

ICCM4 High Level Segment | 1 - 2 October 2015

Commitment To A Chemical Safe Future for Health, Environment and Economic Growth

This programme provides further information regarding keynote speeches and panel content.

Context

From food and clothing to transport and technology and virtually everything in between, chemicals are part of daily life. As chemicals are used in almost every area of the world economy, chemical safety is an urgent issue that affects us all. The future of sustainable development - with its emphasis on healthy livelihoods and well-functioning ecosystems and natural resources - is therefore inseparable from a sound approach to managing the way we use chemicals from their design to production, use and disposal.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002 defined as the goal for sound management of chemicals that, by 2020, "chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment." The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a non-binding policy framework that was established in 2006 in direct response to the Johannesburg Declaration, with the objective of achieving the 2020 goal.

Since its adoption in 2006, SAICM has been a pro-active, inclusive and overarching platform for engagement and commitment of governments, key inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and industry. SAICM is the only global approach which covers all agricultural and industrial chemicals throughout their life cycle and reflects environmental, economic, social, health and labour aspects of chemical safety.

Addressing sound management of chemicals and waste is at the core of addressing the sustainable development issues of today, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development.

It is urgent that all stakeholders commit to a chemical-safe future for health, environment and economic growth.

Overview of the High-Level Segment of ICCM4

The high-level segment will provide a platform to inspire wider stakeholder engagement and renewed commitment to implement the Strategic Approach. It will include discussions on the linkages and opportunities for SAICM to contribute directly to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the high-level segment Ministers, Heads of Agencies and Organizations, Chief Executive Officers, high-level Heads of Delegation, Major Groups and Stakeholders are invited to exchange views and experiences on chemical management issues and ways of making best use of the unique SAICM model in this critical period leading to 2020. They are also invited to share their views on the meaning of success in the core areas of SAICM activities in 2020.

The high-level segment (1 October) opens with keynote speeches in plenary that take a broad perspective and present the case for SAICM from a development and business angle. They will set the scene by exploring 1) how chemicals management can contribute to growth and sustainable development, and 2) how sound management of chemicals makes a good business case.

Three parallel panel discussions follow the keynote speeches to elaborate on the three main features of the SAICM model, namely multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and inclusive, and how to make best use of the unique SAICM model towards achieving the 2020 goal.

Panel 1 – Multi-sectoral Collaboration For More Efficient Chemicals Management will demonstrate that collaboration among policy sectors such as environment, health, agriculture and labour result in more efficient chemicals management and better use of resources.

Panel 2 – Multi-stakeholder Collaboration For Sustainable Development will discuss ways in which the recently adopted SDGs and SAICM can be mutually supportive and in particular the opportunities for contributing to achieving the SDGs through SAICM's broad stakeholder participation.

Panel 3 – The SAICM Model in Action will give examples of creative partnerships to inspire all stakeholders to fully use the possibilities offered by the inclusive SAICM model.

The second day of the high-level segment opens with a keynote speech setting out the vision of chemicals management to 2020 and beyond, inspiring all stakeholders to increase their efforts to achieve the 2020 goal in the the last five critical years ahead.

This will be followed by a high-level plenary dialogue, inspired by the outcome of day 1, on using the possibilities of the SAICM model to the full to accelerate implementation towards the 2020 goal. The panelists will also elaborate on their vision of successful outcomes in 2020 in the six core area of activities of SAICM as identified in the Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG).

This session will also provide an opportunity to express commitment and to challenge the panel and the SAICM community. If delegates wish to make statements, they will have an opportunity to do so during this session.

The SAICM Model**A Strategic Approach for Commitment, Action and Impact****High Level Keynote Speeches****Thursday 1 October, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., ROOM 2****Keynote Speech:**

Over centuries, the relationship between indigenous peoples and their environment has been eroded because of dispossession or forced removal from traditional lands and sacred sites and the environmental damage has been substantial.

