

MEETING REPORT

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

21-22 June, Bonn, Germany

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. Rakesh 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, 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 to the fifth ICCM5 Bureau meeting and provided opening remarks. She thanked the Bureau for their work and active participation in period after the fourth meeting of the Bureau held in Rome 7-8 November 2017. She reiterated her government's commitment to the implementation of SAICM. She wished participants fruitful deliberations and a pleasant stay in Bonn. She indicated that the purpose of this meeting is to reflect on the Intersessional Process, in particular to give guidance to the co-chairs' on their annotated outline, and to plan for OEWG3. She stressed the importance of an active participation of all participants at the Bureau meeting.

The Head of the Chemicals and Health Branch, Mr. Jacob Duer, welcomed participants to the meeting. He noted the importance of this year for sound management of chemicals and waste, specifically the very intense months to come with the Minamata COP, SAICM OEWG 3, UNEA and the BRS COPs. He thanked the Government of Germany for hosting the meeting and the financial support provided for its organization.

2) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted as set out in meeting document SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.2/2.

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 invited updates from the regional focal points on regional activities undertaken since ICCM4, with focus on actions since the last Bureau meeting. Government Bureau member were invited to complement the regional focal point, as appropriate. She also invited updates from the non-governmental representatives, the IOMC and the secretariat.

The regional focal point for Asia-Pacific indicated that the main activities in the region are continuing, especially the communication of the outcome of second meeting of the intersessional process to stakeholders in his region and collection of information on the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach. He noted that the Asia-Pacific region is vast and communication remains challenging. While acknowledging progress with bilateral meetings held during the Second Intersessional Meeting he seeks further assistance and general support

from the secretariat in coordination efforts. He also indicated the necessity of support more in terms of financing, technical support and technology transfer in the region. He highlighted that national technical workshops and extra routine meetings of all stakeholders are needed.

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 mentioned that the Regional Meeting held in Poland was very successful. He welcomed the practice of discussing SAICM related issues during other relevant regional meetings such 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. He also mentioned that bringing additional health sector related organisations would be much appreciated.

The regional focal point 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. She remarked that the WHO road map is an essential tool in supporting SAICM implementation for GRULAC. She highlighted the need for capacity building, technical cooperation and institutional strengthening, as well as financial support for the implementation of projects in moving forward. The Focal point noted she could not attend the Regional meeting held in Panama but she transmitted the success of the meeting and its follow up actions that are taking place. She also mentioned the important workshop that took place in Buenos Aires with the joint collaboration of UN Environment through the Special Programme and the Industry through ICCA.

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. He pointed out the success of the organisation of the Regional Meeting in Cote D'Ivoire. He mentioned that he will try to put in place a commission of chemical management in the country engaging several ministries. He also indicated that there is a need for more active participation from the national focal points in the region.

The chair of the IOMC indicated that he sent some input to the meeting arising from the last IOMC Bureau that took place on 8-9 May in Washington. During that retreat there was a quite honest discussion on IOMC challenges and opportunities. A new vision was discussed where waste was included in the scope. Also, there will be an enhanced coordination by sharing of focal points and a development of key focus areas

The industry representative noted that ICCA continues efforts to build capacity within industry in cooperation with Governments. The industry sector is also working on enhancing the update on principles specially through joint projects in Kenya and Argentina. Also a study on how to enhance the uptake of sustainable chemistry in SDGs is being developed. Another study that is being developed is on availability of data and increased outreach to stakeholders on waste and plastic sector specially working with the World Plastic Council.

The health sector civil society representative indicated that the main effort was focusing on the implementation of WHO Roadmap on chemicals and waste. She mentioned also during the World Health Assembly in May, the WHO and herself as the Bureau health sector civil society representative held a side event for civil society organizations (NGO's in official relations with WHO) to discuss the implementation of the WHO Roadmap on Chemicals and the Beyond 2020 SAICM process. She thanked the SAICM Secretariat for its participation and for giving a presentation on SAICM Intersessional Process.

The representative of JUSSCANZ also reported on the outcomes of the regional meeting. She highlighted Australian ongoing legislation amendments and New Zealand inclusion on indigenous population into the scope for the chemicals impacts.

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 HHPs for the Asia region. He also reported the ban of the widely used clorpirifos pesticide due to some potential impact in children. He mentioned the banning of néonicotinoïdes, bee killing pesticides, reported in Europe (Germany and U.K.). In addition, IPEN highlighted a study on mercury and presented it during the Minamata COP 1, checking mercury levels in meeting delegates as a means to raise awareness. He also noted some important work on Lead in Paint in the Philippines where there is a plan to set up a certification system where manufactures get a certificate and the companies commit to phase out lead in paint.

