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Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda\*  
**Implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal: Other**

## **Draft road map to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond**

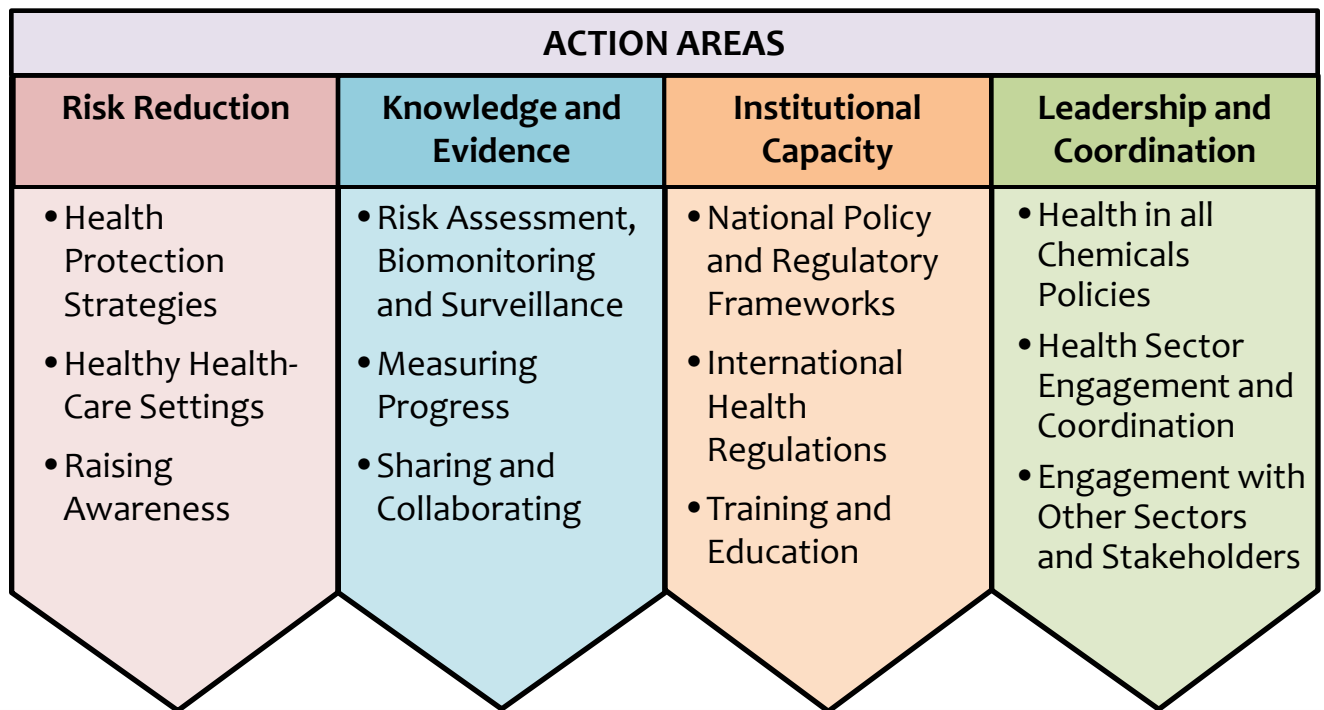
### **Note by the secretariat**

The secretariat has the honour to circulate in the annex to the present note, a draft road map to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond developed by the World Health Organization in consultation with member states and others.

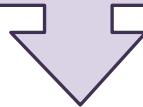
The road map was requested by World Health Assembly Resolution 69.4 *The role of the health sector in SAICM towards the 2020 goal and beyond* and will be discussed at the 140<sup>th</sup> World Health Organisation Executive Board meeting in January 2017 prior to being presented to the 70<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in May 2017. For more information on the road map, please see the World Health Organization Secretariat Report for this item (EB140/33) available at: [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/EB140/B140\\_33-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB140/B140_33-en.pdf).

**ANNEX**

## Road map to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond



**SAICM Overall Objective:** “to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.”



### 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Achieving the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle is a cross-cutting issue that will contribute to achieving many, if not all, 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Targets listed below are only those that specifically mention chemicals.

**Goal 3, Target 3.9:** By 2030, to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

**Goal 6, Target 6.3:** By 2030, to improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

**Goal 12, Target 12.4:** By 2020, to achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

## Risk Reduction

Actions focused on **risk management by and within the health sector**, including health protection strategies, regulating chemicals, public education, and sharing information and best practices.