Sound chemicals management contributes to maintaining the biological diversity and the integrity of natural resources on which so many indigenous communities depend. The health and survival are also impacted by how chemicals are managed.

This keynote speech will elaborate on the indigenous peoples and the environment and the and the opportunities that an inclusive platform like SAICM offers for collaboration among a wide network of stakeholders.

Keynote Speaker:

Ms. Victoria Tauli Corpuz, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Keynote Speech:

Sound management of chemicals makes a good business case.

Emerging regulatory pressure and social trends around sustainability create both pressures and opportunities for companies around the globe. Legislation, customer expectations and companies' own business strategies are driving the innovation for developing more sustainable chemical products and value chains. A key aspect of sustainability is that the products - existing and new- are safe. Loss of consumer confidence could have dramatic economic consequences whilst on the other hand a reputation of providing sustainable, safe products is a competitive advantage.

This keynote speech will give a business perspective on why sound management of chemicals makes a business case and why it makes a win-win for business and society.

Keynote Speaker:

Mr. Michel Giannuzzi, CEO Tarkett

The SAICM Model

A Strategic Approach for Commitment, Action and Impact

High Level Interactive Panel Dialogues

Thursday 1 October, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., ROOM 3

Panel 1 – Multi-sectoral Collaboration For More Efficient Chemicals Management

Context:

Chemicals are used in almost all sectors of society, bringing important benefits in areas from medicine and agriculture to consumer goods, clean technologies and overcoming poverty. Yet, if badly managed, chemicals and the pollution linked with their manufacture, use, and disposal come at a cost to the economy, health and the environment. For example the cost of lead exposure to society can be significant. Lead exposure is estimated to account for 0,6% of the global burden of disease and to contribute to about 600.000 new cases of children with intellectual disabilities every year. Cost-effectiveness gains are possible where actions are coherent and well-coordinated between national agencies.

Message:

Implementing sound management of chemicals at the national level requires a variety of actions that together form an enabling environment. Collaboration between different policy areas such as environment, health, agriculture, and finance, among others, is improving chemicals management at all levels and making most efficient use of resources. There needs to be significant health-sector involvement in the development of inter-agency policies and programmes for chemicals management to enable effective solutions that strengthen chemicals management.

Panellists:

Mr. Robert Pickersgill, Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Jamaica

Ms. Leticia Carvahlo, Director, Ministry of the Environment, Brazil

Mr. Howard Minigh, President and CEO of CropLife International

Dr. Leonardo Trasande, Associate Professor in Paediatrics, Environmental Medicine and Population Health, New York University School of Medicine.

Ms. Génon Jensen, Executive Director Health and Environment Alliance

Moderator:

Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The SAICM Model***A Strategic Approach for Commitment, Action and Impact*****High Level Interactive Panel Dialogues****Thursday 1 October, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., ROOM 4****Panel 2 – Multi-stakeholder Collaboration For Sustainable Development****Context:**

The future global development agenda, set in 2015, or post-2015 Development Agenda, will embrace all aspects of sustainable development and be guided by a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Current and future social, economic, and environmental challenges are interlinked and must be addressed through an integrated approach. The products of chemistry are the backbone of new technologies that will enable a sustainable future and achievement of the SDGs. However, sound management of chemicals is essential for the full realisation of the benefits of chemistry. In the strong linkage between management of chemicals and wastes and the sustainability challenges of food security, nutrition, consumption, production and resource efficiency, lies the potential to support implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

Message:

Sound management of chemicals is a critical factor in achieving sustainable development and the SDGs. Sound management of chemicals underpins every aspect of sustainability and should be integrated in all aspects of investment both in natural capital in the realm of e.g. agriculture, forest, and water, and in economic and social sectors such as energy, industry, building and transportation.

