

MEETING REPORT

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

22-23 January 2019

Livingstone, Zambia

Attendees:

Bureau members: Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Poland, ICCM5 Bureau Member Central and Eastern Europe), Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia, ICCM5 Bureau Member Africa) and Ms. Gertrud Sahler (Germany, ICCM5 Bureau Member Western Europe and Others Group).

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

Representatives of non-governmental participants and the IOMC: Ms. Susan Wilburn (Health), Mr. Joe Di Gangi (Public Interest Organizations), Ms. Servet Goren (Industry) and Ms. Nancy Leppink (IOMC).

SAICM secretariat: Mr. Jacob Duer and Ms. Brenda Koekkoek.

Observers: Ms. Jutta Emig (Germany).

Regrets: Mr. Brian Kohler (Trade Union); Brazil, ICCM5 Bureau Member Latin America and the Caribbean; and Mr. Rakesh Kumar Singh (India, ICCM5 Bureau Member Asia and the Pacific).

1) Opening of the meeting

The ICCM5 President, Ms. Gertrud Sahler, welcomed participants to the sixth ICCM5 Bureau meeting. She noted that this was an important meeting in preparing for the third meeting of the SAICM Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) from 2-4 April 2019 in Uruguay. She signaled that the co-chairs paper had been available to the Bureau and should provide a good starting point for a deep discussion on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Participants then introduced themselves through a roundtable.

Mr. Jacob Duer also provided opening remarks thanking the Government of Zambia for hosting this meeting and commended the Government of Zambia for their leadership role on the sound management of chemicals and waste at the national, regional and global level.

Dr. John Msimuko, Director General, Ministry of Environment of Zambia welcomed participants to Livingstone. He noted that the Zambian Government was pleased to host the meeting as the SAICM agenda is important to Zambia. He noted steps that Zambia has taken to strengthen their chemicals management capacity, including being one of the first countries to sign the Dubai Declaration in 2006. While continuing to focus on the implementation of SAICM towards 2020, he urged Bureau participants to enter into the beyond 2020 process with open-minds. He thanked the President, the Bureau and the secretariat for their efforts.

2) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted as set out in meeting document SAICM/ICCM5/Bureau.6/1.

3. SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020:

(a) Discussion on the paper on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, prepared by the co-chairs

The President opened the agenda item by congratulating the co-chairs on developing the paper 'SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020' (SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.6/3).

David Morin provided an overview presentation of the co-chairs' paper. In introducing the paper, he acknowledged the contribution of Leticia Carvalho, the other co-chair, in developing the paper.

In general, participants thanked the co-chairs for their efforts in developing the paper.

The President informed that Leticia Carvalho had switched roles in Brazil and would no longer be representing Brazil in SAICM. All participants expressed sincere gratitude for Leticia's participation and role in the process. The President highlighted that it would be needed to appoint a new co-chair of the intersessional process and a new Bureau member for the LAC region, but that further clarity would be sought from the Government of Brazil.

The Bureau then participated in a roundtable indicating areas they liked most about the paper.

Many noted that it provided good organizational structure and captured the key areas and allows a path to consider other areas. Many participants noted concern for the language describing Track 1 and Track 2 of the intersessional process, noting there was some confusion around the two tracks. There was a clear desire of the participants to have the opportunity to discuss Track 2 at the OEWG3. Some specifically expressed concern with the use of the term "framework". Therefore, it was agreed that in the revision of the co-chairs paper the term "platform" for track 2 would be used in follow-up to the Bureau meeting.

The President indicated that the co-chairs paper is currently owned by the co-chairs, but by the end of OEWG3 it is her desire it will be reviewed and owned by the participants at the OEWG3.

A number of participants indicated the desire for Beyond 2020 to be ambitious and be forward-looking.

Some noted that there was a need for more concrete proposals for country work, including mechanics and how to support national and regional work. There was a desire for more meaningful identification of stakeholders and need for IOMC Governing Bodies to integrate future work programmes in order to ensure the commitment of organizations.

