

# Governments

## CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>

*Comments from the United States – General comments are included under each section heading below, and specific suggestions are embedded (in red) in the text.*

*Overall Comment: It would be very useful to somehow distinguish between areas where there was a common understanding amongst most participants, and where there was a suggestion from only one or a few participants.*

### Introduction

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), through Conference resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process to provide recommendations for consideration at ICCM5 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

ICCM resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term".

The present summary sets out the co-chairs' views of the contributions of the participants in the first meeting of the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 held in Brasilia, Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017. This summary should be read in conjunction with the official report of the meeting.

While the Co-Chairs' summary is not intended to present a consensus view, in some areas there was a common understanding. The document is solely that of the Co-Chairs and is non-negotiated.

It is important to note that the discussions at the first meeting of the intersessional process and the Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting are not intended to limit any additional ideas and views to be considered in further discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The present Co-Chairs' summary will be submitted to all SAICM stakeholders for further input and comments in order for it to further inform the discussions during the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

### Why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?

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<sup>1</sup> Document to be formally edited.

This section describes why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is being considered. This section is further linked to the vision for such a future platform.

### **Vision**

- It should be built on the vision set out in UNEA I/5 and referenced in ICCM resolution IV/4, namely “To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development.”<sup>2</sup>
- It is essential to enhance political awareness and commitment, at the highest levels, in order to meet this vision.

Furthermore, the following elements may be considered:

- It should take into account the SAICM Overall Policy Strategy, the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, including the 11 basic elements.
- All stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure the 11 basic elements of sound management of chemicals and waste, as set out in SAICM's Overall Orientation and Guidance, exist in all countries.
- **Although** ~~the vision~~ **should may** be ~~timeless (not limited to 2030) and~~ aspirational, **and it should also be** linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements **and milestones**.

*U.S. Comment: We suggest reflecting here that many participants believed it was important to have a target date, rather than a “timeless” framework, as well as the fact that an aspirational goal does not preclude having concrete milestones and objectives.*

- It should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and **in** particular goals 3, 6 and 12 recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is ~~an essential prerequisite~~ **important for** sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

*U.S. Comment: We would like to suggest the edit noted above. Neither the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development nor the ICCM4 resolutions mention that the sound management of chemicals and waste is a prerequisite for sustainable development.*

- Consider efforts, in particular, where we have the largest opportunity to foster change and to have the greatest impact.
- It should be complementary to and foster coordination with the work of, other environmental multilateral agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary,

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<sup>2</sup>United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste – Annex I, paragraph 7: Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term.

while avoiding duplication and overlap and ~~to promote~~ promoting policy coherence at all relevant levels.

- Momentum should build upon strengthening the linkages of chemicals to policy areas of high priority like climate change and gender equality, amongst others.

### **What could a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 cover?**

This section describes what a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 could cover. This section is further linked to the scope for such a future platform. Making progress on the scope of the future platform is a priority for the second meeting of the intersessional process.

In considering the *scope*, the following elements may be considered:

#### **Scope**

*U.S. Comments on this section: We agree that it is important to agree on the scope of a future platform early in the intersessional process. In particular, we believe it will be critical to discuss and reach a common understanding of the types of waste that are being considered for SAICM beyond 2020, as is flagged below.*

*We support the emphasis below on the importance of chemicals and waste management systems, and we believe that the focus of SAICM beyond 2020 should be on establishing basic chemicals and waste management regimes, for all regions and countries, especially developing countries that are facing rapid increases in chemical manufacturing, distribution and disposal. We therefore believe that any work on specific chemicals and waste issues should be focused on those issues that clearly contribute to basic chemicals and waste management in countries where it is still needed. We would also like to discuss, as part of the intersessional process, a change in terminology related to issues of concern, as well as a clearer definition of the requirements for designating such issues. We believe that the specific issues most critical to basic chemicals and waste management are more appropriately described as “new or persistent public health and environmental issues”.*

*We also note the enthusiasm for linking SAICM beyond 2020 to the SDGs, and we believe SDG implementation provides an important opportunity to raise awareness of and leverage additional resources for chemicals and waste issues at the national and international levels. In our view, the Overarching Policy Strategy and 6 Core Activity Areas, which promote development of the capacity for sound chemicals management, are especially relevant for the SDGs. Focusing limited resources on this core capacity, as indicated by a number of participants, rather than specific chemicals management issues, will allow linkages to more of the SDG targets, and will allow countries to better leverage the SDGs to support national chemicals management efforts. However, we would like to emphasize that countries determine how they will implement the SDGs, and we believe it is outside SAICM’s scope of authority to prescribe methods for such implementation.*

*Finally, we note with appreciation the WHO roadmap on chemicals and the health sector, and support referencing it, as appropriate, when considering the scope of SAICM Beyond 2020. However, we note that coming to an agreement on a roadmap for chemicals and waste, as suggested in the first bullet in this section, could be an onerous and time-consuming process, and duplicative of the Overall Orientation and Guidance and therefore do not believe it would be a valuable undertaking. It was also not supported by many participants at the meeting.*

- Scope should consider the 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, as well as the WHO health sector roadmap, as a practical way to reflect on the scope beyond 2020. A roadmap for chemicals and waste could be considered.
- ~~It~~ **Scope** should include and address the elements on ‘Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long-term’ as incorporated in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste.
- ~~The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including waste.~~ The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including the consideration of sectors, prevention and waste.

*U.S. Comment: The two sentences in the above bullet are redundant.*

- The basics of chemicals and waste management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory **and infrastructure** challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to emerging issues of concern.

*U.S. Comment: Many developing countries also have significant infrastructure challenges especially for waste—i.e., engineered landfills, emissions-controlled incinerators, trash trucks, etc.*

- There are several Sustainable Development Goals where clear connections can be made and where measurable objectives and milestones and supplementary indicators could be developed in support of the 2030 Agenda.

*U.S. Comment: As noted in the general comments above, country implementation of the SDGs should be determined at the national level. We therefore believe it is outside the scope of SAICM to develop supplementary indicators in support of the 2030 Agenda.*

- At the global, regional and national level, the scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to: prevention policies; new emerging issues; climate change; a broadened health agenda; institutional strengthening; the life cycle approach; the potential contribution of sustainable chemistry; sustainability; as well as gender **equality** and vulnerable populations, especially indigenous peoples, **workers**, women, children, and through them future generations.

***U.S. Comment: We suggest including workers to this list of vulnerable populations.***

- Collaborative actions should be fostered on new and emerging issues, particularly issues not currently covered under existing policy frameworks and agreements.
- The Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach.
- Work should be based on relevant scientific data and information and consider key elements of chemicals management systems.
- At this meeting, there was no discussion regarding what type of waste issues are being considered in the scope of the beyond 2020 context.

**How could the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 be realized?**

***U.S. Comment on this section: We would like to stress the importance of understanding and retaining the parts of SAICM that have been effective for most regions in making progress toward the 2020 goal, and discontinuing the elements of SAICM that have not been as effective. We hope that the independent evaluation will be useful in determining what should be maintained, and what should be discontinued.***

This section describes how a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste could be realized. This section is connected to governance, new and emerging issues, science-policy interface, financing, sustainable and green chemistry as well as national implementation.

The how will be informed by the independent evaluation of SAICM and should focus on the gaps in reaching the 2020 goal.

Drawing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, linkages should be made to other agendas such as biodiversity, oceans and climate change, food and agriculture, health, gender equality and labour.

In considering the how, the following elements should be taken into account:

**Governance**

***U.S. Comments on this section: In our view, SAICM's voluntary, multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach has been critical to its success. The flexibility of this approach allows for collaboration where possible on chemicals management issues that are complex and dependent on local and national circumstances, and it reaches solutions that are often more practical because it is influenced by a more diverse, multi-stakeholder range of experience. We agree with the need for clear milestones, and we would encourage reporting questionnaires to be limited to defined indicators only, with the opportunity to provide additional information if desired. We would also like to note that the development of plans of action was a focus of the Quick Start Programme, and each country should have one by now. We do not believe this exercise should be repeated after 2020. Rather, the focus should be implementation.***

- The voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, that has been integral to the nature of SAICM, should continue. Voluntary standards, common objectives of protection and codes of practice, to which relevant stakeholders may **voluntarily commit pledge** for some issues, should also be considered.

*U.S. Comment: We suggest a change in terminology in the above bullet, because the term “commitment” implies an action that is not voluntary.*

- Some participants advocated to explore more elements, as well as potential elements, that **would could** be legally binding. **Potential legally binding elements could also be explored.**

*U.S. Comment: We agree this was raised (though it got very little support), but don't understand the intended difference between these two sentences.*

- Functionally, the design should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sector participation at all levels (national, regional and global) along with a targeted approach, as an essential means to promote impact, involvement, ownership and commitment.
- There is a need to increase industry engagement, by for example promoting partnership approaches in the future platform and **by representing the entire life cycle**, including **supply chains and** the waste and downstream sectors.

*U.S. Comment: We assume that relevant stakeholders under SAICM (current and future) would encompass any stakeholders involved throughout the entire life cycle, and believe it is helpful to clarify that here.*

- Partnerships should focus on public needs and **be in line with agreed principles and values. They should** be transparent and accountable; ensure multi-stakeholder involvement; provide an added value; and complement rather than substitute commitments made by governments.

*U.S. Comment: we suggest removing the above language because it is unclear what the “agreed principles and values” are to which it refers. The rest of the bullet mentions several characteristics of partnerships, which this phrase may have been designed to encompass.*

- The future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill the gaps and coordinate with decision-making bodies of the Participating Organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), other relevant agencies and organizations. This could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the ICCM (i.e. governments, NGOs, **industry**, and IGOs) to one where the sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) can play a more formal role. There are opportunities to link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- Measuring progress, including objectives and milestones, and supplementary indicators, in addition to the SDG targets and indicators, as well as a related plan of action including at the national level. The 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance are a useful starting point.
- Measurable objectives, as noted in paragraph 10 of ICCM Resolution IV/4, should be considered, including on means of implementation in order to **ensure promote** effectiveness.
- Clear milestones would support the capacity to evaluate progress and would **ensure promote** transparency.

