

Twenty-fifth meeting of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management for its fifth session
Tuesday, 7 February 2023, from 14:00 – 16:30 CET

REPORT OF THE TWENTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE ICCM5 BUREAU

1) Opening and welcome

The President of the Fifth Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), Ms. Anita Breyer welcomed participants to the twenty-fifth meeting of the ICCM5 Bureau. She thanked the Bureau members, the IP co-chairs and the Secretariat for their participation in the twenty-fourth meeting of the ICCM5 Bureau that was held online on 15 December 2022. She added that we are approaching a crucial and busy year in 2023.

Ms. Breyer thanked Ms. Nalini Sharma for her work as SAICM Coordinator over the past three years and wished her the best in her new job with the Science Policy Panel Open-Ended Working Group (UNEP Economy Division), which is of great importance for SAICM. Additionally, she welcomed Mr. Pierre Quiblier who has been appointed as Officer-in-Charge of the SAICM Secretariat, and thanked him for assuming the role to provide continuity to the process.

The President added that the main purpose of the Bureau meeting is to provide the IP Co chairs an opportunity to present their work in order to share an update and understanding of progress and discuss updates on the recently-hosted regional briefings for Africa, Asia Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and Caribbean regions and noted that the WEOGG (EU/JUSCANNZUK) meeting was scheduled but had not yet taken place. The SAICM Secretariat will then provide the latest preparations for the resumed fourth meeting of the intersessional process, which will take place from 27 February to 3 March in Nairobi, Kenya.

Following the opening of the meeting, the President proceeded to Agenda Item 2.

2) Adoption of the agenda

Ms. Breyer presented the provisional agenda for the meeting that was circulated on 24 January 2023.

She invited the Bureau members to raise additional points they might have under AOB. The agenda was adopted without any further requests from the Bureau members.

3) Adoption of the twenty-fourth meeting report of the ICCM5 Bureau, held on 15 December 2022.

The President asked the Bureau members if they had comments on the report of the Bureau meeting held on 15 December 2022, which was made available on the SAICM website and circulated on 3 February 2023.

Ms. Breyer confirmed the adoption of the report with no changes proposed by the Bureau members.

4) Feedback from the online Regional Briefings for Africa, Asia Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and Caribbean regions – roundtable discussion

The President thanked all regions for having invited her to participate in the regional briefings on January 24-25. She mentioned that it was very helpful for her to get an understanding of what are the 'open points' and what needs to be improved. The President then invited IP Co-Chairs, Ms. Judith Torres and Ms. Kay Williams, to provide an update on the recently-hosted regional briefings.

Ms. Torres informed the Bureau members that she attended the four regional briefings from Asia Pacific, Africa, CEE and Latin America and the Caribbean. She noted that there was low participation and not much discussion about the IP4.2 meeting documents. She mentioned that delegates are involved in many processes, such as the Science Policy Panel Open-Ended Working Group (SPP OEWG), and this could impact the involvement in the SAICM process. She also noted that since there will be an increase to 60% of participants, efforts shall be made to familiarize and involve the new delegates participating in the process.

Ms. Williams reiterated that this is a busy period for the chemicals and waste community given the many processes going on in parallel. Ms. Williams noted a few specific comments raised in the regional briefings, for example on revitalizing poison centres. She added that the African region submitted the proposal for a global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides with some text to introduce it into the new framework. Ms. Williams also noted comments that the health sector should be fully reflected in the finance discussions and that the text of the future instrument should draw on and reflect outcomes of studies that had been requested through the UN system, such as the independent evaluation of SAICM and the study on industry involvement.

Ms. Williams mentioned that they have been looking at the independent evaluation of SAICM while designing the new framework. Ms. Williams also referred to the *Study on Industry Involvement in the integrated approach to financing the sound management to chemicals and waste* as an important document to consider for the financial discussions. She also commented that the role of the programmatic areas proposed by the IOMC (basic chemicals management capacities, chemicals intensive sectors and interlinkages with the SDGs and other frameworks) is not yet fully understood by all delegates. Finally, she pointed out that there is interest from stakeholders in the modalities for addressing the work on the additional ICCM5 recommendations.