There was significant discussion on the scope of waste. It was generally agreed that more discussion was needed, including in relation to circularity.

There was general agreement that the co-chairs paper should not include brackets, nor be negotiated by the Bureau.

Several participants requested the inclusion of national action plans in the co-chairs' paper. In general, it was agreed that efforts should be made to enhance sectoral and regional engagement beyond 2020. The need to increase emphasis on education was also highlighted.

It was agreed to use the terminology of 'issues of concern that warrant global action' in the context of Strategic Objective C. Some highlighted the need to make new emerging issues more visible beyond 2020, like plastics and anti-microbial resistance.

There was general overall agreement for the need to increase the level of resources beyond 2020. The integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and waste was highlighted. Some bureau members reiterated the need for a dedicated fund. Industry requested greater highlight of industry contributions, such as for the plastics waste issue. In addition, the missing financial contributions to support in the secretariat to help the regional focal points to liaise in the region was raised, needing adequate resources in terms of people. ILO highlighted the sustainable banking network, noted the need to be more focused and harness the influence in money and the power of public procurement.

Overall there was a general feeling of the lack of political awareness, together with limited financial resources for the cluster. It was noted that in order to increase financial resources, there is a need to increase political awareness and that the co-chairs paper could be stronger about mobilization of resources from the Conference. It was suggested that the Conference or SAICM secretariat could be tasked with more proactive strategies to increase and assess levels of financing as a key task.

The President noted that Germany has hired a consultant to explore a broader governance approach that is currently set out in the co-chairs' paper. She indicated that the key to achieving scaled-up action on the ground are governance arrangements that facilitate coherence of policies and coordinated implementation by relevant sectors and stakeholders. The consultant's paper will be consulted upon at an International workshop organized by UNITAR 28 Feb-1 March, venue is ILO headquarters. An INF paper for OEWG3 will be prepared by Germany. They will also request a side event. They have a general sense that there is a need for a UN General Assembly decision to broaden the outreach.

In closing, the President highlighted that the co-chairs paper would be revised in light of the discussion and that the third meeting of the Working Group will discuss the revised proposal of the Co-Chairs in detail. Furthermore, the President noted her desire that the Working Group discuss in detail and take ownership of the paper prepared by the Co-Chairs and further develop it as an outcome of the third meeting, so that it may be used as a basis for further deliberations during the intersessional process.

At the same time at OEWG3, participants may find it necessary to consider a possible broader platform to address the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. If desired by the participants at the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, discussions on that broader platform could be further elaborated, including with respect to its possible scope, role, function and governance, as well as the process for its further development.

The Open-ended Working Group should also decide whether any other supporting information is required to support the beyond 2020 process.

Finally, the President also highlighted the need to show SAICM progress at ICCM5 and the importance of the other items on the agenda.

(b) Timetable for the process.

The President outlined the timetable from now until the fifth session of the Conference in 2020, as set out in meeting document SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.6/6.

The Bureau agreed that the SAICM regional meetings should be held before the fifth session of the International Conference in July – September 2020, to support preparations for the fifth session.

Participants discussed the need for a fourth session of the intersessional process and when the regional meetings should be held. The secretariat noted that there are also opportunities for additional informal regional meetings back to back with other meetings, as appropriate.

The President suggested that it would be worthwhile to have another joint ICCM5 Bureau and IOMC meeting. She indicated that it may be best to do this sometime during OEWG3.

The representative of the IOMC indicated some concern for the appropriate attendance at the informal regional meetings. In response to the comment, the representative of the secretariat noted the concern and challenge. In doing so, he indicated that these meetings are mainly meant as briefings to participants there and that other organizations are encouraged to organize similar briefings whenever possible.

4. Update from Bureau members, regional focal points, non-governmental sectoral participants and the IOMC on activities undertaken since the fifth meeting of the Bureau.