*U.S. Comment: We suggest replacing the word “ensure” here, above, and below with a different verb, as we believe these actions will help with effectiveness and transparency, but not “ensure” them.*

#### **New and emerging issues / Issues of concern**

*U.S. Comments on this section: As noted above in the section on scope, we agree that establishing chemicals management infrastructure should remain a priority. Here, as above, we also note that we believe “emerging” issues are more appropriately described as “new or persistent issues”, and that requirements should be established for designating these issues. We also support the below suggestion to build on existing efforts by stakeholders and sectors, and to include a focus on prevention and minimization, and we agree with the need to consider the implementation of a lifecycle approach.*

*Finally, we welcome discussions of how specific chemicals management issues could be prioritized, and how issues could be retired when they are no longer directly relevant or if they do not fall within priority areas. We also believe that discussions of specific chemicals and waste issues for work beyond 2020 should only occur once a post-2020 framework has been established.*

- **Ensure Help stakeholders access an** information and knowledge **base** on chemicals and waste, including early warning systems that can inform work on new and emerging issues.
- Focus on scientific and technical capacity building **faeing related to** new and emerging issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account different needs at the regional level.
- The basics of chemicals management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to the issues of concern.
- Build on existing efforts by stakeholders and sectors and focus on prevention and minimization.
- Develop a concept for a process of nomination, prioritization and evaluation **that builds on the existing nomination process and** is robust and relevant. Future activities on emerging issues should be focused on where there is added value.

*U.S. Comment: We do not think it is necessary to develop an entirely new process for nomination of issues of concern, and suggest reflecting here that we should keep the aspects of the existing process that work well.*

- Monitoring of already identified emerging issues.
- There should be reflection on and consideration of the implementation of a lifecycle approach.
- Give priority to the identification of hazardous chemicals in products, as well as those used in production and throughout their lifecycle.
- Actions should be categorized to facilitate work planning, for example:
  - Areas where some scientific information exists and there is a need to increase the knowledge base.
  - New emerging issues where we need to promote understanding and awareness.
  - Development of national or regional chemicals and waste management systems, including refinement of existing systems.
  - Issues which need global or coordinated action.

### **Science-policy interface**

*U.S. Comment on this section: We agree with the below point that it is important to recognize and cooperate with existing entities and mechanisms for provision of scientific advice on chemicals and waste, but we do not believe there is a need for a new mechanism. Also, the Overarching Policy Strategy includes several activities related to science and technical exchanges. It would be useful to include more of those concepts here.*

- Explore how to strengthen the link between science, public health and policy in global chemicals and waste governance.
- Recognize the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice on chemicals and waste by intergovernmental and international bodies such as UNEP, WHO and the chemicals and wastes conventions secretariats.

*U.S. comment: We believe it is more appropriate to reference the chemicals and waste conventions, rather than the secretariats, because Party experts (not the secretariats) provide science advice in those arenas.*

- Consideration of the social interface and the full range of scientific and public health disciplines.
- Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy-making and action, including existing mechanisms, in other clusters, such as climate change and biodiversity.
- There were also some some comments regarding the need to focus on scientific capacity building and caution about diverting resources from implementation.

### **Financing**

***U.S. Comment on this section: We appreciate the reference below to the Integrated Approach for Financing Chemicals and Waste that was agreed through the Consultative Process. It is well recognized that this Integrated Approach includes three elements to financing: mainstreaming in national budgets and development planning; the role of the private sector; and dedicated external financing. All of these elements will need to be emphasized in any financing discussions as part of the intersessional process. We also note that there are several existing sources of funding for SAICM implementation, including \$8.19 million in the current GEF replenishment.***

- The integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste is composed of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing (UNEP/GC 27/12 and UNEA 1/5). The implementation of the integrated approach is essential for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term.
- Providing sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long term, with **some** emphasizing ~~on~~ the role of developed countries.

***U.S. Comment: Though some participants specifically emphasized developed countries, many referred to the integrated approach. If sustainable, predictable financing is referenced here, it should also be mentioned in the bullet below on national budgets and sectoral policies.***

- A broader range of contributions should be considered that are predictable, sustainable and adequate.
- Mainstreaming in national budgets and sectoral policies.
- Provide effective capacity building in relevant areas and also focus on the importance of building and strengthening institutional capacity and the need to engage industry in solutions.
- Broadening the donor base for sound management of chemicals and waste, including exploring untapped resources linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Building on existing funding structures at all levels, including lessons learned from existing funding mechanisms.
- Promote enhanced funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the GEF Trust Fund, Green Climate Fund and others with access for all eligible countries and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with applicable rules.

### **Sustainable and Green Chemistry**

***U.S. Comments on this section:***

***We agree it is important to discuss sustainable and green chemistry and their role in SAICM beyond 2020 as part of this intersessional process. Though it's implied, we suggest clearly stating here the view of many that it will be important to have a mutual understanding of what sustainable and green chemistry mean in the SAICM context. We also suggest***

*reflecting that many view sustainable chemistry as closely linked to life cycle assessment and sustainable development.*

*We would also like to emphasize that concepts such as sustainable chemistry complement, rather than replace, basic chemicals management. Sound chemicals management is a prerequisite for sustainable chemistry and building capacity for sound chemicals management should be the focus of SAICM beyond 2020.*

- There was some debate concerning the definition of sustainable versus green chemistry. **The view of many was that it will be important to have a mutual understanding of what sustainable chemistry means in the SAICM context.** However, there was agreement that there were useful aspects of these concepts that should be followed up at the next intersessional process meeting.
- **It was noted that sustainable chemistry is closely linked to sustainable development.**

### **National Implementation**

*U.S. Comments on this section:*

*As previously noted, all countries should have National Action Plans by now. The milestones/indicators mentioned above should be the tools to guide and measure implementation. In our view, the focus on National Action Plans has come at the expense of implementation.*

- National Action Plans were mentioned as a possible tool to address the sound management of chemicals and waste, focusing in particular on building in-country capacity for basic chemicals and waste management with the support of international cooperation.
  - Additional elements such as institutional strengthening and information sharing were highlighted for making progress at the national level.
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MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO

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La Misión Permanente de México ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales con sede en Ginebra saluda muy atentamente al Secretariado del Enfoque Estratégico para la Gestión de Productos Químicos a Nivel Internacional (SAICM), y tiene el honor de hacer referencia a su Nota Verbal OGE02356, fechada el 10 de julio de 2017, relativa al resumen de los Copresidentes de la Primera Reunión del Proceso entre Períodos de Sesiones para el Enfoque Estratégico y la Gestión Racional de los Productos Químicos y los Residuos más allá de 2020, celebrada en Brasilia, Brasil, del 07 al 09 de febrero de 2017.

Al respecto, la Misión Permanente tiene el honor de transmitir los siguientes comentarios adicionales preparados por la Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA):

**Comentarios particulares**

Sección	Comentarios
"Governance"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fortalecer y actualizar los marcos regulatorios y jurídicos, para combatir el tráfico ilícito de materiales, sustancias, desechos electrónicos y residuos peligrosos. (Acuerdos Internacionales);</li><li>Establecer estrategias globales que permitan combatir el tráfico ilícito de materiales, sustancias, desechos electrónicos y residuos peligrosos.</li></ul>

La Misión Permanente de México ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales con sede en Ginebra aprovecha la oportunidad para reiterar al Secretariado del Enfoque Estratégico para la Gestión de Productos Químicos a Nivel Internacional (SAICM), las seguridades de su más atenta y distinguida consideración.

Ginebra, a 13 de julio de 2017.

**Al Secretariado del Enfoque Estratégico para la Gestión de Productos Químicos a Nivel Internacional (SAICM),  
Ginebra**

The image shows an official blue ink stamp of the Mexican Mission to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The stamp is circular and contains the text 'MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO' and 'OFICINA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS'. Below the stamp, there is a handwritten signature in black ink.



La Misión Permanente de México ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales con sede en Ginebra saluda muy atentamente al Secretariado del Enfoque Estratégico para la Gestión de Productos Químicos a Nivel Internacional (SAICM), y tiene el honor de hacer referencia a la invitación extendida a las Partes interesadas a enviar sus comentarios al resumen de los Copresidentes de la Primera Reunión del Proceso entre Periodos de Sesiones para el Enfoque Estratégico y la Gestión Racional de los Productos Químicos y los Residuos más allá de 2020, celebrada en Brasilia, Brasil, del 07 al 09 de febrero de 2017.

Al respecto, la Misión Permanente tiene el honor de transmitir los siguientes comentarios preparados por la Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) y la Secretaría de Salud:

#### **Comentarios generales**

- El documento establece una serie de propuestas sobre las características que debería tener un mecanismo internacional para el manejo integral de sustancias y residuos. Se entiende que el documento en mérito pretende darle continuidad al SAICM después del 2020, aunque no es claro si se trata de un nuevo mecanismo o será el mismo SAICM;
- Se propone retomar el *"Overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals"*, *"Overarching policy strategy"* y *"The 11 basic elements that have been recognized as critical at the national and regional levels to the attainment of sound chemicals and waste management"*, al tiempo que conservaría la naturaleza no vinculante del SAICM;
- El documento conserva las carencias más significativas del SAICM, como son la falta de una guía clara para su implementación, el carácter excesivamente general de sus actividades, la falta de metas e indicadores claros y medibles y el hecho de que es un instrumento voluntario.