Ms. Breyer thanked Ms. Torres and Ms. Williams for their interventions and asked participants if they had any questions and comments with respect to the regional briefings.

Ms. Torres mentioned that since she recently participated in the SPP meeting in Bangkok, she wanted to stress the need to reinforce the linkages between SAICM and the SPP and noted that the SPP could be our future scientific committee for EPIs and issues of concern.

Ms. Breyer noted that there were no more requests for the floor and moved to agenda item 5.

5) Presentation of the scenario note for the resumed Fourth meeting of the intersessional process

The President gave the floor to Ms. Williams to present the scenario note.

Ms. Williams recalled that there was a consultation period last year and because of the feedback that was received, it was identified that a significant amount of work is still required in terms of the overall document and gaps that need to be filled. Ms. Williams added that the idea is to streamline the document. Regarding the indicators, she presumes that there will not be sufficient time to agree on an exhaustive list of indicators but we could adopt the approach and framework for further work on indicators and measurability for further elaboration at a later stage.

Ms. Williams also added that it would be good to have a group at IP4.2 that addresses Issues of Concern and the programmatic approach. She also mentioned that another key group at IP4.2 will be on finance. This group on finance will need to look into the finance targets, and also how funds can be mobilized, considering what is practical and could be implemented.

Ms. Williams also mentioned that the Co-chairs have decided to propose setting up an ‘informal friend’ of the Co-Chair group, which will be composed of representatives from every stakeholder group and region. This informal group will look at the document from a holistic perspective to give coherence and fill the gaps. The group will also look at the recommendations/resolutions that might be needed for consideration at ICCM5.

The President opened the floor for comments or questions.

Ms. Sara Brosche (representative of the Civil Society Organizations) asked about the structure of the ‘Friends of the Co-chairs’ group and proposed that the Bureau forms that group instead of having a new sort of election system within our stakeholder groups or regions.

Ms. Breyer gave the floor to the Secretariat and co-chairs to respond on the selection of the ‘friends of the Co-chair’ group. Mr. Brykowski, from the SAICM Secretariat, mentioned that the original idea was to have three representatives per region and stakeholder group, but he added that this was just an option, and that the Secretariat is open to different approaches.

Ms. Victoria Tunstall (Regional Representative for the WEOG Group) proposed to use the Bureau as a core group and then invite a “friend” for each constituency. Ms. Tunstall proposed to have an even number of representatives for each constituency to facilitate the process and to develop a list of tasks and an outline of what that group is expected to deliver at the end of the week. Mr. Rory O’Neill (Trade Unions Representative) supported Ms. Tunstall’s position and added that sufficient representation from civil society, mirroring labour, health and NGO representation on the Bureau should be followed.

Ms. Gabriela Eigenmann (IOMC representative) proposed a similar set up than in the Bureau but not as formal as the Bureau. Ms. Eigenmann proposed a small group but with a structure that would facilitate open and supportive discussions.

Ms. Breyer supported the fact of not using the Bureau as the ‘friends of the co-chairs’ group, and suggested regions and stakeholders nominate some delegates.

Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Bureau member for the CEE region) mentioned that using the Bureau as a structure for the ‘friends of the co-chairs’ group could be tempting but there is the risk of overwhelming the Bureau members with too much work during IP4.2. He also asked if this informal group is expected to last only for the IP4.2 meeting or beyond. Ms. Suzana Andonova (Regional representative for the CEE Region) supported Mr. Domagalski’s position and added that we should leverage this opportunity to include delegates that have not been as exposed to the work in the past.

Ms. Williams added that Ms. Torres and she will consider this feedback on the process of selecting the group and noted that in any case the amount of workload will be high for this group since there is a real need for a finished product by the end of the week. Regarding drafting a mandate, Ms. Williams mentioned that this could be difficult since the requested tasks could vary along the week depending on the degree of agreement. She added that the ‘friends of the Co-chairs group’ is envisaged to last only during the IP4.2 meeting. Ms. Williams added that the document will need legal and language review after IP4.2, but minimal due to the lack of time and resources.