The President invited updates from the regions on regional activities undertaken since ICCM4, with focus on actions since the last Bureau meeting. She also invited updates from the non-governmental representatives and the IOMC.

For the EU / JUSSCANNZ region:

The President highlighted the launch event for the High Ambition Alliance held in New York in July 2018 during the High Level Political Forum, noting there is a follow-up event in Nairobi at UNEA. The German Ministry of Environment had a side event on chemicals and waste at the Political Forum and will host another one in Nairobi.

She noted that the International Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP) supported by Government of Switzerland hosted a meeting to discuss possible objectives of a strengthened science policy interface

for beyond 2020. There is a meeting report that has been drafted and will be provided as an Information Document to the OEWG3.

Germany also noted that they are trying to influence the budget decisions of WHO at the World Health Assembly. They will be organizing a ministerial breakfast on the margins of WHA to raise the attention.

The President also highlighted that she went to the GEF assembly meeting in July 2018 in Vietnam.

On the domestic front, Canada noted:

- The new NAFTA agreement (between Canada, the USA and Mexico) was published this fall and has a section of chemicals in the sectoral annex.
- Domestically, Canada is making progress in implementation of its Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) with more than 3600 of 4300 assessments complete resulting in more than 90 risk management actions.
- Asbestos prohibition regulations were pushed in October 2018 and a draft risk assessment proposing a toxic conclusion for talc was published in December. We also published a pollution prevention plan for triclosan and a new substance transparency initiative.
- An audit of the Chemicals Management Plan (CMP), resulted in some recommendations to improve enforcement and on implementing more systematic approaches to measuring the effectiveness of our risk management and risk communications activities.
- Work continues to develop the policy to renew the program after 2020, including the publication of a proposed definition of vulnerable populations to support efforts to be more systematic and clear in risk assessments as to how these populations were considered. Considerable work is underway on alternatives assessment/informed substitution, including publication of studies by the University of Massachusetts Lowell and a workshop with retailers given their influence in purchasing decisions along the value chain.
- In the international arena, in addition to capacity building work with a number of countries, Canada hosted a WHO workshop on health risk assessment and continues to contribute the work of the WHO network on chemicals and health and in OECD work on the methodology for measuring the economics of sound chemicals management. Other bureau members were encouraged to encourage that their delegations to the next World Health Assembly to support WHO work on chemicals and the proposed environmental health strategy.

The representative of the Latin America and the Caribbean indicated that they hosted a ministerial forum in October 2018 in Buenos Aires. She highlighted that the LAC intergovernmental network is working and helps to set the priorities. They have a plan of action until 2022, including planning for resource mobilization.

The representatives of the CEE region provided an update on a large programme in Russia launched on 1 January 2019 on waste management and recycling at federal level, highlighting it is a big effort given the size of the country. It was also noted that the European Union prepared a draft resolution on chemicals and waste for UNEA 4.

The representative of the Asia-Pacific Region noted that the half day informal regional meeting held back to back with the Minamata Convention was important. It helped raise awareness in the region. He highlighted that at the national level the WHO office in Tehran has added chemical safety into WHO national planning process and safety data sheets are being collected. He indicated they have received funds under the Specific International Programme for the Minamata Convention and expressed concerns with the GEF.

The representatives of the Africa region noted that they also made progress at the half day regional meeting held back to back with Minamata preparatory meetings. It was highlighted that Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire have a GHS project with GIZ and industry and that related workshops will be held next month. At the country level in Zambia, they have set a standard for lead in paint. There are efforts to regulate waste, including e-waste, pesticide containers and limit the use of single-use plastics.