Health Protection Strategies	Healthy Health-Care Settings	Raising Awareness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS<sup>†</sup>: Develop and implement <b>health promotion and protection strategies and programs</b> for the life cycle of high priority chemicals particularly for <b>vulnerable populations</b>.</li> <li>• MS: Actively engage in and support the implementation of the chemicals and waste related <b>multilateral environmental agreements</b>, particularly health protective aspects. Support ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention and build capacity to assess and address health impacts of mercury exposure in line with WHA67.11.</li> <li>• All: Collaborate to identify and promote <b>reduced risk alternatives</b>, taking into account the life cycle of substances and products, including waste, and promoting the use of these alternatives.</li> <li>• WHO: Provide <b>guidance on the prevention of negative health impacts</b> from specific chemicals of concern.</li> <li>• WHO: Finalize guidelines on the <b>prevention and management of lead poisoning</b>; MS: Implement forthcoming guidelines, and <b>phase-out paints containing lead by 2020</b> as per the objectives of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS: Provide <b>guidance for health-care settings</b> to promote and facilitate the use of safer alternatives and sound management of health-care waste, drawing on WHO guidance and other relevant guidance, such as that adopted under multilateral environmental agreements.</li> <li>• MS: Develop and implement <b>awareness campaigns for health-care workers</b> about chemicals of concern and established best practices for safe chemicals management within the health sector, including occupational, patient/community and environmental impacts in health care settings.</li> <li>• MS: Use WHO guidance to <b>reduce the use of mercury in health care</b> and manage mercury contaminated wastes (in line with Articles 4, 10, and 11 of the Minamata Convention and WHA67.11).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All: Develop and launch <b>public awareness campaigns</b> for priority health issues related to chemicals throughout their life cycle, such as: e-waste, highly hazardous pesticides, lead, mercury and other chemicals of major public health concern, occupational hazards, chemicals subject to international actions, and maternal and child health.</li> <li>• All: Promote communication of relevant information, including training, on <b>chemicals used in products</b> and processes, to enable informed decision-making by all actors throughout the product life cycle, and to promote safer alternatives.</li> <li>• All: Publish and use <b>peer-reviewed articles</b> on chemicals related health-sector issues in health care, medical, toxicology and other related journals, including those of professional bodies.</li> <li>• MS, WHO: Support development of the health related components of the <b>Strategic Approach information clearing house</b>.*</li> <li>• All: <b>Document experiences</b> with and effectiveness of various awareness raising, risk reduction actions and prevention strategies <b>and share this information</b> with others.</li> </ul>

**Outcome:** Improved health both in the short and long term and for future generations through the reduction of risk to health from exposure to chemicals throughout their life cycle, including as waste, resulting from increased health protection activities by the health sector at the national, regional and international level as well as greater interest and awareness within the health sector and in the general community.

<sup>†</sup> Member States

\* Actions that are within the mandate of WHO and also contribute to increasing the capacity of the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to support activities related to the health sector in line with WHA Resolution 69.4. For actions with more than one lead actor, this note applies only to WHO's role.

# Knowledge and Evidence

Actions focused on filling gaps in knowledge and methodologies for risk assessment, increasing biomonitoring and disease surveillance, estimating the burden of disease attributable to chemicals, and measuring progress.