Ms. Susan Wilburn (Health sector representative) noted that based on what has been said the ‘friends of the Co-chair’ will mainly look at the framework, the structure, alignment of the language and whether it's grammar or syntax, which is all process oriented and not content oriented and this could be easily mentioned in a mandate.

Ms. Breyer concluded with agenda item 5 and moved to agenda point 6.

6) Update on preparations for the resumed Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, 27 February – 3 March 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

Ms. Breyer opened agenda item 6 on an update on preparations for the resumed Fourth meeting and gave the floor to the Secretariat for its presentation.

Mr. Brykowski informed the Bureau that based in the actual draft schedule three technical briefings will be held on Saturday, 25 February, one on sectoral approach promoted by the IOMC, one on the scene setting and one on finance. He said that all necessary measures are in place to avoid conflicting schedules specially between technical briefings and regional meetings. Mr. Brykowski urged Bureau members to mobilize the attention of the respective regions and constituencies to ensure maximum attendance to these important technical briefings. He added that CRPs could be provided before and during the IP4.2 meeting and that live stream will be offered for the technical briefings, the plenary, and the thematic group discussions.

Ms. Williams urged all the regional and stakeholders' representatives to send delegates to the scene setting briefings to ensure that everyone informed of the development of the meeting.

Ms. Breyer thanked the Secretariat for its presentation and gave the floor to Ms. Servet Goren (private sector representative).

Ms. Goren asked if the Secretariat is envisaging the participation of a private sector representative as a panelist, so that they can organize an early arrival at the venue. The Secretariat confirmed that no participation as a panelist is expected as this moment from the private sector.

Ms. Breyer invited the Secretariat to provide an update of the IP 4.2 meeting preparations, including documents, registration, and other logistical aspects.

Mr. Brykowski mentioned that one of the key documents is the scenario note prepared by the co-chairs and already mentioned earlier in this meeting. He added that the IP-Co-Chairs consolidated document that emerged from IP4.1 in Bucharest is the other key document. This document has been extracted and it is now considered an annex to the report from the Bucharest meeting and will support the discussion in Nairobi. The third key document mentioned by Mr. Brykowski is the annotations to the provisional agenda that has been revised and updated. He added that the web has been reorganized to be more practical for the delegates. Regarding new documents, he mentioned that there is a submission by Sweden that provides the report from the Nordic Council of Ministers discussing indicators for chemical information transferring to the textile value chain which will be INF document number 36. He added that INF document 37 is provided by the SAICM Secretariat and presents the outcome of the survey on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern that was held last year. He added that INF document 38 has been presented by the Africa Region which contains some suggestions regarding the global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides. Mr. Brykowski mentioned that INF document 39, from the IOMC, provides an inventory and analysis report on existing indicators on chemicals and waste management. Finally, he added that there is also a document submitted by UNEP WCMC, that includes some work related to SAICM reporting mechanism and processes. Finally, he said that additional CRPs are expected to arrive ahead of the meeting.

Mr. Jose de Mesa from the SAICM Secretariat took the floor to go over the logistical aspects of the meeting. He highlighted a small change regarding registration that will now start on 25 February at 9:00 a.m. He also mentioned that 140 tickets and DSA are being processed by the SAICM Secretariat and that 75% of these are finalized. He also showed some registration statistics and a breakdown table with registrations per region and constituency. Mr. de Mesa added that the meeting will be paper smart, it will be livestreamed, and he showed links to VISA information, hotel list and the main SAICM webpage where all documents and the information for participants is uploaded.

Ms. Breyer, before closing this agenda item, gave the floor to the Bureau members to announce any CPR they might be working on.

Ms. Eigenmann said that the IOMC is planning to develop two CRPs. One would be based on the outcome and lessons learned from the Paris workshop and how they can contribute to the new framework by not only looking at one dimension, but also looking at the other two dimensions, which are the national and global

level. Ms. Eigenmann mentioned that a second CRP will be submitted on indicators. This document will be fed by the results on a webinar organized by the IOMC that will take place on 16 February.