The SAICM Secretariat highlighted the support provided to the organisation of the 5 SAICM regional meetings and the Second Meeting of the Intersessional Process since the last Bureau meeting. The Secretariat gave an update on the SAICM GEF Project submitted to GEF, noting that the Full-size project was submitted to GEF for review and CEO approval in June 2018 and the Medium-size project on 16 April 2018. The secretariat is awaiting feedback from the GEF secretariat on the status. The secretariat also highlighted participation in the

Expert Meeting “Toward principles on the rights of workers and toxic chemicals. Outcome Document” that took place in Geneva on 16-17 May, 2018 and the Meeting between the WHO Secretariat and Civil Society on the WHO Chemicals Road Map, that took place in Geneva on 23 May, 2018 in the margins of the WHA. The Secretariat also mentioned a presentation at an Achema 2018 session on “Sustainability – renew, resource and rethink”, organized in Frankfurt by the Young Chemistry Network (JCF), the Young Business Chemists (JuWiChem), both part of the German Chemical Society (GDCh), and the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN) with the aim of engaging youth and academic chemistry networks in SAICM. The secretariat also highlighted the IPEN MOU that is at its early stages of implementation as well as participation at the IOMC retreat already mentioned by the IOMC representative. The SAICM Secretariat is developing policy briefs on some of the materials that went to IP2 on for example on finance and gender.

In closing the agenda item, the President thanked all for the presentations. The information served as an important contribution to assess progress in the implementation of SAICM and possible obstacles. She 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. The president informed the Bureau members about the new High Level event that will take place on the margins of the HLPF in New York and is organised by the Government of Germany. She also mentioned that on the same day Sweden is organising another event with the purpose of setting up the chemicals High Ambition Coalition.

4) SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

The President invited the representatives of the Bureau to give their impressions and views on the outcomes of the regional meetings. She mentioned that the Regional Meetings are good opportunities to share experience and information among the regions and discuss expectations concerning sound management of chemicals. She provided reflections, having attended all of the meetings. She indicated her gratefulness to the Government of Sweden for hosting the second intersessional meeting and to all of the hosts for the regional meetings, in particular, Poland and Cote d'Ivoire as host countries. She urged regional representatives to explore new ways to engage with the regions to complement future regional meetings.

a) Reflections on the Regional Meetings and the second intersessional meeting

The regional meetings took place as follows:

- 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
- EU- Jusscannz countries: 9 February in Paris, France.

The secretariat recognised the big effort realised to finance the regional meetings, indicating that the meetings were being funded with some savings of the secretariat. The secretariat undertook evaluation surveys for these meetings, based on guidance from the independent evaluation, and have a summary report. Participation for the meetings was as follows: a total of 374 participants attended the five regional meetings. The Asia Pacific region had the largest number of participants, with 105 representatives in attendance, followed by Africa at 89 representatives, EU-JUSSCANNZ (68), Central and Eastern Europe (61) and Latin America and the Caribbean (51).

Regarding the Second Intersessional Meeting in total, there were 275 attendees to the meeting; 46% of participants were male and 54% female, 159 government stakeholders, 13 United Nations representatives, 12 members of other international bodies, 81 non-governmental organization representatives, and 10 ‘other’ representatives were in attendance. ‘Other’ include research and consultancy groups, and businesses.

The representative from EU-Jusscannz mentioned that because the meeting was only one day, it was difficult to prepare a report on the meeting as not everyone was in the same small discussions and there was insufficient time to agree on the specific wording of the outcome of the discussion, Therefore the report does not capture the depth of the discussions that took place during the meeting, making it hard to follow for the people that did not attend.

The representative from the Asia and the Pacific Region mentioned that it is important to keep the momentum and pointed out the divergent views from different countries. He noted the lack of UN agency participation despite of Bangkok being in a UN hub. He also urged for more funding towards regional participation.

Regarding the Regional meeting and the Annex to its report, the representative from the CEE region supported the inclusion of scientists in the meetings and pointed out that the Annex to the report gave a good sense of the discussions and conclusion that took place during the meeting.

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 Bureau member from Africa noted a more limited representation from Governments in that region at the regional meeting and requested a review of the participation in the Africa Region, in order to prepare for the next regional meeting and to engage the region in a meaningful way.

The representative from Latin America and the Caribbean mentioned that it was difficult to set a regional position. She highlighted the need to take this into account for future meetings.

The representative of public interest groups mentioned that the regional meetings 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. He pointed out the need of more time for discussions.

b) Discussion on the annotated outline of SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, prepared by the co-chairs

The President introduced this point by highlighting the importance of the co-chairs' paper under development for OEWG3. She invited the co-chairs to provide an overview of the Annotated Outline prepared for Bureau consideration. She invited feedback on the outline via a Tour de Table to reflect on the proposed approach set out by the co-chairs. She indicated the importance of hearing views at this meeting to inform and guide the co-chairs.