Risk Assessment, Biomonitoring and Surveillance	Measuring Progress	Sharing and Collaborating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All: Engage in efforts to <b>fill gaps in scientific knowledge</b>, including work taking place under the Strategic Approach, (e.g., endocrine-active chemicals, nanomaterials, environmentally persistent pharmaceuticals, combined exposures to multiple chemicals, gender and links to non-communicable diseases).</li> <li>• All: Contribute to the development of <b>globally harmonized methods, and new tools and approaches, for risk assessment</b>, (e.g., integrated approaches, combined exposures to multiple chemicals) that take into account use patterns, climatic conditions, capacities and gender, where appropriate.</li> <li>• MS: Investigate the <b>link between exposure and health impacts</b> at the community level, including from pollution and contaminated sites.</li> <li>• WHO: Provide guidance on how to <b>prioritise chemicals</b> for assessment and management from a health perspective.</li> <li>• All: Work towards integrated health and environmental <b>monitoring and surveillance</b> systems for chemicals throughout their life cycle at national, regional and international levels.</li> <li>• MS, WHO: Facilitate coordination of health ministries, health-care establishments, poison information centres, and others to enhance <b>toxicovigilance/toxicosurveillance</b>.</li> <li>• All: Further explore the relationships between <b>climate change and chemicals</b>, and the potential impacts on health.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS: Improve systems for <b>civil registration and vital statistics</b>, and strengthen systems to document causes of hospital admissions and deaths due to chemical exposures.</li> <li>• MS, WHO: Devise better and standardized methods to estimate the impacts of chemicals on health for improved <b>burden of disease estimates and predictions</b>.</li> <li>• All: Devise better and standardized methods to <b>estimate the socioeconomic impact of disease from chemical exposures</b>.</li> <li>• MS, WHO: Collaborate with the international community to <b>improve global indicators</b> to better measure progress toward the 2020 goal* and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with respect to health impacts of chemicals.</li> <li>• MS: Identify and describe <b>national indicators</b> of progress on reducing the burden of disease from chemicals, aligned with global indicators where possible.</li> <li>• All: Develop mechanisms to collect and manage health data and information necessary for <b>reporting progress</b> on the Strategic Approach* and other international instruments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS: Participate and actively engage in and contribute to <b>networks</b> including the <b>WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network</b> and the <b>WHO INTOX poison centre network</b>.</li> <li>• All: Participate in or, if necessary, foster the creation of <b>interactive websites and/or discussion forums</b> for specific issues related to chemicals and health.</li> <li>• MS: <b>Make health-related chemicals data available</b> (e.g. risk assessment, human and environmental monitoring, disease surveillance), where possible and appropriate, and easily accessible to the local and international community, including relevant international scientific and technical committees.</li> <li>• All: Collaborate with other scientific fora studying chemicals related diseases, in particular, <b>non-communicable diseases</b>.</li> <li>• All: Share experiences on <b>establishing and using indicators</b> for measuring progress.</li> </ul>

**Outcome:** Enhanced engagement of the health sector in cooperative efforts to fill current gaps in knowledge and methodologies for risk assessment, biomonitoring, surveillance, estimating the burden of disease, and measuring progress. This includes greater participation in networks and development of new cooperative mechanisms, as necessary, to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration within the health sector on specific technical issues.

# Institutional Capacity

Actions to strengthen national institutional capacities to address health threats from chemicals, including in response to chemical incidents and emergencies.

National Policy and Regulatory Frameworks	International Health Regulations	Training and Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MS: Identify gaps and support stronger <b>national policy and regulatory frameworks</b> to address the health impacts of chemicals throughout the life cycle of chemicals with a focus on the <b>11 basic elements</b> identified in paragraph 19 of the Strategic Approach's Orientation and Guidance Document.</li> <li>All: Contribute to international efforts to develop <b>tools and guidance for developing national frameworks</b>, such as the IOMC Toolbox.</li> <li>MS: Establish <b>health based guidelines for water, air, soil, food, products, and occupational exposure</b> drawing on WHO norms, standards and guidelines, as appropriate, and participating in their development.</li> <li>MS: Support implementation of the <b>Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals</b>, coordinating internationally, where appropriate.</li> <li>MS: Support regulations to <b>prevent discharge of toxic chemicals</b> and advocate for appropriate recovery and recycling technology, as well as safe storage and disposal in line with WHA63.25 and WHA63.26, and relevant multilateral environmental agreements.</li> <li>MS: Support stronger monitoring of production, transport, use and releases of hazardous chemicals and waste, and promote regional and international cooperation with a view to enhancing <b>compliance with existing regulations and preventing illegal traffic</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MS: Establish/strengthen <b>core capacities for chemical incident and emergency preparedness, detection and response</b>, including: chemical event surveillance, verification, notification, risk assessment and communication, and inspection capacities at ports of entry.</li> <li>WHO: Continue to develop and enhance <b>tools, guidance and other support</b> aimed at countries to <b>strengthen core capacities</b> for chemical incidents and emergencies, and <b>promote awareness</b> among all stakeholders.</li> <li>MS, WHO: Establish an <b>international health workforce</b> to be mobilised to respond to chemical emergencies, e.g. contribute to the WHO Roster of Experts for chemical incidents and emergencies.</li> <li>MS: Strengthen existing, and establish new <b>poison centres and networks</b>, coordinating as necessary to reach the objective of all countries having access to a poison information service.</li> <li>MS: Develop or enhance regional networks to coordinate, strengthen and share existing <b>laboratory capacity</b>.</li> <li>MS: Improve <b>communication and collaboration between national focal points</b> for the International Health Regulations (2005), Strategic Approach, and chemicals and waste related multilateral environmental agreements to leverage synergies, e.g. need for risk assessment, surveillance, laboratory capacity and reporting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All: Disseminate <b>training materials for targeted audiences</b> (e.g., Non-governmental organisations, government officials, teachers, medical professionals, and health care workers) on specific topics (e.g. assessing and monitoring health risks, gathering evidence, diagnosing and treating health disorders, chemical safety awareness, and labelling).</li> <li>All: Enhance <b>curricula in medical schools and other academic institutions</b> to address health impacts of chemicals, with an emphasis on toxicology and occupational and public health, and encourage residencies, fellowships, or specializations; Encourage inclusion of curricula in other academic programs that would promote safe and sustainable chemistry (e.g. Safer by Design).</li> <li>WHO: Provide a <b>portal of WHO training materials</b> on chemicals and health as a contribution to the Strategic Approach clearinghouse.*</li> <li>All: <b>Link health professional associations with academic environmental health or risk analysis groups and institutions</b> to strengthen engagement on and knowledge of chemicals management issues.</li> </ul>