The representative of industry highlighted:

- Both China and India chemicals industry associations joined the global advocacy arena as of last 2018 as both have become an associated member to ICCA. This is considered a positive development, keeping in mind the vast majority of the global chemicals production is now in Asia.
- The jointly organized UN Environment and ICCA symposium on Circular Economy in Chengdu, China, September 2018. Participants engaged in discussing the linkages between chemicals and waste management and circularity. The outcome document of this event is submitted as an INF document of the OEWG3. Following the symposium, CEFIC, together with John Warner, the co-founder of the Green Chemistry Principles, agreed to co-organize Green or Sustainable Chemistry bootcamps aimed to create a mechanism to continuously train practicing chemists in sustainability and safety.
- The global industry is engaged with UNITAR to support its workshops on GHS implementation, with a particular focus in Africa. In addition, together with the German government and UNITAR, ICCA is organizing workshops in Ghana and Ivory Coast to enhance GHS implementation.
- ICCA will attend, as an observer, the Special Programme Executive Board meeting in January 2019 in order to pursue synergies in their respective capacity building activities for safe management of chemicals globally.
- The recent launch of the Alliance of companies from the plastics and consumer goods value chain to advance solutions to eliminate plastics waste in the environment, especially in the ocean. The cross value chain alliance to end plastic waste (AEPW) has committed over 1bn USD with the goal of investing 1,5bn USD over the next 5 years to help end plastic waste in the environment. Among a range of solutions, the Alliance will partner with cities to design integrated waste management systems in large urban areas where infrastructure is lacking. Also, it was announced to create a capacity building collaboration with intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations to conduct joint workshops and training for government officials and community based leaders to help them identify and pursue the most effective and locally relevant solutions in priority areas.

The representative of public interest groups noted:

- The Pesticides Action Network (PAN) Asia-Pacific launched the report "Of Rights and Poisons: Accountability of the Agrochemical Industry" in October 2018. As part of this, PAN began work with

the Better Cotton Initiative to identify alternatives to a series of HHPs that they have identified as being in wide use by cotton farmers. The aim is to provide a package of tools and training (prioritising agroecological approaches) to help farmers switch away from the HHPs.

- Work continued with PAN Ethiopia to develop a training scheme for vegetable growers in Ethiopia. The aim is to support farmers to adopt agroecological approaches and switch away from HHPs (including endosulfan). The project also involves field trials and research into innovative non-chemical control techniques including a food spray to attract beneficial insects.
- An update of the PAN International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides was released in March 2018.
- Joint NGO engagement to urge EU policymakers to develop a strategic approach to tackle the problem of pharmaceuticals in the environment.
- IPEN released a number of documents:
 - 'Ocean pollutants guide' an up-to-date synthesis of data on toxic chemical pollution in the ocean, including hazardous pesticides, pharmaceuticals, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) like PCBs, plastics, microplastics, and heavy metals. It is available at:
https://ipen.org/sites/default/files/documents/ipen-ocean-pollutants-v2_1-en-web.pdf
 - Toxic additives in plastics examining recycling and the presence of brominated dioxins in children's products available at:
 - <https://ipen.org/news/press-release-dioxins-found-plastic-toys-%E2%80%93-stricter-limits-are-required-stop-toxic-chemicals>
 - <https://ipen.org/news/press-release-european-study-exposing-toxic-e-waste-chemicals-children%E2%80%99s-products-spurs-calls>
 - Women and chemicals, studying mercury in women of child-bearing age in 21 small-island developing states.
 - <https://ipen.org/news/new-study-reveals-mercury-threat-women-children-across-three-oceans-elevated-mercury-women>

The representative of the IOMC indicated:

- The 50th meeting of the IOMC was held at the ILO in November 2019. At the meeting, the IOMC discussed what documents they would prepare for the OEWG3. These include a general update on IOMC activities; response to the calls for action on emerging policy issues, update on activities that contribute to the SDGs and reflection on science policy. The IOMC intends to set up a booth at the OEWG3.
- At the last IOMC meeting, discussions were held with:
 - The High Level Ambition Alliance for chemicals and waste through the Government of Sweden.
 - The World Business Council on Sustainable Development presented information on their chemical sector SDG roadmap.
 - The IOMC meeting was preceded by the inter-agency meeting, convened by the IOMC, where the UN Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound

management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes presented the latest update on his mandate.