Panellists:

Mr. Mahama Ayariga, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana
Mr. Richard Lesiyampe, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Kenya
Ms Gunvor Ericson, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Sweden
Mr. Daniel Calleja, Director General, DG Environment, European Commission
Mr. Hubert Mandery, Director General, European Chemical Industry Council

Moderator:

Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, former Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Research and Training

The SAICM Model

A Strategic Approach for Commitment, Action and Impact

High Level Interactive Panel Dialogues

Thursday 1 October, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., ROOM 2

Panel 3 – The SAICM Model in Action

Context:

The unique character of SAICM, being a voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform to implement a global goal, has opened up the possibility of establishing a variety of partnerships and collaboration among different stakeholders. Much of the progress in SAICM can be attributed to successful partnerships at all levels - local, regional and global. The flexibility of SAICM also offers unique opportunities to address new issues as they emerge and to involve a wide range of stakeholders. The “emerging policy issue” process is demonstrating the broad scope of activities that can be undertaken under SAICM. Thanks to its non-binding nature, SAICM offers a forum in which the risks of emerging policy issues and measures to deal with them can be considered and addressed at all levels.

Message:

It is essential to make full use of the possibilities offered by the SAICM model, in particular, the flexibility to work together in creative ways to address existing and emerging issues. The SAICM model has developed over the last ten years and there is still scope for even more creative partnerships. Inspiration can be sought from sharing experiences from SAICM and other policy areas.

Panellists:

Ms. Barbara Hendricks, Minister of Environment, Germany

Ms. Christine Dawson, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, US Department of State

Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

Mr. Fleetwood Grobler, Executive Vice President Sasol

Ms. Susan Wilburn, Sustainability Director, Health Care without Harm

Mr. Tadesse Amera, IPEN/Pesticide Action Nexus Association, Ethiopia

Moderator:

Dr. Maria Neira, Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health

The SAICM Model

A Strategic Approach for Commitment, Action and Impact

High Level Keynote Speaker and Plenary Panel Discussion

FRIDAY 2 October, 10 a.m. to 11.45 a.m., ROOM 2

Keynote Speech:

New innovative thinking is needed to tackle the sustainability challenges faced by our society.

One of the challenges is the large and unquantifiable amount of plastic waste that enters the ocean from littering, poorly managed landfills, tourist activities and fisheries. Some of this material sinks to the ocean floor, while some floats and can travel over great distances on ocean currents - polluting shorelines and accumulating in massive mid-ocean gyres. At least 267 different species are known to have suffered from entanglement or ingestion of marine debris including seabirds, turtles, seals, sea lions, whales and fish.

This keynote speech will reflect on how innovation and entrepreneurship can make a difference.

Keynote Speaker:

Mr. Boyan Slat, Founder and CEO of The Ocean Cleanup

The SAICM Model

A Strategic Approach for Commitment, Action and Impact

High Level Keynote Speaker and Plenary Panel Discussion

FRIDAY 2 October, 10 a.m. to 11.45 a.m., ROOM 2

Plenary Panel

Context:

While significant progress has been made in some parts of the world, there are still differences between, and within, regions of the global community. Only five years remain for governments, industry and other stakeholders to achieve the 2020 goal. Although considerable efforts are being made, all stakeholders need to commit and stay engaged in order to accelerate progress. The Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals (OOG) is expected to be a key policy outcome of ICCM-4. It provides direction to all stakeholders including some concrete guidance and actions points for identified core activity areas.

Message:

Commitment of all stakeholders is essential for the SAICM model to reach its full capacity during the critical time leading up to 2020. This includes efficient collaboration between policy areas at all levels, broad engagement of stakeholder in creative partnerships and making best use of its inherent flexibility to address existing and emerging issues. New commitments to the core activities identified in the OOG are needed to achieve the 2020 goal.

Panellists:

President Carlos Salinas, Commissioner for the Global Commission on Pollution, Health and Development

Ms. Barbara Thomson, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, South Africa

Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO, Global Environment Facility

Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

Mr You Xiaoping , Chairperson Huafon

Mr. Cal Dooley, Secretary General, International Council of Chemical Associations

Mr. Manny Calonzo, Co-Chairperson IPEN

Moderator:

Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe