

MEETING REPORT

FOURTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT (ICCM5) FOR ITS 5th SESSION

7-8 November, Rome, Italy

Attendees:

Bureau members: Ms. Leticia Reis De Carvalho (Brazil, ICCM5 Bureau Member Latin America and the Caribbean), Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Poland, ICCM5 Bureau Member Central and Eastern Europe), Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia, ICCM5 Bureau Member Africa), Ms. Gertrud Sahler (Germany, ICCM5 Bureau Member Western Europe and Others) and Mr. Ritesh Kumar Singh (India, ICCM5 Bureau Member Asia and the Pacific)

Regional Focal Points: Mr. Heidar Ali Balouji (Iran representing Asia-Pacific), Mr. Vladimir Lenev (Russia representing Central and Eastern Europe), Ms. Suzanne Leppinen (Canada representing Western Europe and Others), Mr. Kouame Georges Kouadio (Cote d'Ivoire, Regional Focal Point, Africa) and Ms. Florencia Grimalt (Argentina, Regional Focal Point (Ad-interim), Latin America and the Caribbean).

Representatives of non-governmental participants and the IOMC: Ms. Susan Wilburn (health), Mr. Joe Di Gangi (Public Interest Groups), Ms. Servet Goren (Industry) and Mr. Jorge Ocana (IOMC).

SAICM secretariat: Mr. Jacob Duer, Ms. Brenda Koekkoek and Mr. Jose de Mesa.

Observers: Ms. Jutta Emig (Germany)

Regrets: Brian Kohler (Trade Union)

1) Opening of the meeting

The President, Ms. Gertrud Sahler, welcomed participants. She thanked the Bureau for their work and active participation in period after the third meeting of the Bureau held in Berlin 14-15 May 2017. She reiterated her government's commitment to the implementation of SAICM. She wished participants fruitful deliberations and a pleasant stay in Rome.

The Head of the Chemicals and Health Branch, Mr. Jacob Duer, welcomed participants to the meeting. He thanked the Bureau for their work since the previous meeting of the Bureau. He noted the importance of this year for sound management of chemicals, and more specially the very intense months to come with the SAICM Regional Meetings, and 2nd Intersessional during the initial months of 2018 and he thanked FAO for hosting the meeting and the financial support provided for its organization.

Participants were then invited by the President to introduce themselves through a tour de table.

2) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted as set out in meeting document SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.4/1.

3) Update from Bureau members, regional focal points and non-governmental sectoral participants and IOMC on activities undertaken since the second meeting of the Bureau and on any follow on work

The President opened the agenda item. She invited participants to provide an update on activities that have taken place in their constituencies since the third meeting of the Bureau.

The regional focal point for Asia-Pacific indicated that the main activities in the region is continuing, especially the communication of the outcome of first meeting of the intersessional process to stakeholders in his region and collection of information on the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach have been resent to the relevant stakeholders in the region. He noted that the Asia-Pacific region is vast and communication is challenging. While acknowledging progress with bilateral meetings held during the Minamata COP1, he seeks further assistance and general support from the secretariat and also necessity of support more in terms of financing, technical support and technology transfer in the region. He mentioned that the enrolment of NGOs in past meetings was good, but needs to be strengthened. At the same time, he supported the idea of having clear rules of participation for NGOs. He welcomed the idea of sub regional initiatives and meetings that can boost the interaction and contribute the region to be much responsive.

The regional focal point from Central and Eastern Europe indicated growing interest of the countries of the region for cooperation and further development of SAICM. He welcomed the practice of discussing SAICM related issues during other relevant regional meetings such as triple COPs and Minamata Convention. He also underlined the necessity to strengthen the regional dimension of the SAICM activities and importance of availability of its documents in all official UN languages.

The Bureau member for Central and Eastern Europe proposed a resolution to invite WHO and ILO related stakeholders and to reserve some funding for that purpose. He mentioned that traditionally there is little representation from the Labour sector and that a wide range of sectoral stakeholders is very welcomed. He also said that bringing additional health sector related organisations would be much appreciated.

The regional focal point (a.i) for Latin America and the Caribbean stated that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is important for her region, taking into consideration an integrated approach of the 2030 Agenda in its entirety and recalling on the universal, inclusive and integrated approach nature of the Agenda. She said that also important for GRULAC is the engagement of the health sector and the World Health Organization in the process. In that sense, she remarked that the WHO road map under development will be an essential tool in supporting SAICM implementation for GRULAC. It was also mentioned that, for the GRULAC region it is crucial all the support that can be provided, in order to achieve the objectives proposed by the Strategic Approach, both in terms of capacity building, technical cooperation and institutional strengthening, as well as financial support for the implementation of projects. The Bureau member from the region added that the LAC region was building an intergovernmental network on chemicals and waste supported by the UN Environment Regional Office. She mentioned that they have drafted rules of procedure for such network and she was ready to share those rules with the rest of the regions.

The Africa regional focal point highlighted the challenge of the African region particularly with respect to the role of the Regional Focal Point and communication of responsibilities at the national level. Also there need to be active participation from the national focal points in the region including responding to his e-mail communications. He invites the secretariat to request countries to update the contact details of their national focal points. The African community thinks that academia should be better involved in the process and decision makers and Academia need to be linked. The Bureau representative for Africa mentioned that Zambia did a study on lead in paint and is actually moving to higher standards.

The chair of the IOMC indicated he would provide an account of progress with work on SAICM emerging policy issues later in the day. He indicated that the IOMC Participating Organizations were enthusiastic to meet with the Bureau the following day.

The industry representative said ICCA continues efforts to build capacity within industry in cooperation with Governments. She was of the opinion that a step wise approach is needed to work with governments in building capacity for countries with low level regulatory frameworks, noting the importance of the implementation of Globally Harmonized System for Classification of Substance. She mentioned cooperation with UN Environment through related Responsible Care efforts and with the WHO.

The health sector civil society representative indicated that the main effort was focusing on the WHO Roadmap on chemicals and waste. She noted that she still hasn't seen the work plan on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants.

The representative of public interest groups drew the attention of participants to a number of resources. Pesticide Action Network (PAN) has released number of relevant reports on pesticides including a monograph on glyphosate, a report on pesticides and agroecology in Palestine, and a report on global governance of pesticides to protect children. PAN has also augmented their QSP project in Costa Rica with experimental plots to test agroecological alternatives in the cultivation of pineapple and coffee. A PAN Latin America – IPEN - UNDP collaboration explored highly hazardous pesticides in Mexico including their regulation and ecosystem alternatives. IPEN also released a large study of mercury in women of child-bearing age in 25 countries at the recent Minamata COP1. Finally, IPEN continues to work actively on lead paint elimination with extensive activities during the global week of action and a report on lead paint in 55 countries that clearly demonstrates that in countries where no regulatory controls are in place, lead paint for home use will be available on the market.

In closing the agenda item, the President acknowledged the importance of regional and sectoral efforts in the implementation of SAICM and encouraged all Bureau members to continue to engage their constituencies in obtaining their inputs on SAICM implementation and for the Beyond 2020 intersessional process.

4) Presentation of the draft results and lessons learned of the SAICM independent evaluation for 2006-2015

The President invited the Independent Evaluator Mr. Robert Nurick to provide an update on the work carried out in the Independent Evaluation of SAICM since the third meeting of the Bureau and the first meeting of the intersessional process.

He highlighted that following the Focus Group sessions he has identified six categories of stakeholders. He has prepared a brief report per key stakeholder group, based on the focus group discussions. The six groups include: (i) National Focal Points (government) – AFR, AP, CEE & LAC regions; (ii) National Focal Points (government) – WEOG; (iii) intergovernmental organizations – BRS Secretariat, IOMC, Chemicals & Health Branch; (iv) Chemical Industry; (v) NGOs - Civil Society, Health & Labour sector; (vi) SAICM Bureau. He is currently validating these reports, providing an opportunity for further reflective input from each stakeholder group. He mentioned that it is important to ensure that all views will be reflected in the final evaluation report.

He presented an overview of the emerging findings with focus on: objectives; relevance to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; indicators of progress; emerging policy issues; coordination with BRS and MEAs; regional and sub-regional needs. Regarding the future steps the consultant mentioned the following milestones:

- November 2017: Engagement with six key stakeholder groups following on from focus groups held in Brasilia
- December 2017: Draft report available for the regional meetings and the intersessional process
- Jan-Feb 2018: Online discussion forum
- March 2018: Draft report presented at second intersessional
- June 2018: Final independent evaluation report available for OEWG3

In the ensuing discussion, a number of participants noted that they felt that the preliminary report was very satisfactory and there is benefit from stakeholders working collaboratively in its development. The president in closing the agenda item, thanked the Independent Evaluator for his work and indicated that she looks forwards to seeing the draft report in due course.

5) SAICM regional meetings

- Asia and the Pacific Regional meeting: 23 to 25 January 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand
- Latin America and the Caribbean Regional meeting: 29 to 31 January 2018 in Panama City, Panama
- Africa Regional meeting: 6 to 8 February 2018 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- Central and Eastern Europe Regional meeting: 19 to 21 February 2018 in Lodz, Poland
- Jusscannz countries: 9 February in Paris, France.

The SAICM Regional focal points were invited to participate in a meeting on 6 November 2017 to support the planning of the SAICM Regional meetings. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Minu Hemmati. One of the regional representatives gave an update on the previous day.

In the update, she highlighted that the objective of this one-day meeting was to prepare for the SAICM regional meetings and finalize the agendas for the respective regional meetings.

At the meeting, the regional focal points were encouraged to play a facilitative role within their respective regions including undertaking activities as determined within each region such as, among others: chairing regional meetings, disseminating information of interest to focal points within the region, collecting views from national focal points on matters of interest to the region, and assisting in the flow of information and views from the region to its Bureau member, as appropriate.

This round of Regional Meetings will benefit from one representative per country. The secretariat highlighted the lack of financing for the regional meetings, indicating that the meetings are being funded with some savings of the secretariat.

The sectoral focal points indicated that they are willing to play a role in supporting the identification of participation of civil society in those meetings.

The representative from the Asia and the Pacific Region mentioned that it is important to keep the momentum and he suggested the “Sub region” approach for the future. The representative from the CEE region supported the inclusion of scientist in the meetings.

The representative from the African Region mentioned that it was a challenge to engage focal points from all countries and it is difficult to coordinate. He stated that core groups should be revitalised in the regions.

The President of the Bureau mentioned that the regional meetings are very important steps on the way of SAICM 2020 and as a preparation for the next intersessional. She urged regional representatives to explore new ways to engage with the regions to complement regional meetings.

The representative of public interest groups mentioned that he sees the regional meetings are underutilised. They are an opportunity to explore issues that are important to countries and make some decisions about regional positions. He added that coordination groups are already there and encouraged the regions to reactivate them.

The Regional Focal Points are responsible to finalize their respective meeting agendas.

6) Second meeting of the intersessional process for considering SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

(a) Updates from the co-chairs

The Co-Chairs provided an update on their planning for the second meeting, including developing the Co-Chairs' Overview Paper that was provided as input to the Bureau meeting. They indicated that the Overview Paper builds on the Co-Chair paper from the first intersessional meeting and incorporates information that was provided by stakeholders in the follow-up period.

The Co-Chairs highlighted that most of the stakeholders do not want to reinvent SAICM. Stakeholders have highlighted they see value in the voluntary, multisectoral, multistakeholder approach. They noted that beyond these core elements stakeholders should try to think how in the future more progress may be made than in the past.

The Co-Chairs emphasized the need to make progress on the vision, objectives and policy principles at the second intersessional meeting. They noted that draft text should be developed at the next intersessional meeting that can be provided as input for negotiation at OEWG3. They highlighted that the independent evaluation will be finalized by OEWG3 and that will also inform next steps. The Co-Chairs are of the view that progress may be made on governance and implementation arrangements for beyond 2020 once the scope of the future approach is set.

A number of representatives indicated that the triangle diagram shows too much emphasis on the vision and objectives. They highlighted that issues related to implementation require more attention and profile, such as capacity building and implementation.