- She noted the use of the IOMC indicators being used in the SAICM progress report and the second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook.
- She also noted that the IOMC toolbox has been updated, and there is a proposal to present it at OEWG3.
- In preparing for beyond 2020 discussion, the IOMC is scoping out their collective views on waste. The IOMC is committed to find consensus inputs to support the beyond 2020 discussions.
- As a representative of ILO, she also highlighted the independent commission on the behalf of workers as these are fundamental principles in ILO work.

The representative of health civil society highlighted that the WHO Roadmap has been helpful in supporting efforts on the health sector.

5. Update from the secretariat:

(a) SAICM GEF project;

The representative of the secretariat provided an overview status of the SAICM GEF project that was approved in August 2018. It is a global project that the GEF has funded for 9 million USD, that has leveraged over 21 million USD of co-finance (from governments, IGOs, civil society and industry). The aim is to accelerate national activities on emerging policy issues and support planning for chemical management in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The focus on Lead Paint, Chemicals in Products and Knowledge Management

The project will be implemented in over 40 countries and all regions, over a 4-year period with aims to present early project results at ICCM5 in 2020. The project inception workshop took place January 15-16 in Geneva, Switzerland. A total of 48 participants attended the workshop

- We have a nominated representative for the Steering Committee per region and thank the Bureau for their support in these nominations.
- We can expect some related events at the OEWG3.
- Knowledge Management – new collaboration with IISD Knowledge Hub. Opportunities for all to contribute. They will be generating 2 stories a week on chemicals related issues.

Upcoming Lead in Paint Workshops include:

- 19 - 20 March 2019: Regional Workshop CEE (Almaty, Kazakhstan)
- 12=13 June 2019: Regional workshop Asia-Pacific (Bangkok)
- 14 -15 May 2019: Regional workshop ROLAC (Panama)
- Tbc date*28 – 29 May 2019 Regional Workshop Africa / ECOWAS (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire)

The Medium Size project focused on highly hazardous pesticides, endocrine disrupting chemicals and environmentally persistent pollutants is a 2 million USD project proposal proposed for 15 + countries. The GEF should respond soon on the status of the project.

The secretariat also informed the Bureau that GEF7 has started and of the likelihood that the GEF will promote larger programme approach on textiles and electronics.

(b) SAICM Report on Progress for 2014-2016

The SAICM Report on Progress for 2014-2016 was provided to the Bureau as meeting document SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.6/8. The secretariat provided a brief overview of some of the highlights of the report, including the need for the OEWG3 to give guidance on the need for a progress report for 2017-2019.

In general, the Bureau noted the value in progress reporting. At the same time, some participants noted that the current approach is not useful to help take stock, learn lessons and support decision-making.

IPEN, as the representative of public interest groups, indicated with regret that they did not report in this reporting cycle while noting their commitment to future reports.

The President closed the agenda item by noting the value of reporting on progress. She said that we need to learn lessons from the past for 2017-2019 reporting and any future reporting process.

(c) Status report on the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

The secretariat informed the Bureau about the latest status of the Quick Start Programme (QSP). As of December 2018, 14 rounds of project applications have been held. The QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee has appraised 341 applications of which 184 projects were approved. Presently 140 projects have been completed, 15 have completed their activities and are awaiting closure, 19 projects are ongoing and 10 projects were suspended for various reasons. All approved projects are expected to be completed by March 2019.

To allow sufficient time for the final closure of projects, including the submission of final reports, the potential return of unspent funds and final disbursements, as well as the preparation of the final evaluation of the Quick Start Programme, 31 December 2019 was chosen as the official date of closure of the QSP.

Lastly, in order to communicate the success and outcomes of the QSP, a database of completed projects is being developed by the Secretariat. The aim of the database is to collect and share information regarding QSP funded projects online in a transparent and informative manner thereby strengthening further the objectives of SAICM.

