



**Fifth Teleconference of the Bureau of the  
International Conference on Chemicals Management for its fifth session**  
9 December 2020 from 14:00 – 16:30 CET

## **Options for the Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

1. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4) and the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) had to be postponed to 2021.
2. ICCM5 has been rescheduled to take place from 5 to 9 July 2021 at the World Conference Center in Bonn, Germany. The regional meetings are scheduled to take place in May-June 2021.
3. The Bureau noted at its meeting on 28 October 2020 that IP4 is likely to be postponed. The Secretariat was requested to prepare possible scenarios to convene IP4 taking on board examples and experiences from other UN agencies and processes in their 2021 planning.
4. As requested, the Secretariat has developed possible scenarios for convening IP4, and included consideration of the Regional Meetings as presented in Tables 1 and 2. Key considerations for each scenario have also been included for further consideration by the Bureau at this present meeting as presented in Table 3.
5. The Bureau may wish to take into consideration the possible scenarios for convening IP4.

**Table 1.** Scenarios for convening IP4

		<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Option 3</b>
<b>IP4</b>	<b>Modality</b>	Fully virtual	Face-to-face in Bonn	Part 1: Virtual Part 2: Face-to-face
	<b>When</b>	March-April 2021	Back-to-back with ICCM5 in July 2021	Part 1: March-April 2021 Part 2: Back-to back with ICCM5 in July 2021
	<b>Participation</b>		Max 560	Max 560

**Table 2.** Options for convening Regional Meetings

<b>Regional Meetings</b>	<b>Modality</b>	Virtual / In person	
	<b>When</b>	May-June 2021	Back to back with ICCM5
	<b>Participation</b>	Back-to-back with BRS regional meetings / Stand alone	

\* Note: the Fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) has been rescheduled to take place from 5 to 9 July 2021 at the World Conference Center in Bonn, Germany

**Table 3.** Review of the options for IP4

	<b>Key considerations</b>
Option 1	<p><i>Advantages:</i></p> <p>The dates (IP4 from 15-19 March 2021 and ICCM5 from 5-9 July 2021) remain as originally planned. It is important for work to advance before ICCM5 and allow for delegations to consult well in advance of negotiations at ICCM5.</p> <p>Virtual dialogues and meetings may provide a wider global reach and allow all delegations and stakeholders to participate without travelling, while minimizing health risks as well as financial and environmental costs.</p> <p>The Basel Convention OEWG12 also took place as a 2-day virtual meeting and helped prepare important decisions. The VWG were also a positive experience of a virtual meeting.</p>
	<p><i>Disadvantages:</i></p> <p>Online meetings do not always allow for smooth and deep substantive negotiations. These negotiations may be challenged by possible connectivity problems.</p> <p>It is difficult to predict when in person meeting will be possible due to current pandemic restrictions.</p>
Option 2	<p><i>Advantages:</i></p> <p>Postponing IP4 until July 2021 might allow an in-person meeting. Both IP4 and ICCM5 held in person facilitates negotiations, allow critical decisions to be taken and planned outputs can be achieved.</p> <p>This option can be complemented with virtual dialogues and meetings which may provide a wider global reach. Back to back meeting minimizes financial costs.</p>
	<p><i>Disadvantages:</i></p> <p>This option requires advance confirmation of the venue in Bonn. If in person meetings start to take place from July 2021, delegates may face difficulties in participating in both ICCM5 and BRS COP in July 2021. It is difficult to predict when in person meeting will be possible.</p>
Option 3	<p>This option is a combination of Option 1 and Option 2. Both advantages and disadvantages of the two options apply. In addition, it facilitates the progress made by the four virtual working groups and through the first semester of 2021.</p>

	<b>Key considerations</b>
	A similar two-step model will be used for UNEA5.
	If Regional Meetings take place in person during the planned dates, delegates may face difficulties in attending all meetings. The accumulation of meetings in a short period of time could also affect the secretariat capacity.