The representative from the IOMC proposed that the area of high level political commitment needs to be further discussed and that the joint meeting of the IOMC and the ICCM5 Bureau provided a good opportunity.

One of the Co-Chairs mentioned that when we talk about multisector, we should include retail sectors in the discussion. There could be an opportunity to get them involved in priority setting and establishing targets.

The process to finalise both the Co-Chairs' Overview paper was discussed among the participants, and it was decided that comments should be submitted by 1 December.

(b) Preparations for the second meeting

- (i) Objectives of the meeting
- (ii) Proposed agenda for and format of the meeting

The President proposed to take up parts (i) and (ii) of this agenda item up together.

The SAICM Secretariat presented the updates and status of the organisation of the second meeting of the intersessional process for considering SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The Bureau was informed that Sweden offered to host the meeting and will support some of the financial needs. The meeting will be structured as a three-day meeting.

It was noted that there is a possibility that the Government of Sweden will host a half-day session or evening event of a high level nature attached to the intersessional process. This is to be confirmed by the Government of Sweden.

The Bureau agreed that breakout groups will be very beneficial to draw out information from participants. The Bureau agreed that the use of a facilitator for each of the breakout groups and reporting back is very important.

It was suggested that all breakout groups should follow the same topics. The facilitator could be external but also may be stakeholders in the process as a means to promote ownership.

One representative said that from his own experience small discussion groups work quite well, the fact of having a rapporteur for the group and core group will revitalise the discussions, and during the meeting each group had to report back.

(iii) Updates on the development of the papers requested at the first meeting;

The secretariat provided an update on documents under preparation for the second meeting of the intersessional process. Documents for the meeting will be posted on the SAICM website in advance of the regional meetings.

Regarding the proposal of objectives and milestones, the secretariat indicated the need to consult with stakeholders on the proposal as requested at the first intersessional process, highlighting the important role the Bureau plays in engaging their constituents for the consultation. Many participants thought that measurable targets were a good idea and that concrete results and a concrete way to be implemented in the ground are needed. The President noted that the document is currently very aligned with the Overall Orientation and Guidance, focused on government actions. She encouraged the sector representatives and the representative of the IOMC to encourage their constituents to reflect on the document and propose potential milestones and targets that promote actions of other actors such as civil society, industry and the UN agencies. Some highlighted the value of the WHO Roadmap and reviewing it as a means to engage stakeholders.

The Bureau agreed that the secretariat would develop an agenda for the meeting under the guidance of the President and the Co-Chairs.

The Bureau agreed to develop a Scenario Note for the meeting together, as part of the support to the Co-Chairs. The Bureau agreed that the Scenario Note should set out the key elements for discussion at the second intersessional meeting in line with the Co-chairs' Overview Paper.

Other documents under development relate to financing, governance, gender and the independent evaluation.

The process to finalise the Co-Chairs' Overview Paper, the proposal on objectives and milestones and the Scenario Note was discussed among the participants. It was agreed that comments on these papers need to be submitted to the secretariat by 1 December 2017 in order for the secretariat to meet the tight timelines.

(iv) Funded participants and logistics.

The secretariat informed that the invitation letters will be sent in the coming weeks to all SAICM focal points. The secretariat funded around 40 participants to the 1st intersessional funded, in line with the the 30 people identified in resolution IV/4 as well as the representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the Bureau. The last meeting had approximately 250 participants, and for this meeting around 300-350 participants are expected. Funding available for participation will be for approximately 40 participants, in line with resolution IV/4.

The President closed the agenda item by encouraging sectors and regions to encourage participation in the meeting.

7) Third meeting of the SAICM Open-ended Working Group

(a) Date, venue and logistics

The secretariat noted it has booked four different venues (Bangkok, Geneva, Nairobi and Dakar) as potential venues for the OEWG3 during the week of October 29th, 2018. If this week is retained, it would be advantageous to keep the meeting in Geneva and connect it with a Health and Environment meeting being organized by the WHO.

During the discussion, the Bureau explored whether the meeting might need to be moved to early 2019 due to a number of international meetings that have been confirmed in that timeframe, including Montreal Protocol COP, Climate Change COP and Minamata COP. Decision to be taken by the Bureau at a later stage.