**Comentarios particulares**

Sección	Comentarios
<p><b>“New and emerging issues/Issues of concern”</b></p>	<p>Tomando en cuenta que debe existir disponibilidad de información científica suficiente y actualizada para aquellos países que requieren fortalecer el manejo de las sustancias químicas y residuos, en particular los países en desarrollo, se sugiere la inclusión del párrafo siguiente:</p> <p><i>“Establish national, regional and global mechanisms that allow the Exchange of scientific information between those who generate it and those who require it for informed decision-making, respecting, where required, intellectual property rights and industrial secrecy”.</i></p>
<p><b>“Vision”</b></p>	<p>Para este apartado es importante considerar que el éxito para la consecución del objetivo del SAICM, también depende del compromiso, la cooperación, sensibilización y participación de todos los interesados y de que se cuente con recursos financieros y técnicos sostenibles.</p>
<p><b>“Vision. Futhermore, the following elements may be considered”</b></p>	<p>En el listado de esta sección, el punto que dice <i>“It should be complementary to and Foster coordination with the work of, other environmental multilateral agreements frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap and to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels”</i>, se sugiere complementar el apartado indicando la importancia de la cooperación y coordinación con los secretariados de otros convenios vinculantes o no sobre el medio ambiente, para fortalecer las cuestiones transversales y que se indique como ejemplo, la reducción de riesgos de sustancias, mercurio, desechos electrónicos, eliminación progresiva de plaguicidas, entre otros; ya que son temas que deben trabajarse de forma sinérgica con instrumentos vinculantes como el Convenio de Basilea, Estocolmo y más recientemente con el Convenio de Minamata sobre Mercurio.</p>



**SAICM: Invitation to submit input and suggestions to the Co-chairs' summary of the First Meeting of the Intersessional Process**

**Dear sir / Madam,**

Respect to your letter dated may /13/2017 concerning the above . Mentioned subject

<!--[if !supportLists]-->- We would like to inform you that we don't have any inputs and suggestions about this subject.

**Best regards,**

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***Republic of Iraq  
Ministry of Environment  
Department of International Environmental Relations  
Website: <http://www.moen.gov.iq>***

***Email: [moen\\_iraq@yahoo.com](mailto:moen_iraq@yahoo.com) ; [moen.iraq@gmail.com](mailto:moen.iraq@gmail.com) &[moen.iraq@moen.gov.iq](mailto:moen.iraq@moen.gov.iq)***

**Objet: Final call - input to the Intersessional Process considering the Strategic Approach and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020**

Dear SAICM Secretariat,

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of July 4th, and you indicate that Haiti would be interested in SAICM also supporting specific activities after the establishment of organizational and operational structures at the country level.

Such activities could include, for example, projects to protect groundwater from chemicals and hazardous wastes, and the selection and consolidation of landfill sites to compensate for the weaknesses of the Basel Convention.

Some activities could also be linked to the establishment of permanent structures at the level of ministries, institutions (town halls, civil society, etc.) involved in the management of chemicals and hazardous wastes.

We believe that this approach is essential for some developing countries confronted with administrative delays in the bureaucracy of international conventions and the application of these conventions.

Best regards,

**Dr Evans LOUIS, DDS, MPH**  
**Directeur Cadre de Vie et Assainissement**  
**Ministère de l'Environnement**  
**Tel: (509) 4808-8095**

## **SUBMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

### **SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE BEYOND 2020**

The European Union and its Member States have the honour to submit their views on the sound management of chemicals and waste (SMCW) beyond 2020. We kindly request the Secretariat to make this submission available to all stakeholders in advance of the second meeting of the intersessional process on this matter launched by ICCM resolution IV/4.

The beyond 2020 process stems from UNEA resolution 1/5 and its development has been given renewed commitment by the 2030 Agenda that anchors the SMCW firmly in the sustainable development realm. It provides a valuable opportunity to design a framework that can strengthen the institutional landscape on chemicals and waste and enable the scaling up of activities and policies by all stakeholders and sectors for the protection of human health and the environment. The purpose of this process (section II), including new ways for mobilising the UN-system and other stakeholders is addressed below. It is also important to carefully craft coherent and coordinated policies and actions, including programmatic functions, and consider the most adequate governance structures to effectively enhance action, including at the national level (see Section III). Some general comments on the format and process are included in Section I.

We look forward to explaining our views and listening to the views of others at that meeting and engaging in a constructive spirit in discussions to reach common understandings on the SMCW beyond 2020, including decisions and actions that may be required at all levels and in all relevant *fora* (including ICCM and the governing bodies of other relevant organisations) to ensure coherent and coordinated implementation of the SMCW as an essential and integral crosscutting element of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

#### **I. GENERAL ISSUES ON FORMAT AND PROCESS**

##### **(a) The process is about the views of the stakeholders**

The first meeting of the intersessional process on the SMCW beyond 2020 ("the Beyond 2020 process"), which was held in Brasilia in February 2017, was a significant landmark to start that process, which involves all relevant stakeholders and sectors and, at the same time, give it sufficient political and public attention.

For the second and subsequent meetings of this process, the European Union and its Member States believe that it will be important to foster direct dialogue among all stakeholders. The priority should be to use the limited time available to ensure as much as possible direct dialogue among governments and other key stakeholders. Exchange among stakeholders may be fostered through lunch events or other interactive formats. If scheduled, side-events and similar activities should focus on new issues and knowledge of relevance for SMCW to enable them being considered in the deliberations.

This second meeting should in particular be used to exchange views on the submissions made by stakeholders in preparation of this meeting. This is essential in order to use the limited

time and number of meetings in the most efficient way to identify proposals and possible common understandings that stakeholders, in particular governmental participants, could take forward at ICCM-5 and other relevant decision-making bodies (e.g. UNEA, WHA, ILC, FAO Conference, etc.). In particular, the role of the decision-making bodies of each organisation of the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)<sup>1</sup>, and also of others (e.g. High Level Political Forum or even UNGA) should be considered. Regional and sub-regional bodies could also be of relevance. From our side, we will be happy to take the time to explain our views and engage and listen to the views of others, if appropriate in dedicated sessions.

**(b) The important role of representatives of relevant multilateral organisations and UN coordinating bodies**

Representatives from each IOMC organisation as well as from other relevant multilateral organisations also have an essential role to play. In addition to their substantive and technical input to the discussion, it seems necessary to allocate some specific time for these organisations to inform other stakeholders about relevant decisions and actions taken by each organisation and those that may be taken, within their own mandate, on the SMCW up to and beyond 2020. This should be part of a targeted mapping exercise.

ICCM resolution IV/1 already invites each IOMC organisation to issue a declaration signalling its commitment to promote the SMCW and the actions planned within its own mandate to meet the 2020 goal. This invitation is based on a prior, similar call from the UN Environment Management Group (EMG). The actions planned each organisation under their own mandate will remain relevant beyond 2020. They should build on the existing commitment to SAICM of each of these organisations. This commitment should be enhanced to ensure the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The European Union and its Member States would like to emphasise the importance of the specific opportunity during the process to listen to and interact with each IOMC organisation on its plans that can be envisaged towards achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets, in implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The second meeting of the Beyond 2020 process could, for example, address matters specifically related to labour (ILO) and agriculture (FAO), as it was done for health (WHO) during the first meeting. This would require adequate, high level participation from these organisations.

In addition, the representatives of these organisations should ensure that the members and governing bodies of each organisation, and key coordinating bodies of the UN, such as the EMG and the Chief Executive Board of Coordination (CEB)<sup>2</sup>, are fully aware of the discussions on the SMCW beyond 2020 and that adequate proposals are presented to them to ensure their involvement in and ownership of the tasks to be undertaken by each organisation. Resolution WHA 69.4 and, more recently, WHA70.36 on “The role of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to international Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond” and the roadmap recently adopted by WHA are good examples how to enhance the engagement of other organisation in the SMCW.

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<sup>1</sup> The nine Participating Organizations contributing to the IOMC: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Labour Organization (ILO); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); World Health Organization (WHO); World Bank; Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

<sup>2</sup> The Chiefs Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) is the prime instrument for strengthening the coordination role of UN inter-governmental bodies, and encompasses 31 UN bodies.

**(c) The facilitation role of the co-chairs**

The European Union and its Member States also want to thank the co-chairs of the process for their work. The role of the co-chairs remains essential to ensure that meetings are conducted effectively and discussions among stakeholders are facilitated, taking into account the mandate given in ICCM resolution IV/4 and, by reference, UNEA resolution 1/5.

This facilitation role entails upholding the ownership of the process by the stakeholders. As mentioned above, the views submitted by the various stakeholders and the understandings reached among them, in particular among governmental participants, would be the basis for possible proposals, decisions and actions to be taken in relevant *fora*, including ICCM.

**(d) The ICCM-4 mandate**

The European Union and its Member States also want to emphasise the need to keep closely in mind the mandate given by ICCM in its resolution IV/4 for the Beyond 2020 process as meetings of experts to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. These meetings offer an opportunity for discussions among stakeholders to facilitate possible decisions by the appropriate bodies of the different organisations involved (i.e. ICCM, but also all other relevant decision-making bodies involved in the SMCW, as mentioned already above).

It is important to recall that ICCM resolution IV/4 also decided that this process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNEA resolution 1/5 and its annex on "*Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term*" (attached herewith), including the vision contained therein.

Furthermore, the resolution also identifies the documents that should be made available to stakeholders for reference. There is no specific mandate to the participants in the process to request the secretariat to prepare further documents, which may only be considered if feasible and consensually agreed.

## II. **PURPOSE OF THE BEYOND 2020 PROCESS**

### (a) **The Beyond 2020 process is about the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term and it is not limited to the future of SAICM.**

This process is a follow-up to the country-led process which led to the outcome document "*Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term*", as reflected in an annex to UNEA resolution 1/5 (see attached). Following that process, and in the context of the 2030 Agenda, SAICM has provided the most adequate multisectoral and multi-stakeholder forum to discuss the "sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020"; however, this should not be confused with a meeting to discuss only the future of SAICM. The SMCW is broader than SAICM.

The UN EMG has also emphasised the role of a broad range of UN and related agencies on these matters, across a diverse range of sectors, both directly and indirectly. Although very important, SAICM is currently only one of the instruments to address the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Other instruments, organisations and bodies are also relevant (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions; each IOMC organisation; Montreal Protocol; GEF; etc.), since the SMCW beyond 2020 should rely on all relevant existing bodies and build on their strengths, fostering collaboration among them. All of them, their mandate and actions should be taken into account when considering the SMCW beyond 2020.

This is without prejudice to the opportunity to reshape SAICM to improve its functioning, towards the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term, and in line with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

### (b) **Mapping of all relevant work under each organisation**

The process offers an opportunity to continue to map all relevant work that has been done and is being done on the SMCW in each *fora*, by all stakeholders, but with particular emphasis on policies and actions at all levels by each relevant multilateral organisation, especially IOMC organisations. This will permit the identification of elements that may be missing (e.g. voluntary guidance or guidelines towards common objectives for protection) and how to improve the functioning of the existing instruments (e.g. possibly in a new multisectoral, multi-stakeholder framework) and foster cooperation and coordination among them. This exercise could also lead to recommendations to avoid duplication, maximise resources and enhance efficiency.