In the ensuing discussion it was generally viewed that the discussions at the second meeting of the intersessional process provide a good basis for the co-chairs to work from and that the future approach should build on what is currently working well under SAICM. Some proposals were given to revise the text in the Annotated Outline. Overall, the Bureau highlighted the need to increase the political engagement in SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. There is a general sense that there is a lot of good that should be continued and reinforced from the current SAICM. Whilst there was acknowledgement of the need for enhanced political engagement beyond 2020, mixed views were expressed on how to pursue enhanced high level political engagement in moving forward.

In follow-up to the meeting, the co-chairs will continue to elaborate their paper based on the input received from the Bureau and based on the input received to date in the process. A draft will be presented to the Bureau for its consideration, to finalize it for OEWG3.

c) Planning for the third meeting of the intersessional meeting

The President highlighted the importance of finding a host for the intersessional meetings and encouraged the Bureau members to support finding a host for the third intersessional meeting. The Secretariat showed a slide with the proposed intersessional process timeline. It was mentioned that it was a bit premature to define and talk about the third meeting of the intersessional meeting because its date will depend on having a fourth meeting of the intersessional meeting. Guidance on timing was moved under agenda item 5(a), as it links to OEWG3.

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

(a) Date, venue and update on logistics

The President indicated that the main function of the Bureau is to advise on the business of the ICCM and its subsidiary bodies. She noted that planning for the Open-ended Working Group is an important milestone in getting to 2020 and launching the future efforts beyond 2020 and requested the secretariat to provide an update on the planning. The secretariat noted it has booked four different venues (Bangkok, Geneva, Nairobi and Dakar) as potential venues for the OEWG3 for February 2019.

During the discussion, the representative from Latin America and the Caribbean informed about the official offer of Uruguay to host the meeting. The date is nevertheless still to be confirmed. It will take place between February and April 2019, taking into account other meetings taking place in the first half of 2018. Decision to be taken by the Bureau at a later stage.

(b) Proposed focus, format and documentation for the meeting

The Secretariat provided a draft proposal as an outline of the meeting, consisting of a three-day meeting preceded by a day for Bureau meetings, technical briefings and regional meetings. While there will be space for some key side events, the agenda will need to be carefully managed to ensure sufficient time to discuss the co-chairs paper. Some suggested side events included: the launch of the GCOII report, the WHO road map, and an industry side event. The secretariat will work further in defining the agenda and documents needed for this meeting, seeking guidance from the Bureau.

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

The president reminded the Bureau that the secretariat will need to report back to the OEWG on progress of implementation of the Overall Orientation and Guidance. She noted the challenges the secretariat had in collecting information on implementation of the Overall Orientation and Guidance from the stakeholder groups and mentioned that no more reminders will be sent to ask for inputs to the implementation tables. She asked the secretariat to prepare an implementation report based on the information they had and any supplemental information.

(d) SAICM Report on Progress for 2014-2016

The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that 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.

Every SAICM focal point received a separate e-mail with a personalised link to participate in an on-line survey. The results of this survey will be reflected in the progress report, which will be considered OEWG3. The online survey for the 2014-2016 reporting period was open and extended and it was decided that no further extensions will be foreseen, after 30 June 2018. The secretariat and the President stated that the low number of responses limits the analysis. So far the secretariat has received 42 completed responses and 21 incomplete responses. Secretariat has been sending regular reminders to the participants.

In addition, the secretariat noted that there have been initial discussions with IOMC to merge this report with the IOMC reporting on indicators. This collaboration was welcomed by the Bureau.

5) Status report on the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund

The secretariat informed the Bureau that the 11th Executive Board meeting took place on 14 December 2017. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the decision by the Executive Board that 31 December 2019 would be the date for full and final closure of the Trust Fund. It was decided that this message will be conveyed to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme as soon as possible, and in any case at least six months before 31 December 2019.

It was suggested that the 12th meeting of the Executive Board could tentatively take place in December 2018. A total of 184 projects were approved and the status of these projects is as follows: 133 projects have been completed and closed; 22 projects have completed their activities but are awaiting the submission or verification of final reports; 19 projects are underway; and 10 projects were suspended (since the inception of the QSP). All approved projects are expected to be completed by February 2019.

6) Next meeting of the Bureau

The President expressed her views on the value of face-to-face meetings, noting the next Bureau meeting should focus on the preparations for OEWG3. The Bureau member from the Africa Region from Zambia offered to hold the sixth meeting of the Bureau. The secretariat will confirm the dates following further consultations with the President and the Bureau.

7) Other matters

No other matters were raised.

8) Closure of the meeting

The President closed the meeting at 13.15, thanking the Bureau meeting participants for their active participation in the meeting.