Mr. Rory O'Neill (Bureau member representing Labour) mentioned that in the previous meeting in Bucharest, the labour constituency had to include several proposed amendments on Thursday night, the last day of the meeting that were not discussed. He requested the co facilitators to alert the representatives of the constituencies of these potential issues well in advance in order to avoid similar situations, especially because some of these amendments involve trade agreements, procurement and supply chain issues that could not necessarily be decided in the room since delegates may not have mandates to discuss these challenging issues.

Ms. Tunstall noted that, as was mentioned at IP4.1, she thought the health sector might present a paper on multisectoral engagement and how this can be improved under the new instrument, but this would need to be confirmed. She also wanted to know the limit time for submitting CRP documents and to get confirmation about the nature of the two documents since her understanding was that CRPs are mainly used to introduce or propose new text. The Secretariat responded that since technically speaking the meeting was adjourned in Bucharest CRPs can be presented from now and during IP4.2 meeting since they are in-session documents and INF documents can only be provided 6 weeks prior to the meeting.

Ms. Wilburn suggested that any new document is uploaded in a separate place on the web page so that newcomers to the process can easily locate them.

Mr. Abbas Torabi (Regional representative from the Asia Pacific Region) encouraged stakeholders who would like to present CRPs during the meeting to share them early enough with their bureau representatives for further distribution because this will help all stakeholders to be ready during the meeting.

Ms. Breyer closed agenda item 6 and opened agenda item 7

7) Next meeting of the Bureau

Ms. Breyer informed the bureau members that the next Bureau meeting will be held in-person at the closure of the IP4.2 meeting on Friday 3 March, 2023. Since there were no objections from the Bureau to this suggestion the meeting date was approved.

Ms. Breyer closed agenda item 7 and opened agenda item 8.

8) Any other Business

Ms. Breyer opened the floor to the Bureau for any other business.

Ms. Domagalski took the floor and asked if the next WEOG Regional meeting that will be held online on 9 February will have the participation of the EU/CEE members. Ms. Tunstall confirmed that the invitation should be extended to everyone including the EU/CEE members.

Mr. Torabi said that some countries from the Asia Pacific Region have requested another online briefing before the IP4.2 meeting. Ms. Williams responded that unfortunately there will be no time and calendars are really full before IP4.2 and she added that it would be extremely difficult to organize another briefing before we meet in person, however she confirmed that her intention is to attend all regional meetings in Nairobi together with Ms. Torres.

9) Closure of the meeting

The ICCM5 President thanked all participants for the very constructive and interesting discussion.

She thanked the SAICM secretariat for all the effort in organizing the meeting and for providing clear responses to all the questions raised. She also thanked the Bureau members for their active participation and wished all a safe trip to Nairobi.

DRAFT

Annex

Participants

Bureau Members: Ms. Anita Breyer (Germany, ICCM5 Bureau Member Western Europe and Others Group), Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Poland, ICCM5 Bureau Member Central and Eastern Europe), and Mr. Dinesh Runiwal (India, on behalf of the ICCM5 Bureau member Asia and the Pacific).

Regional Focal Points: Mr. Santos Virgilio (Angola representing Africa), Mr. Alejandro Torres (Argentina representing Latin America and the Caribbean), Ms. Victoria Tunstall (Canada representing Western Europe and Others), Ms. Suzana Andonova (Representing the CEE Region) and Mr. Abbas Torabi (Iran representing the Asia Pacific Region).

Representatives of non-governmental participants and the IOMC: Ms. Sara Brosché (Public Interest Organizations), Ms. Servet Goren (Industry), Ms. Susan Wilburn (Health), and Ms. Gabriela Eigenmann (IOMC).

SAICM Secretariat/UNEP: Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, Mr. Pierre Quiblier, Mr. Rafal Brykowski, Mr. Jose de Mesa, Mr. Juan Caicedo, Mr. Eduardo Caldera Petit, Ms. Delfina Cuglievan, Ms. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, Ms. Eleonora Simeone, Mr. Oleksandr Nazarenko, Ms. Meera Laurijssen.

Observers: Ms. Judith Torres (Co-Chair of the Intersessional Process), Ms. Kay Williams (Co-Chair of the Intersessional Process), Jutta Emig (German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection), Mr Alf Wills, Ms. Nannett Aust.