### (c) **Increased awareness, involvement and ownership**

Open exchanges between stakeholders, including the mentioned mapping exercise, will increase awareness of the crosscutting nature of the SMCW and should be used to enhance involvement and ownership of each organisation under its own mandates. The mapping would be an important element in order to develop recommendations on the SMCW in the long term, taking also into account SAICM's independent evaluation.

### (d) **Enhanced coherence through a clear allocation of tasks**

Increased awareness, involvement and ownership will foster the commitment of each stakeholder and sector to act, under its own mandate, but in a coordinated and coherent manner with other stakeholders and sectors through a clear allocation of tasks and related commitments, particularly in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and meeting all relevant goals and targets related to the SMCW. How to ensure

such enhanced coordination in view of existing and possible new structures should also be considered (see below).

**(e) The Beyond 2020 process is the place to discuss an enabling framework to address policy, regulatory and governance issues.**

On the basis of effective mapping and building on increased awareness, involvement and ownership by each stakeholder and sector, the Beyond 2020 process offers the best opportunity to consider the possibility of establishing an enabling framework, building on existing organisations and bodies relevant to the SMCW, to address policy, regulatory and governance issues, closely linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Beyond 2020 process should not replicate the work that has already taken place or that is taking place in parallel, whether it is work undertaken within SAICM (e.g. Overall Orientation and Guidance; Emerging Policy Issues; etc.) or under other instruments (e.g. Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Minamata, WHO, ILO, OECD, etc.) or stakeholders. A good example concerns actions regarding the treatment of waste as well as circular and lifecycle approaches, which are already addressed in the work of SAICM, such as on the Overall Orientation and Guidance and on the EPIs, but updates might be required in relation to SAICM's Overall Policy Strategy.

### **III. SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE BEYOND 2020**

#### **III.A LONG TERM VISION AND 2030 AGENDA TARGETS**

##### **III.A.1 Long term, timeless vision**

The UNEA 1/5 Annex on "*Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term*" provides a long term (timeless) vision which has already been consensually agreed at the multilateral level and remains valid for the discussions in the Beyond 2020 process:

*"To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development"*.

This vision introduces explicitly the element of "prevention", which is essential in the pursuit of a future detoxified and a key concept for the development of the circular economy. It also underlines its importance for the three dimensions of sustainable development and therefore links directly with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a whole, and remains of relevance beyond that date.

Furthermore, it is important to emphasise that sustainable development goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda explicitly address "*chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle*" and "*their adverse impacts on human health and the environment*". It is therefore necessary to think in terms of lifecycle for all chemicals and waste in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

##### **III.A.2 2030 Agenda Targets**

Various targets of the 2030 Agenda contain precise milestones and timelines which depend to a large extent on the SMCW. The most direct, relevant and pressing one of them is contained in SDG target 12.4:

*"12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimise their adverse impacts on human health and the environment"*.

It is important that all efforts continue to meet this target, without trying to re-define or change its timeline or scope. Even if by 2020 it might have to be acknowledged that this target has not been fully met, this would evidence that efforts have to be intensified. Furthermore, missing elements or actions to meet this target should be red-flagged as absolute priority actions to be undertaken in implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which addresses all waste and all adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

In addition, work should continue in an enabling framework to implement all necessary actions to meet all other relevant targets, including (without listing all of them) target 3.9 (by 2030), 6.3 (by 2030), 12.5 (by 2030), 12.8 (by 2030), 14.1 (by 2025), etc. This broad framework would be without prejudice to focused implementation activities under each relevant instrument, such as a renewed and improved SAICM which could still galvanise hard core policies and actions on chemicals and waste and thus would have a particular focus on target 12.4.

It is crucial that the Beyond 2020 process respects the 2030 Agenda and its goals and targets and delivers to achieve them. Furthermore, the process should develop its own milestones and objectives to foster implementation of the 2030 Agenda (see III.B.1(c) below).

### **III.A.3 Communication Motto**

The vision and the goals and targets to be attained are without prejudice to the possible development of a simple and direct narrative and motto, such as a "non toxic environment", a "detoxified future", "end chemicals and waste pollution" or another brief motto to facilitate communication and increase public and political awareness (see also section III.B.1(d) below on Communication and Awareness).

## **III.B. POLICIES, ACTIONS AND GOVERNANCE**

It seems advisable to group the substantive discussions around two basic questions or sets of issues:

1. What needs to be done? Scientific and technical discussions are required on policies and actions and tools and instruments that are needed to implement and complement existing policies and actions, including consideration of possible additional actions and standards of protection.
2. How should it be done? Governance and framework discussions should consider the role of current instruments and the possibility of a new enabling framework or approach to improve the current one. Questions such as multi-stakeholder and multisectoral framework of participation as well as implementation of the integrated approach to financing, at all levels should be discussed as an integral part of governance.

These two questions are sufficiently general and provide the necessary flexibility to discuss any relevant matters, while avoiding the multiplication of subjects to be addressed individually and the duplication with other ongoing discussions.

### **III.B.1 Policies and Actions: What needs to be done?**

#### **(a) Continued implementation of existing instruments**

- Without prejudice to the likely need to review and adjust SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy in line with the 2030 Agenda (see section III.B.2(d)), the Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG) will remain relevant and useful beyond 2020. Its implementation is essential to meet the relevant 2030 Agenda targets and to move closer to a common, long term vision (see above).

In particular, the 11 basic elements and the six core activity areas of the OOG should continue to guide prioritisation of action notably at the national and regional level (e.g. implementation of the GHS). Therefore, these elements can still constitute the "main substantive content" of a new enabling framework beyond 2020 which will foster the achievement of milestones (see below) and eventually of the 2030 agenda goals and targets (and which also would need to be better communicated, see below). Furthermore, a clear allocation of the tasks described in the OOG among the different sectors and stakeholders, and when they should be accomplished, would ensure this prioritisation and provide an adequate starting point for a new enabling framework.

- The continued and improved implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as well as implementation of the Minamata Convention will also be essential in a beyond 2020 framework. The work of their scientific and technical bodies should be preserved.
- Each IOMC organisation should continue to adopt decisions and implement actions to ensure mainstreaming of the SMCW within its mandate. There should be concrete plans of each one of these organisation for this, which look beyond 2020, including policies and actions to achieve relevant goals and targets of the 2030 agenda. These plans should be communicated widely to ensure awareness by all stakeholders of each other's work and permit a coherent and coordinated allocation of tasks.

**(b) Complementary and/or Enhanced Policies and Actions**

- Future actions should give priority to prevention policies and measures (i.e. hazard elimination or risk reduction).
- Efforts should be increased to enable further development and sharing of scientific and technical data, including hazard, exposure and risk evaluations, best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP), for possible reference and use by all countries. Increased access to information also is needed for companies and consumers to make informed choices

As the Annex to UNEA 1/5 ("*Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term*") states: "*improved access to and generation and sharing of information of relevant data and understandable information throughout the supply chain are necessary for more informed decision-making and political and public awareness*".

Many international organisations or instruments, starting with SAICM, the BRS conventions, UNEP, WHO, etc. have gathered relevant information on the priority issues that need to be tackled. For example, the work of SAICM on emerging issues and issues of concern would be of significance. Existing tools such as the eChemPortal and other relevant initiatives, including at a national and regional level, should also be taken into account.

Furthermore, the OECD has several decades of experience in developing policies and instruments, which can be applied in a SMCW/SAICM framework, including significant work on a "Mutual Acceptance of Data" (MAD) system" and related work on mutual recognition of assessment methods (see also below). Based on the OECD outreach strategy, the OECD also engages in non-OECD countries providing valuable support within e.g. cooperation, developing policies and instruments.

The mapping suggested above will be of crucial relevance to identify existing information and gaps and help the process define ways to promote data sharing and to reach common view on how to address gaps, such as lacking data or insufficient quality of the data or where increased efforts are needed to make data more accessible (for example regarding the characteristics of a given substance, safety levels, cumulative effects with other substances, etc.).

- Based on shared data and evaluations or assessments, as well as enhanced monitoring of the situation, it may be possible to advance with new or additional common objectives of protection which could be met through voluntary guidance or guidelines (in addition to the implementation and lessons learnt from existing standards, such as the GHS).

Possible guidance, guidelines or even voluntary standards could be the result of current work under SAICM on emerging policy issues (EPIs) and issues of concern, or of future work on other issues. SMCW issues could also be mainstreamed in some existing standards.

The need for such guidance or guidelines was implicitly suggested in the "*Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term*" Annex to UNEA 1/5, i.e. "*existing and future scientific data could foster the consideration of common objectives of protection of health and the environment as a basis for future policies*" and (one could add) actions. However, the discussions under the beyond 2020 process should not duplicate the work done on EPIs and issues of concern. Indeed, the purpose of the discussions in the Beyond 2020 process on this matter should be about how such guidance or guidelines may be developed and agreed. This process would not be the place to hold discussions on each specific issue.

- Enhanced monitoring of the situation on the ground and results achieved through the SMCW.
- Furthermore, it will be necessary to improve the existing knowledge on chemicals and waste, including the development of chemical and waste knowledge platforms (hazardous properties, uses, alternatives, presence of chemicals in articles, monitoring data, waste and chemicals interface aspects).
- Early warning systems should be developed to identify possible chemicals and waste threats.
- A "grouping of chemicals" approach should be considered rather than a "chemical-by-chemical" approach.
- It will be necessary to promote innovation (e.g. decontamination of waste, waste water treatment; development of alternatives) and circularity (design, prevention, re-use, recycling) and to support substitution (use of non-hazardous chemicals or non-chemical solutions). Fostering behavioural change and avoiding non-essential uses is essential.
- Production and use of the most hazardous chemicals should be reduced (e.g. substances that are carcinogenic, mutagenic and/or toxic to reproduction; endocrine disrupting chemicals; metals like lead and cadmium; perfluorinated substances and persistent organic substances that do not fully meet the POPs criteria but are very persistent and mobile) to minimise chemical emissions, releases and exposures.
- Tracking of chemicals through their lifecycle (including chemicals in products) and the promotion of alternative materials cycle should also be addressed, taking into account the lifecycle of products as well as recycling issues linked to the higher concentration of chemicals which results from recycling of materials which originally contained lower levels of chemicals.
- The Beyond 2020 process offers an opportunity to consider the possible role of sustainable chemistry, notably on the basis of the information to be gathered on this matter following UNEA resolution 2/7. It may be recalled also that the Dubai Declaration emphasised the benefits of green chemistry (i.e. the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the generation of hazardous substances) for improved standards of living, public health and protection of the environment;

- Science-policy interface: Improving the interface between science and policy is vital in technically complex fields such as SMCW. At the multilateral level, it is important to continue to preserve the impartiality of the work of existing scientific bodies. In addition, overarching assessments could be relevant for state of the art knowledge and advice on issues of concern, and for the broader inclusion of academic perspectives from developing countries and emerging economies.

At the national level, technical and scientific advice should also be sound, unbiased, legitimate and based on evidence, including the work carried out by existing bodies at the multilateral level. The guidelines prepared by the OECD<sup>33</sup> are a good example which Governments may follow at the national level. It is also essential to maintain socio-economic considerations separate from scientific and technical advice provided to policy and decision-makers.

- Children, women and other vulnerable groups should receive particular attention to improve their protection. Attention should also be given to human rights aspects.

### (c) **Milestones**

In addition to the 2030 Agenda targets, concrete milestones should be discussed and agreed as part of the Beyond 2020 process, as ICCM resolution IV.4 foresees that the process may consider the need for and develop recommendations on measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda, so that action towards them can start as soon as possible. This could relate to the implementation of the Overall Orientation and Guidance, or to new common objectives for protection (such as voluntary standards), as foreseen in the "*Strengthening of the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term*". Due to the cross-cutting nature of the OOG, it would provide a holistic approach for the development of milestones and objectives for the chemicals and waste cluster. Those additional milestones should be discussed as part of the exchanges on implementation of the current instruments and possible new common objectives for protection, addressing concrete steps needed towards the long term, timeless vision and the targets of the 2030 Agenda.

They could be aspirational in nature, easy to communicate and limited in number. The second meeting of the intersessional process would provide a good opportunity to start discussing measurable milestones and objectives, including what type of content and structure they might have. The European Union and its Member States might provide further input on this matter in advance of that meeting.

### (d) **Communication and Awareness**

There seems to be a globally shared perception that the "sound management of chemicals and waste" has not been able to attract the necessary political attention. This seems the result of a combination of factors, including the technical complexity of the matters to be addressed and lack of awareness of the cost of inaction and of the benefits of action. There is also not sufficient awareness in related sectors (such as health, agriculture, industry, development, etc.) and the public in general.

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<sup>33</sup> The OECD recommends that governments define clear and transparent guidelines for their science advisory processes. These include:

- clearly define the remit, roles and responsibilities of the advisory bodies; •
- certify their independence and autonomy;
- ensure the transparency and openness of their processes;
- stress that advisory bodies act as honest brokers, not advocates; •
- recognise the limitations to interpret and use scientific claims;
- underline that the advice given should be sound, unbiased and legitimate.

Indeed, as evidenced at UNEA, it is possible to attract political attention. The UNEA2 Ministerial theme was "*Healthy environment, Healthy people*". For UNEA3, the theme will be "*Towards a Pollution Free Planet*". These Ministerial choices and discussions reflect the political interest in these matters, which are very closely related to the SMCW.

In order to enhance awareness, through improved communication, there is a need to significantly improve the narrative. Whilst complex technical matters continue to be tackled in the process of achieving the SMCW, communication could focus on understandable concepts (e.g. brain development of the child; fertility; cancer; allergy; etc.) and the links with everyday life (e.g. sofas; frying pans and food wrapping; cosmetics; paints; baby bottles; clothing; behaviours in the work place and at home; the handing of consumer products; wastes etc.). The new narrative could favour clear messages that the political level may easily own, even at a personal level (e.g. hair testing), and use to communicate with the general public.

It would also be useful to communicate more on how SMCW is an important tool to address and implement commitments taken in other *fora* and on issues that already gather important political attention, such as the SDGs the fight against global warming or the pollution of the oceans by chemicals and waste.

The upcoming UNEA3 Ministerial on "*Towards a Pollution Free Planet*" offers an opportunity to increase the awareness of and the attention and commitment to the Beyond 2020 process and the need for an ambitious and effective outcome.

### **III.B.2 Governance: How Should it Be Done?**

The importance of multisectoral, multi-stakeholder involvement at global, regional and national level has already been stressed. However, SAICM has shown its limitations in this regard. Although it was launched in Dubai as an initiative co-owned by all relevant sectors, including in particular the IOMC organisations, many of these organisations have been gradually disengaging.

There is a need to reengage all relevant multilateral organisations, within their own mandate, in order to ensure action under each sector and foster coherence through coordinated policies.

Furthermore, involvement of the private sector in the SMCW is not only about the chemicals industry. The role and responsibility of the chemicals industry is essential and should be extended to and complemented by an equally important role of downstream users throughout the value chain (textiles; toys; furniture, food; packaging; building; etc.).

Civil society organisations such as consumer organisations should also be further engaged, to enhance the role of consumers in the demand for and use of products with less content of problematic chemicals, and waste management/behaviour that is conducive to a circular economy.

Without prejudice to strengthening the role of all stakeholders, the leading role should nevertheless remain in governments, since they have the responsibility and capacity to take decisions and adopt measures for the SMCW at all levels.

In this context, the following points should be considered:

**(a) An Enabling Multilateral Framework**

As mentioned above, the discussions should not be limited to the future of SAICM, as the subject matter requires the active involvement and action by many other organisations. SAICM is just one of the instruments of the current international framework.

The possibility of a new Enabling Multilateral Framework should be considered, regardless of what the final outcome of the discussions might be. The commitment of governments to fully implement the 2030 Agenda and to achieve the SDGs offers a great opportunity to establish an ambitious and forward-looking framework.

Desirable features of such a framework include:

- (i) Strong political ownership through commitments in particular from national governments to implement agreed objectives and milestones as well as the 2030 Agenda.
- (ii) Clear responsibility of national governments, notably in relation to legal frameworks and enforcement, reporting and delegation of power between relevant governance levels.
- (iii) Multi-sectoral participation and ownership, which is not limited to the environmental sector and ensures political ownership by all relevant sectors (at international level mainly IOMC organisations), while preserving the general leading role of the chemicals and waste cluster. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda should also be used for this purpose.
- (iv) Specific plans, policies and actions by each organisation, within their own mandates, addressing the SMCW. Actions should be coherent with the long term, timeless vision and, as appropriate, coordinated with complementary actions of other relevant organisations in implementation of the Agenda 2030.
- (v) Enhanced multi-stakeholder engagement:
  - to strengthen the contribution of the private sector to ensure the SMCW and to encourage the active participation of industry stakeholders, including downstream users, in particular in SAICM;
  - to strengthen the involvement of civil society, including consumer organisations, and other groups such as academia and health professionals. Their involvement is needed *inter alia* to enhance awareness regarding sustainable lifestyles (in accordance with SDG 12.8) that involve non-hazardous chemicals and improved waste management, promoting also circular economy
  - especially for governmental stakeholders, consider the possibility of sub-regional groups, encouraging their active participation notably to enhance cooperation and coordination.
- (vi) In the context of the 2030 Agenda, capacity to pull together information from the various sectors and stakeholders on the implementation of the targets related to the SMCW, including from existing reporting procedures.

**(b) An opportunity for a new Multi-sectoral Ministerial Conference on the SMCW**

Although it is too early to determine how any such framework would be set up, consideration could be given to the idea of a possible multi-sectoral ministerial conference on the SMCW which takes into account the desirable features mentioned above. Ministers from countries all over the world, representing various relevant sectors, could meet to give birth to a new

Enabling Multilateral Framework, which would have the long term, timeless vision and would coordinate implementation of the 2030 Agenda in this area in order to meet all relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets. Oversight of the implementation of actions towards concrete milestones would be an essential element of such a framework.

Such a conference would require involvement of and preparation by the governing bodies and secretariats of the IOMC organisations and of any other relevant body and organisation. Those governing bodies and secretariats would be tasked with the adoption of decisions on specific plans, policies and actions within their mandates.

Therefore, SAICM OEWG3 could start considering the idea of a possible conference and, if so agreed, ICCM-5 could be closely linked or even back-to-back to that conference. Similarly, meetings of UNEA, WHA, etc. meetings would also act and link, within their mandates, with such a multi-sectoral ministerial conference.

**(c) A New Multisectoral Coordinating Body?**

A new coordinating body could be set up to ensure overall oversight and coherence in implementation of the tasks entrusted to each sector by the suggested multisectoral ministerial conference on the SMCW beyond 2020. It could be set up within the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a transparent, pragmatic coordination mechanism which would not, in itself, alter the mandate and capacity of each organisation and sector. Possible participation of relevant stakeholders in a coordination body, including civil society and academia, could be considered.

**(d) The Future of SAICM**

Although SAICM could be replaced by the new body, it could also be considered to maintain and adjust SAICM as an important instrument/component of a framework for the SMCW with particular focus on a multistakeholder approach, new issues of concern, agreed voluntary standards and common objectives for protection. The "new SAICM" should clearly include in its mandate questions related to the waste and chemicals interface and all aspects of the life-cycle of products and materials, which are largely covered already in SAICMs work, such as the OOG and relevant ICCM resolutions. It goes without saying that, as for other matters, this should be without duplicating the work of the Basel Convention or other international bodies (as SAICM remains the place where all relevant stakeholders, organisations and instruments share knowledge, information and experience on the SMCW)

Furthermore, the 2006 Overarching Policy Strategy could also be reviewed and updated in line with subsequent developments, including the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and, particularly, its sustainable development goals and targets.

**(e) National Action Plans**

Implementation at the national level, with particular focus on the 11 basic elements identified in the OOG, is probably the most important factor to ensure the SMCW and meet the relevant 2030 Agenda goals and targets with a long term vision towards a non-toxic environment.

From a governance perspective, it is also essential that all relevant sectors and stakeholders are involved, as appropriate, in implementation at the national level, in order to identify solutions best suited to national circumstances, and ensure understanding and acceptance e.g. of regulation and other measures. This may be achieved through National Action Plans that provide an overarching and holistic view of the SMCW, involving the various Ministries and authorities concerned, as well as the private sector, civil society and the scientific community.