The President concluded that this was a very successful Programme and lessons learned should be taken forward beyond 2020.

6. Third meeting of the SAICM Open-ended Working Group:

(a) Update on logistics

The secretariat provided an update on the logistics for OEWG3. In the follow-up discussion, it was noted guidance for the arrangements for Visa will need to be provided to delegates.

In terms of the meeting flow, the President highlighted that all three days will have two plenary sessions. Under agenda item 2, she will invite regional and sectoral statements.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that both Track 1 (SAICM 2.0) and Track 2 (a broader governance platform) would be discussed in the plenary. Following the discussion in plenary, it was proposed that a contact group will be formed that will focus on the elaboration of the co-chair's paper. The proposed outcome of OEWG3 is to extend ownership of the co-chairs' paper to the participants in the OEWG3.

Some participants requested time in the Technical Briefings on Track 2. The President also noted that the Government of Germany intends to release an Information Document to the OEWG3 to stimulate related to the broader governance framework, currently described as Track 2.

(b) Proposed agenda and documentation for the meeting;

A proposed provisional agenda was provided to the Bureau for its consideration as meeting document SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.6/4. Participants reviewed the draft and agreed to the draft provisional agenda with no changes.

The President provided hard copies of a draft President's Scenario Note and an annotated agenda. In doing so, she requested any comments be provided to the secretariat by Friday January 24.

One regional focal point noted the desire of her region to have a closing statement during the meeting.

(c) Side events and other related activities.

The secretariat noted that side events are currently scheduled during the lunch period from 1-4 April. The deadline for side event and display area registration is 31 January 2019. The form is on the SAICM web-site.

The Bureau agreed that the Technical Briefings should be held in the morning of 1 April and requested that the Technical Briefings include information related to Track 2 (the paper under preparation by Germany) and the second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook.

7. Update on UNEA 4

The secretariat provided an update on the fourth meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 4) to be held from 11-15 March 2019 in Nairobi. He highlighted it will include a High-Level Segment on the 14-15 March and a ministerial outcome document is expected to be part of this.

The Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives will take place from 5-9 March 2019, and it is expected that the majority of the negotiations will take place that week. He noted that a chemicals and waste resolution was submitted for consideration by the European Union and is available for review by Member States. He also indicated the SAICM link to the plastics agenda, the waste agenda and the Pollution Plan.

He highlighted that the second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook will be launched on 13 March, together with the Global Environment Outlook and the International Resource Panel Report. There will be a related press briefing and conference on Thursday the 8th of March.

In addition, a High Ambition Alliance event will take place on 13 March in the afternoon, but the details are currently under discussion.

The Government of Germany will host a side event on Friday March 15 on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. They are currently working on the agenda.

It was also noted there will be a side event on circular economy, other relevant events during the science policy symposium, and an exhibition area.

8. Next meeting of the Bureau

The President expressed her views on the value of face-to-face meetings. The Regional Focal Point from the Central and Eastern European Region, the representative of the Government of Russia, offered to hold the seventh meeting of the Bureau in St Petersburg in July 2019.

The President requested the meeting take place during the week of 8 July 2019.

The President thanked the Government of Russia for the kind offer to host. The President requested that the date be confirmed to the Bureau by the secretariat following the Bureau meeting.

9. Other matters

The representative of public interest NGOs requested an opportunity to provide input to the regional informal EU / JUSSCANNZ meeting to be held in February 2019, noting that this is consistent with the practice in other regions. The Regional Focal Point for EU / JUSSCANNZ took note of the request.

No additional other matters were raised.

10. Closure of the meeting

The President closed the meeting at 3.10 pm, thanking the Bureau meeting participants for their active participation in the discussions and thanking the Government of Zambia for the kind hospitality.

She indicated her desire for a successful OEWG3 in Montevideo.
