 2030” (https://esap.ba/). This strategy was recommended by a EU Commission (EC), and BiH recently gained status of a EU candidate. This document comprises both national and entities/district level priorities. The BiH ESAP 2030+ will provide a long-term planning framework, allowing for coherent environmental practices and actions across BiH. It will be a critical tool for relevant authorities to reach environmental sustainability and improved citizen health and well-being for current and future generations across BiH. Additionally, governmental organizations in BiH, with the support of UNDP, drafted the legislation that will support better implementation of the Stockholm Convention. There has been improvement in chemicals legislation (it’s under the authority of the health sector) - both entities are working in aligning its legislation on chemicals among the BiH entities (Republic of Srpska and Federation of BiH) and with the EU legislation. Legislation on waste is in place and is being implemented within the entities. As a EU candidate, BiH is working on aligning its legislation with the EU legislation. EC reported that there was a small progress in regard with aligning with the Chapter 27 of the EU acquires. BiH needs to enhance the legal framework, strengthen administrative capacity and monitoring systems, and improve inter-institutional coordination, in line with the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and the 2050 climate neutrality target. Coherence of policies adopted at various levels of governance is a major challenge for Bosnia and Herzegovina with its four-level governance system. In the absence of an SDG comprehensive state strategy, regional support has been identified as key to the successful implementation of the objectives. https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/

11. Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes, and budgets.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

Sound management of chemicals and waste needs more support in BiH, governmental organizations need more activities and strong capacities - human, technical, financial in order to create plans, implement them and have sustainable budgets in place that will support risk reduction and better inter-sectoral collaboration. Workshops/projects assist these activities but are project/budget dependent.

12. Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

Emerging policy issues have been discussed in BiH ESAP 2030+. BiH set the goal (among others) to promote multisectoral collaboration in chemicals and waste management by developing and implementing a protocol that will define activities for all sectors including the promotion of educational activities. BH confirms that there are many gaps that remain and obstacle in implementation of environmental conventions. Aligning with and implementing the EU legislation (which is very complex and needs strong capacities) serves as a strong solid template that should lead to better risk reduction and more transparent activities in the future. Action plan for the strategy will be drafted after the official adoption of the BiH ESAP 2030+. Risk reduction is being implemented through implementation of legislation on waste, chemicals, Rotterdam and other conventions but, as the EC and other BH progress report state - BH needs to do significant improvement of its horizontal and vertical legislation, monitoring/enforcement and coordinated activities.
13. Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

More organizations in BH linked legislation and other important information (project calls, publications, new etc) on their web site and certain information is being published via social media. Better cooperation is needed with chambers of commerce/trade unions/industry, civil society, NGOs. A lot more activities is needed to promote information access. The legislation on public consultations is uneven across the country, and meaningful and systematic consultations remain to be ensured. While the overall legal and regulatory framework governing establishment and functioning of civil society organizations is broadly in line with the EU acquis, much remains to be done for public institutions to ensure an enabling environment for civil society.

14. Assess progress toward the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation, and prioritizing actions moving forward.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

Legislation that supports sound management of chemicals and waste management is in place in BH, stronger capacities are needed for its full implementation. UNDP BiH held a series of trainings on the management and disposal of the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), within the project “Environmentally Sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Industrial and Hazardous Waste Sectors”, which is funded by the Government of Sweden. The goal of these trainings is to strengthen institutional capacities in the country to advance the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs, which Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified in 2010. Project Environmentally Sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Industrial and Hazardous Waste Sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, that was supported by the UNDP aimed for reducing risk for people’s health and the environment through the prevention of unintentional POPs (U-POPs) releases, shifting from POPs toward non-POPs chemicals in the plastic industry, and sound destruction of at least 50 tons of POPs waste. This project engaged a significant number of stakeholders in BiH, and was used in drafting strategic goals in BiH ESAP 2030+. In October 2021, BiH along with other Western Balkan partners endorsed the Action Plan for the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, which aims at reflecting the European Green Deal and contributing to the sustainable socio-economic development and the green recovery of the region after the pandemic. BiH made some or limited progress in the green agenda and sustainable connectivity cluster, where the country is at an early stage on energy, environment and climate change. Poison Control Centre is needed as well as more proactive approach from academia and civil society. Minamata convention ratification is recognized as a priority in BiH ESAP 2030+.

Additional supporting information

Additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc) should be provided to sjcm.chemicals@un.org (cc: juan.caicedo@un.org and can.zhou@un.org).