Such plans, which would be owned by each country and be proportionate, could contain certain criteria as a baseline commitment but also allow the flexibility to design and undertake policies and actions in accordance with the specific needs and priorities of each country. Their implementation could be linked to achieving the specific objectives and milestones and would be regularly reviewed by countries. National Action Plans would also foster multisectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination, including in implementation of current instruments, as well as reporting on the results achieved and gaps identified in implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Circular economy concepts will be essential in determining the actions to be taken, as well as the role of industry, downstream users and consumers, starting with the design phase of chemicals and products in general.

The National Action Plans could be built directly on the relevant basic elements of the OOG, or on a possible set of focused and limited political targets coherent with these basic elements and the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda targets may help provide political attention, improve monitoring and communication on the implementation of the SMCW.

**(f) Review and Follow-up**

In a new enabling multilateral framework for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, it would also be desirable to start considering how to ensure appropriate review and follow-up, notably in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and without creating additional mechanisms or reporting obligations. In principle, the information and reporting mechanisms already existing under the various relevant organisations and instruments, as well as in implementation of the 2030 Agenda, should be used to gather the necessary information.

If appropriate, voluntary peer review processes, focusing on the milestones and measurable objectives (see above), could be considered. These would be open to non-governmental stakeholders and provide an opportunity for information exchange and learning.

Regional cooperation on SMCW issues should be increased in order to share best practices and lessons learned among countries within one UN region that are facing similar challenges.

**(g) Financing, private sector involvement and mainstreaming**

The agreement in recent years on the implementation of the integrated approach to financing of the SMCW already provides the way forward on this matter and, as an integral part of the governance, it is directly related to the instruments in place.

Focus should be on full implementation of each of the components of this approach, namely mainstreaming, private sector involvement and dedicated external finance. With the Special Programme, a dedicated mechanism to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of SMCW, including through SAICM, has been established and is already operational. Furthermore, it should be recalled that dedicated resources for the SMCW have expanded through the GEF focal area on chemicals and wastes which now has a wider scope. It is also essential to improve the use of available resources and to raise awareness and better communicate about them.

Thus, the implementation of the three components of the integrated approach to financing of the SMCW should be an integral part of any new enabling framework.

\* \* \* \* \*

## UNEA RESOLUTION 1/5 - ANNEX I

### **Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term<sup>i</sup>**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. Chemicals are inextricably linked to our lives; they are used or produced in almost every industry and social sector, including health, energy, transport, agriculture, construction, textile, mining and consumer products. Chemicals contribute significantly to the well-being of society and are essential for sustainable development and for meeting the challenges of the future. However, they can pose a threat to human health, the environment and sustainable development if not managed in a sound manner throughout their life cycle, including at the waste stage.

2. The global production and use of and trade in chemicals, in addition to the generation of and trade in wastes, are increasing, with growth patterns placing an increasing burden on developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and presenting them with special difficulties in meeting this challenge.

3. The need to continue to take concerted action for the sound management of chemicals and wastes is accentuated by a lack of management capacity in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, dependency on pesticides in agriculture, exposure of workers and communities to harmful chemicals and wastes and concern about the long-term effects of chemicals and wastes on both human health and the environment and, therefore, sustainable development. The significant burden of disease attributable to exposure to hazardous chemicals and wastes is a cause for concern. The poorest populations and vulnerable groups are often the most affected.

4. In Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, Governments agreed to aim to achieve that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. That goal was adopted by multiple stakeholders at the first session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The 2020 target was further recognized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and was extended to cover hazardous wastes. Strengthened sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term is an essential cross-cutting issue for sustainable development because there are benefits for the environment, health, poverty eradication, the economy and societies in general.

5. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Governments commended the increased coordination and cooperation among the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and encouraged continued coordination and cooperation among them.

6. Dedicated resources for the sound management of chemicals and wastes have expanded, including through the Global Environment Facility focal area on chemicals and wastes, which now has a wider scope, but further resources are needed to respond to the multiple challenges.

#### **B. Vision**

7. To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development.

### **C. Long-term policy elements**

#### **1. Fundamental elements for achieving the vision**

8. The strengthened sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term is essential for sustainable development and should be embedded in the sustainable development agenda.
9. The sound management of chemicals and wastes should be mainstreamed into local, national, regional and international policies and strategies, including sectoral, financial, legal and capacity-building policies, as well as international financing mechanisms and institutions.
10. There is a need to increase the political priority and commitment to the sound management of chemicals and wastes at the local, national, regional and global levels, recognizing that a number of processes present opportunities to draw attention to these important issues, including those relating to the sustainable development goals and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.
11. Achievement of the vision involves an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated response to challenges in the sound management of chemicals and wastes at the national, regional and global levels.
12. The need to prevent or minimize the significant adverse effects from chemicals and hazardous wastes on human health and the environment will continue to provide a strong basis for sound chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 and could be accompanied by supplementary targets and indicators, within a defined time frame.
13. The sound management of chemicals and wastes is the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, including Governments, industry and others.

#### **2. Basic elements to be addressed**

14. A fundamental element for the sound management of chemicals and wastes is the need to develop, implement and enforce basic national legislative and policy frameworks, including designating the responsibilities of industry and the wider business community, and to have the necessary national institutional capacity.
15. Industry has a special responsibility, as designer, producer and user of chemicals and products, and should apply sustainable chemistry, recognizing the ongoing efforts being undertaken in this regard.
16. The effective and efficient implementation of existing chemicals- and waste-related obligations under multilateral environmental agreements and actions to implement voluntary frameworks, building on experiences and successes, is essential.
17. Improved access to and generation and sharing of relevant data and understandable information throughout the supply chain are necessary for more informed decision-making and political and public awareness.
18. The sound management of chemicals and wastes includes promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns, including applying a life-cycle approach, and the consideration of waste as a resource.
19. New and emerging issues and challenges of global concern should be identified scientifically through an efficient, multi-stakeholder and inclusive process and should be adequately and effectively addressed. Responding to those issues and challenges requires sufficient capacity at the national, regional and global levels.

#### **3. Reinforcing measures**

20. In identifying options to enhance the management of chemicals and wastes in the long term, there is a need to first take stock and evaluate progress in achieving the 2020 goal, taking into account the relevant evaluations in the chemicals and wastes cluster.
21. The sound management of chemicals and wastes should respond specifically to the needs and challenges of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
22. The multidimensional aspects of the sound management of chemicals and wastes provide an opportunity for enhanced cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and global levels, acknowledging the work undertaken to enhance synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

23. Efforts to promote the sound management of chemicals and wastes will require collaborative multisectoral participation, in particular by broadening the participation of sectors that have not traditionally been involved. Such collaboration should address the strong interlinkages with sectors such as health, education, labour, mining, the environment, agriculture, water and industry.
24. The sound management of chemicals and wastes also requires multi-stakeholder involvement, including from industry and civil society, as well as the research and scientific community.
25. At the global and regional levels, the sound management of chemicals and wastes would benefit from enhanced cooperation and coordination among the organizations participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals<sup>ii</sup> and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, inter alia, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and with conventions within and outside the chemicals and wastes cluster.
26. At the national level, the effective sound management of chemicals and wastes requires cooperation among all relevant ministries, such as between agriculture and environment ministries with regard to pesticide regulations.
27. Future efforts to manage chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle will depend on and benefit from enhanced scientific and technical cooperation and knowledge, building on, inter alia, the *Global Chemicals Outlook* report and its recommendations, the future global waste management outlook report and other relevant sources of information. Furthermore, existing and future scientific data could foster consideration of common objectives for the protection of health and the environment as a basis for future policies.
28. Solutions to minimize the adverse effects of chemicals and wastes have been achieved through existing practices involving the sound management of chemicals and wastes in several countries, which have the potential to be replicated, including by building the capacity of countries to implement those solutions.
29. An integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including through mainstreaming in national budgets and development assistance plans, industry involvement and dedicated external financing, is crucial to mobilizing financial resources in the long term.
30. Sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible long-term funding at all levels, in addition to timely and appropriate technical assistance for activities in support of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, is a key element, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
31. Further efforts to elaborate the long-term vision, especially in relation to waste, should be based on full multi-stakeholder involvement, awareness-raising for the public and political leaders and progress in achieving the 2020 goal.

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<sup>i</sup> The present document is the outcome of the country-led consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster in the long term, as set out in decision 26/12 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The document is being submitted to the Executive Director of UNEP on 27 February 2014 for inclusion in his report to the United Nations Environment Assembly in June 2014. The document provides a summary of some of the views expressed by participants during the process. The views are neither negotiated nor agreed, nor intended to pre-empt or prejudice decisions in other processes in the chemicals and wastes cluster.

<sup>ii</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations Development Programme, UNEP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, World Bank and World Health Organization.

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## **Canadian comments to the Co-Chair Summary - Response to July 7 request**

### **General:**

It will be very important that a document leading from the Co-Chairs summary serve to guide and move the discussion forward at the next intersessional meeting.

### **Vision:**

- Having a timeless vision will be most helpful for the future, and can be grounded in milestones that allow for adjustments, new information, progress review etc. The first such milestone should/could be 2030, to coincide and take advantage of the momentum of the SDG process.
- Achieving sound management of chemicals and waste will advance many of the SDGs (and as reflected in UNEA 1/5) as “an essential and cross-cutting element of sustainable development” with benefits for the environment, health, poverty eradication, the economy and society.
- The current vision and global goal of sound management of chemicals and waste is remains valid, is timeless and could be re-worded/re-invented/re-branded to promote greater engagement, political awareness.
- The vision is not exclusive – an overarching strategic view and aspirational direction of the full chemicals and waste cluster with mechanisms (existing, future) working in complementarity toward its achievement, and with shared responsibility among governments, industry, ENGOs and others.
- While we support the vision for a post 2020 framework which focusses on prevention, it will be important to elaborate a practical program of work that is achievable and measurable, to make and track progress towards that vision, noting that not all countries are at the same level in starting the achievement of the vision. As such, measurable objectives may be different for each group and region.