**Outcome:** Increased capacity and resilience of health systems in order to address all aspects of chemical safety.

## Leadership and Coordination

Actions to promote the inclusion of health considerations in all chemicals policies, engagement of the health sector in chemicals management activities at national, regional and international levels, and engagement by the health sector with other sectors.

Health in all Chemicals Policies	Health Sector Engagement and Coordination	Engagement with Other Sectors and Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All: Improve <b>awareness of the health impacts</b> of chemical exposures throughout their life cycle, <b>and the resulting costs</b>.</li> <li>• MS: Promote <b>inclusion of health priorities in chemicals policies</b>, gap analyses, profiles, implementation plans and strategies, at all levels, including for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.</li> <li>• All: Pursue additional initiatives to <b>mobilize financial resources for the health sector, including for WHO</b>, for the sound management of chemicals and waste.</li> <li>• All: Organise <b>high-level briefing sessions</b> on chemicals and health for politicians and senior officials at the national, regional and international levels.*</li> <li>• All: Strengthen the chemicals component of national, regional and international <b>health and environmental processes</b>, including at the highest levels.</li> <li>• All: Include <b>gender and equity</b> as a component in all policies, strategies and plans for the sound management of chemicals and waste.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS: Nominate a <b>ministry of health contact point for issues related to chemicals and health</b> including implementation of this road map, and establish a national chemicals and health network.</li> <li>• WHO: Establish a <b>global chemicals and health network</b>, with links to existing regional, subregional and international networks, to facilitate health sector implementation of this road map (including participation in the Strategic Approach*).</li> <li>• MS: Participate in and promote the <b>inclusion of health sector priorities in the intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020</b>.</li> <li>• MS: <b>Participate actively in decision making</b> and support strengthening of national policy and regulatory frameworks relevant for chemicals and health.</li> <li>• MS: <b>Engage in national, regional, and international chemicals fora</b>, including for Strategic Approach Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern as well as non-communicable diseases.</li> <li>• All: Implement the <b>Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach</b> and promote it to others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS: Participate in and encourage the development of sustainable, effective and operational <b>multi-sectoral coordination networks</b> to maximize collective efforts, as envisaged by the Strategic Approach.</li> <li>• All: Facilitate inclusion and active <b>participation of all relevant sectors and stakeholders</b> in chemicals management throughout the life cycle, at all levels, while recognizing the <b>shared leadership of the health and environment sectors</b>.</li> <li>• All: Highlight the <b>multi-sectoral impact</b> that health investments can have on economies and communities.</li> <li>• All: Build <b>capacity</b> within the health sector <b>for multi-sectoral engagement</b> and look for opportunities to share information, harmonize and leverage efforts of <b>networks in other sectors</b>.</li> <li>• All: Actively <b>engage in relevant regional and international negotiations</b>, including those related to multilateral environmental agreements, development financing and technical cooperation, and, where possible and appropriate, establish a standing item to discuss issues relating to the health sector.</li> </ul>

**Outcome:** Increased awareness and integration of health considerations and engagement of the health sector in chemicals management activities at the national, regional and international levels, including engagement with other sectors, leading to increased profile and priority for the global sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.