(b) Updates on the implementation of the Overall Orientation and Guidance

The secretariat made a presentation on the project preparation phase of the Strategic Approach GEF project for which the concept note was approved by the GEF in May 2017. This 9 million USD project will provide capacity to deliver on the emerging policy issues and knowledge management as well as to connect to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project focuses on Lead Paint legislation in 40 countries; national and global activities on chemicals in the toys, building and electronics sector; as well as building knowledge management capacity. The Project Identification Form is available at the following link: <https://www.thegef.org/project/global-best-practices-emerging-chemical-policy-issues-concern-under-strategic-approach>

A medium size project for two million USD is also under development, focused on actions on highly hazardous pesticides in ten countries as well as actions on emerging scientific issues, in particular environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants and nanotechnology. The plan is for the medium size project to be submitted for GEF approval in December 2017.

The secretariat invited the Bureau and SAICM stakeholders to get involved in the project, highlighting the exciting opportunity the project presents.

(c) SAICM Report on Progress for 2014-2016

The Secretariat reminded the participants ICCM4 requested the secretariat to develop a third progress report including achievements, strengths and weaknesses for the period 2014–2016 and an analysis of the 20 indicators of progress for consideration by OEWG3. ICCM4 also requested OEWG3 to consider the need for a report for the period 2017–2019 for consideration by ICCM5.

In order to facilitate the process, an online survey was developed. Every SAICM focal point received a separate e-mail with a personalised link to participate in the survey. The results of this survey will be reflected in the progress report, which will be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting.

The online survey for the 2014-2016 reporting period was open from 16 June to 15 September. The secretariat extended the period until 31 October 2017 given the low number of responses. The Bureau requested the secretariat to extend the deadline for responses until 1 December 2017.

The secretariat and the President stated that the low number of responses limits the analysis and may not provide enough basis for assessing the progress made towards the 2020 goal. They reiterated the importance of the progress report and that the progress report will be based on the information submitted by SAICM stakeholders. Therefore, stakeholders across all sectors were encouraged to complete the survey so that their activities were reflected in the report.

8) Status report on the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund

The secretariat informed the Bureau that the 11th meeting of the Executive Board will take place on 14 December 2017. It will be a teleconference through a webinar platform.

Currently, there are 127 closed projects, after finalising activities and submitting satisfactory reports; 25 projects have completed the activities and are pending the submission or approval of final satisfactory reports; 22 projects are underway; and 10 projects were suspended.

As part of its administrative duties, the secretariat continues to monitor the progress of funded projects. Moreover, the secretariat supports and addresses the budget revision and extension requests, working with project implementers, UN Environment Administration and the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee. If remedial action is required, the secretariat consults the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee for guidance. The secretariat also facilitates the conclusion of agreements with donors and any necessary reporting to contributors and donors.

The secretariat continues to gradually increase its efforts in dissemination of information, particularly lessons learned on the Quick Start Programme and continues to work identifying opportunities to showcase projects and improve visibility e.g. infographics, revamped web page, QSP success stories from the field.

9) Updates on other related developments under international bodies

Minamata COP1

Regarding the Minamata COP1 the secretariat explained that the meeting went well and most of the expectations were met. Challenges remain, in particular related to the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the financial mechanism of the Convention with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). COP1

decided that the Secretariat will be temporarily located in Geneva, with further review of arrangements at COP2 which will be held in Geneva 19-23 November 2018.

10) Next meeting of the Bureau

The Bureau discussed holding its fifth meeting in Bonn in April-May 2018. The secretariat will confirm the dates following further consultations with the President and the Bureau.

11) Other matters

No other matters were raised.

12) Closure of the meeting

The President closed the meeting thanking the Bureau meeting participants for their active participation in the meeting.

Note: A joint meeting of the IOMC Bureau and the ICCM Bureau was held during the afternoon of November 8th in the FAO premises. IOMC members and SAICM Bureau members introduced themselves and described their own work and background. The purpose of the meeting was to take discuss efforts and share experiences.