### **Scope:**

- It will be important to consider both the long-term policy elements within UNEA 1/5 and the 6 core action areas and 11 basic elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance Document as a guide for identifying the scope of the post-2020 agenda. These could help to provide structure/ shape to the vision/strategy and/or a road map forward.
- A road-map or policy objectives/targets approach would be useful, with consideration of respective roles of different actors (industry roles vs. governments’ vs ENGOs or others). This program of work could be articulated as a SAICM road map and could cover the 2020-2030 period with milestones in support of the 2030 Agenda.
- The scope needs to include a balance between addressing challenges of developing countries and ability to detect and respond to emerging issues.
- Priority should be given to chemicals management programs in countries that do not have them, and on activities which support national and regional implementation of the OOG, which should be strongly emphasized - possibly via national action plans.

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- Further discussion is needed on which aspects of waste/circular economy should be prioritized for inclusion in the 2020-2030 road map. The current scope includes waste within the lifecycle of chemicals, and reflects ongoing initiatives within the chemicals and waste cluster to address waste issues, and is also linked to advancement of goals under the SDG agenda, particularly for developing countries.
- Scope will involve a range of actors and mechanisms, and will mean greater coordination, collaboration to respond to emerging issues and challenges at all levels (global, regional, national).

#### **Governance:**

- It will be important to confirm who is best placed to lead or support implementation of priorities. This is likely to require engaging new sectors and/or stakeholders.
- Once we've established our priorities and identified who/what organization is best placed to take on various areas of work, we will be in a better place to determine the most efficient governance mechanisms and consider the question of financing priorities. These decisions are not feasible until plans are more firmly established.
- We will need to examine mechanisms for securing commitment to ensure that we are making progress toward our goals.
- Once a Policy Framework and 'roadmap' are established, we could consider a mechanism such as a charter where each player could outline its commitments.
- We will want to clarify the nature and scope of the relationship between the MEAs and SAICM and how best to use the knowledge and capacity of IOMC organizations. Internationally, cooperation across/among a suite of mechanisms will be needed to achieve the vision, including cooperation/coordination among existing mechanisms (i.e. MEAs, SAICM.2, UNEA, OECD, IOMC, WHO etc.), new collaborative activities, new partnerships and ad-hoc processes.
- A voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach will be valuable within the suite of mechanisms, and its activities focused on where it is best place to act, and most effective in advancing the vision/goal.
- The paper states that "the future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill in gaps and coordinate with decision making bodies of the participating organizations for IOMC, other relevant agencies and organizations". It goes on to state that "this could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the ICCM to one where the sectors can play a more formal role". How this will be achieved through rules of procedure at ICCM and the question of the structure, role, and financing of a Secretariat in facilitating this, in the context of a broadened multi-sectoral partnership, will need further consideration and clarification.

#### **New and emerging issues/ Issues of Concern:**

- We will need a mechanism to identify emerging issues and assess/advise on their implications and a triage function and ability to set priorities and determine level of action required for

emerging issues, best placed instrument and responsibilities across actors. We will need to identify and prioritize other issues of concern (previously defined as Emerging Policy Issues [EPIS] but likely need to be expanded to include broader issues such as promotion of green chemistry or addressing science/policy questions). This may require the establishment of a new prioritization process.

- The paper recognizes the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice (second bullet) and identifies UNEP and WHO and the MEA convention secretariats; we suggest that OECD should be added as an important body particularly in its work on Risk Assessment and for its contribution to the IOMC toolbox. In addition, we have to recognize the importance of the scientific subsidiary bodies of the conventions (not just the secretariats) eg. POPRC and CRC – who provide global Risk Assessment and Risk Management guidance for substances, especially where developing countries are unequipped to do so themselves.
- We agree that scientific and technical capacity building facing new and emerging issues or issues of concern that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals taking into account different needs at the regional level will be very important, we suggest that in taking into account these national and regional differences and needs, information sharing for policy capacity building could be equally (or more) important.
- There should be a distinction made between:
  - Addressing new scientific knowledge/evidence regarding concerns of specific chemicals and groups of chemicals that require policy/action;
  - Foresight for emerging technologies/innovations:
    - new chemistries with unknowns that require policy considerations;
    - new solutions for existing issues that may benefit from policy incentives (e.g. green chemistry to eliminate/reduce toxic side-products during production process, reduce impurities/contaminants in final products)
- The importance and benefit of upstream solutions should be recognized (i.e. no hazardous waste issue if we have clean production at the outset) while also providing for the need to address existing challenges.
- Chemicals in products (including imports/trade, and recycling/re-use) remains a pressing issue.

#### **Science- policy interface:**

- Rather than creating a new body, we may wish to recognize strengths/abilities of existing science-based mechanisms in informing policy making (UNEP, WHO, MEAs including technical subsidiary bodies, OECD, UNEA, and ad hoc processes on specific issues, i.e. marine litter). These bodies could be mobilized to investigate new issues and provide advice.
- This would require new collaborative efforts between or among these scientific bodies but would also bring efficiencies and better results.

#### **Financing:**

- The Co-Chair Summary states that “Providing sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long-term with emphasis on the role of developed countries” will be

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important. However, we argue that this contradicts the first bullet that the integrated approach to financing which is composed of the 3 important and mutually supporting elements of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing is essential. We need to re-inforce the importance of the (existing) integrated approach to financing (which was the result of extensive global negotiation), and its three components.

- Recognizing that governments have finite resources and are already contributing across many mechanisms (i.e. GEF, Special Programme, assessed contributions, voluntary funding....), broadening the donor base, particularly actors like industry, will be critical to predictable, sustainable funding that developing countries are seeking.
- Access/ability to deliver funds as “implementing agencies” should be considered – e.g. WHO not currently accredited to obtain funds under GEF.

#### **Sustainable and Green Chemistry:**

- As above under scope – there are several concepts that could be catalysts for the vision, including sustainable and green chemistry

#### **National Implementation:**

- Each country responsibility to implement sound management of chemicals and waste, including legally binding obligations for implementation of commitments under the MEAs.
- There is a need to mainstream the vision/global goal into national policies, legislation, and budgets.
- For developing countries, lack of basic chemicals regime should continue to be a priority.

## **First meeting of the Intersessional Process for considering SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

Dear,

Regarding the SAICM beyond 2020 and considering the decision of opening room for suggestions, here are what we have to contribute;

Fundacentro is a foundation for occupations safety and health from the Brazilian Ministry of Labor.

We are member of the Brazilian Chemical Safety National Committee, coordinated by the Ministry of Environment where we cordite a working group of Chemical Safety Education.

The aim to include and improve Chemical Safety in the educational system, specially professional and technical courses like chemical engineering, chemistry, toxicology, pharmacy, Safety engineering and others.

Also education and information regarding Chemical Safety for the public in general has been considered.

Our proposal for beyond 2020 is that the points above be considered as a SAICM item: “ **Chemical safety in the educational system and for the population**”

**Best from**

**Fernando V. Sobrinho  
Fundacentro / Ministry of Labor  
Brazil**

# Intergovernmental Organizations

From: Achim HALPAAP/UNEP/GVA/UNO  
To: Jacob DUER/UNEP/GVA/UNO. Brenda KOEKKOEK/UNEP/GVA/UNO  
Cc: Jacqueline ALVAREZ/UNEP/GVA/UNO  
Date: 09/18/2017 11:06  
Subject: Co-chairs Comments 5 SepTCA.docx

Dear Jacob and Brenda,

I have the pleasure of sharing with you comments prepared by UN Environment through the Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division, related to the "Co-chairs' summary of the discussions during the first meeting in the inter-sessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020", February 2017, Brazil.

We find the co-chairs summary a very good starting point covering a range of pertinent issues. Rather than providing detailed observations on the summary, we would like to propose an approach for structuring and advancing the negotiations of the beyond 2020 process, drawing upon lessons - learned from the international biodiversity cluster.

The proposal specifically elaborates on, and responds to the point in the Co-Chairs Paper under Scope that "the Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach". The proposed approach is also considered compatible with, and responds to the decision taken at the fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 4) that "the intersessional process should, among other things, consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". It also builds on the intervention of UN Environment at the 1st intersessional meeting which is annexed to the note.

The overall purpose of the suggestion is to foster, as soon as possible, a dialogue among key stakeholders to advance a results-oriented approach in the development of an approach on chemicals and waste management beyond 2020, including development of specific targets and indicators.

In preparing these comments, the Branch interacted with, and received valuable comments from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions which expressed an interest in cooperating within its mandate in any relevant steps that may be decided concerning the way forward. We have also shared the comments with the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and further discussions are envisaged later in the year. We also understand that UNITAR may be interested in organizing a workshop on this topic in early 2018.

We would be most pleased to learn if the suggested approach is of interest to the co -chairs and if they would be interested in a further dialogue and reflections on the proposed approach.

Thank you in advance.

Achim

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 - Co-chairs Comments 5 SepTCA.docx

**Co-chairs' summary of the discussions during the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

Comments by UN Environment (August 2017)

UN Environment, through the Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division, is pleased to provide comments related to the “Co-chairs’ summary of the discussions during the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020”, February 2017, Brazil. In preparing these comments, the Branch interacted with, and received valuable comments from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions which expressed an interest in cooperating within its mandate in any relevant steps that may be decided concerning the way forward.

We find the co-chairs summary a very good starting point covering a range of pertinent issues. Rather than providing detailed observations on the summary, we would like to propose an approach for structuring and advancing the negotiations of the beyond 2020 process, drawing upon lessons-learned from the international biodiversity cluster. The proposals specifically elaborate on, and responds to the point in the Co-Chairs Paper under Scope that “the Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach”. It also builds on the intervention of UN Environment at the 1<sup>st</sup> intersessional meeting, which is annexed to this note.

***Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2011-2020)***

In October 2010, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Nagoya, Japan, adopted a revised Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for the 2011-2020 period.

The Strategic Plan includes 6 key elements:

- 2 Rationale
- 3 Vision Statement
- 4 Mission Statement
- 5 5 Strategic Goals and 20 Targets
- 6 Implementation, Monitoring, Review and Evaluation
- 7 Support Mechanisms

While adopted under the CBD, the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets created a common framework, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for all partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development, including governments, industry, civil society and development cooperation partners. It also guided the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans<sup>1</sup>.

At the global level, the Global Biodiversity Outlook has provided a tool to collect state-of-the-art knowledge on the implementation of the goals and targets and to generate insights for policy-making and possible revision and adjustment of the targets.

Related to the above, on December 22, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (Resolution 65/161). The UN Decade on Biodiversity

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<sup>1</sup>For further details please refer to <https://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/>.

serves to support and promote implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

### ***Why is the Aichi model and experience from the Biodiversity Cluster relevant?***

The international governance of the biodiversity cluster, similar to the chemicals and waste cluster, includes autonomous legally-binding multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) as well as voluntary approaches.<sup>2</sup> In the case of chemicals and waste, the MEAs include, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions the Minamata Convention and the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol, while voluntary approaches include, for instance, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the IOMC.

Biodiversity, as chemicals and waste management, requires action in many sectors of government (environment, agriculture, industrial development etc.), by different key actors, and at various levels of governance (i.e. international, regional, national, sub-national and local).

The approach taken in the biodiversity cluster has been accepted by a wide range of governments and stakeholders as a means of addressing a complex policy issue through global and national action. It also has proven to be an effective way to measure progress in achieving the overall vision of biological diversity conservation.

### ***Compatibility with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Results-based Management***

A set of international chemicals and waste goals and targets has the potential, as in the Biodiversity Cluster, to provide a unifying framework to guide complementary and coordinated cross-cutting global, regional and national level action.

These goals and targets could complement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by elaborating a prioritized list of complementary international chemicals and waste management goals and targets which are developed by and target key actors engaged in the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The proposed approach would also be compatible with, and responds to the decision taken at the fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 4) that “the intersessional process should, among other things, consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

### ***Building Upon and Bringing Together Existing Decisions in the International Chemicals and Waste Cluster***

In defining possible strategic goals and targets for the the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, existing relevant international agreements and processes need to be taken into account, bearing in mind that, with respect to MEAs, decision making remain under the authority of their respective governing bodies.

A number of them are captured in the compilation on Global Environmental Goals (see [http://geg.informea.org/goals?ui\\_theme=3](http://geg.informea.org/goals?ui_theme=3)). Further work could be undertaken to obtain a more complete picture of existing decisions and targets.

Any goals and targets to be developed should not duplicate existing decisions and targets, but be seen as an opportunity to create coherent guidance for cross-cutting management action, taking into account existing capacities, needs and status of the different stakeholders. The framework developed should be flexible enough to offer complementary to and foster coordination with the work of existing MEAs and relevant frameworks. They should also consider existing efforts to measure progress in advancing chemicals and waste management, such as the work of the IOMC on simple indicators of progress.

Relevant decisions include , the five objectives of SAICM (adopted in 2006), the elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG) to advance sound chemicals management at the national and regional levels (adopted in 2015), as well as key - and still relevant - decisions adopted by Heads of States at major global summits, including Agenda 21, Chapter 19 (which includes provisions for international and national level action), as well as decisions adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Rio plus 20 Summit. In addition, relevant decisions to be taken into account include those adopted by the governing bodies of the relevant MEAs, noting that the identification, monitoring and review of goals and targets under each MEA falls under the purview of its governing bodies.

Building on information collected through the Global Environmental Goals and by international organizations engaged in chemicals and waste management, a compilation of existing targets in the area of international chemicals and waste management could be developed.

Annex 2 provides an indicative example for a specific goal and related targets focusing on national systems for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, an area which has received a lot of attention during the first inter-sessional meeting. It is important to note that this example is meant to be illustrative only. <sup>3</sup>

### ***Possible Next Steps***

If the proposed approach of developing strategic goals and a set of limited targets is of interest to stakeholders participating in the beyond 2020 process, UN Environment would be pleased to work with interested actors (i.e. Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) organizations, chemicals and wastes MEA Secretariats, governments, academia, industry, and other stakeholders) in further discussing this approach and preparing a background paper to inform the second intersessional meeting on chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in March 2018.

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<sup>3</sup> An indicative list of possible goals and 20 targets has been developed informally which is available from the Chemicals and Health Branch upon request.


# Annex 1: Strategic Plan on Biological Diversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets

https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/2011-2020/Aichi-Targets-EN.pdf

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 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

The Strategic Plan is comprised of a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and 30 ambitious yet achievable targets, collectively known as the Aichi Targets. The Strategic Plan serves as a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets and it promotes the coherent and effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**THE VISION**  
 "By 2020, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."

**THE MISSION**  
 "Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2030 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's biodiversity of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. To ensure this, pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; adequate financial resources are provided, capacities are enhanced, biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed, appropriate policies are effectively implemented, and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary approach."

**The Aichi Biodiversity Targets**

**Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society**

- By 2010, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably
- By 2010, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems
- By 2010, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions
- By 2010, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impact of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits

**Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use**

- By 2010, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced

**Strategic Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity**

- By 2010, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes
- By 2010, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly those most in decline, has been improved and sustained
- By 2010, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity

**Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services**

- By 2010, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable
- By 2010, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification
- By 2010, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation

**Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through partnership planning, knowledge management and capacity building**

- By 2010 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan
- By 2010, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels
- By 2010, knowledge, the scientific basis and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied
- By 2010, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed pieces in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resources needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties

**Please feel free to use the Aichi Biodiversity Targets icons in your own materials. More details at www.cbd.int/tp**

## Annex 2: Indicative example of a strategic goal and related targets for chemicals and waste management

### VISION

By [ ], significant adverse effects deriving from chemicals and waste are prevented, minimized and managed as an essential contribution to a [pollution-free planet], [non-toxic environment] and achieving sustainable development.

1 *Strategic Goal 1: .....*

2 *Strategic Goal 2: .....*

3 *Strategic Goal 3: National systems for sound chemicals and waste management and relevant capacities are in place in all countries<sup>4</sup>*

#### Target

By 2022 countries have developed a national chemicals and waste management strategy within the national sustainable development context, covering all stages of the life cycle.

The development of a national strategy through engagement of key sectors and stakeholders provides an opportunity to take stock, set priorities and take action and mobilize commitment of decision-makers to integrate chemicals and waste management in the national implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

#### Conditions for meeting the target

- ⌚ Key government sectors and stakeholder are committed to engage in a national strategy development process
- ⌚ The national process is fully linked to national efforts to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and other relevant national policies
- ⌚ Opportunities are identified to integrate the implementation of international agreements on chemicals and wastes

The target applies to all stakeholders in society.

#### Possible indicators

- Number of countries with national chemicals and waste management profiles updated to provide robust baseline information
- Number of countries with strategies in place that were developed through engagement of key sectors and stakeholders

<sup>4</sup> Several targets are needed to achieve this goal. The strategic goals should be aspirational while the targets and indicators need to be achievable within the timeframe and considering stakeholders circumstances. A flexible framework with living indicators that can provide the platform to measure progress.

## Target

By 2025 all countries have basic legislation in place to manage chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle

Sound legislation and standards are a necessary condition for ensuring that dangerous chemicals and wastes are properly labelled, risks are identified and managed and certainty is provided to all actors concerning their roles and responsibilities.

### Conditions for meeting the target

- 🕒 Governments are aware of the importance and value of putting in place a robust regulatory systems
- 🕒 Industry values a robust regulatory framework as an opportunity that creates certainty rather than constraints
- 🕒 Knowledge-sharing takes across countries to learn from regulatory measures taken in other countries

The target mainly applies to government and industry stakeholders.

### Possible indicators

Number of countries with legislation in place to implement the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals  
Number of countries with national chemicals legislation in place that covers the life cycle  
Number of countries with national waste legislation in place that covers the life cycle

## Target

By 2025 ....

### Conditions for meeting the target

### Possible indicators

## Annex 3:

### Statement by UN Environment on Vision, Goals and Targets for a Beyond 2020 Approach on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste

First intersessional meeting on SAICM and chemicals and waste beyond 2020, February 2017, Brazil

#### 1. Development of an Inspirational and Aspirational Vision

UN Environment supports efforts under SAICM and the ICCM to develop an ambitious vision for chemical and waste management beyond 2020. As a reminder to ourselves, the original 2020 goal from WSSD in 2002 stated: “by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment”.

This goal was expanded to SDG Target 12.4 which states: *By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.*

There are some improvements over the WSSD 2002 goal that has guided SAICM, but it too will end in 2020. Taking into account where we have come from since 2002 and taking into account the SAICM experience and the 2030 agenda, we believe there is an opportunity to identify a new long term vision which is both inspirational and aspirational to guide us for the coming decades.

Therefore, we would like to observe a number of recent or ongoing relevant visionary discussions in related international fora:

The report on “Healthy Environment, Healthy People” prepared by UN Environment for UNEA2 included four integrated lines of action to address the nexus environment and health. One of these lines is *Detoxify: Focus on the Removal of harmful substances from and/or mitigate their impact on the environment in which people live and work.*

The upcoming meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions will have the theme: *“A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste”.*

Finally, the theme of *“pollution free planet”* being considered for the third session of UNEA3 with support of many member states.

We may be able to take inspiration from some of these more ambitious visions to develop our beyond 2020 vision for chemicals and waste.

#### 2. Complementing a Vision with Strategic Goals and Targets

A vision and strategic approach beyond 2020 would benefit from a set of strategic goals and a focused number of targets. We believe targets could be global, national and sectoral and should build on the objectives of the Overarching Policy and Strategy and the Overall Orientation and Guidance, requested by ICCM3 and presented to ICCM4.

We would like to give the example of the Convention on Biological Diversity, where five strategic goals and 20 targets were developed -- the so called Aichi Biodiversity targets. The focus on 20

strategically selected targets helped to provide focus to the biodiversity agenda and to bring together action related to various global biodiversity instruments through all stakeholders. It also facilitates review of progress made against the targets through the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

We consider that this approach may be feasible in designing the beyond 2020 approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste. To move forward we suggest a brief review to what extent lessons learned in the global biodiversity cluster may be relevant for the beyond 2020 work under SAICM.

#### **☐ Identification of Potential Topics Relevant to a Beyond 2020 Approach**

As indicated in the information document SAICM/IP.1/Inf1 on the linkages of the Global Chemicals Outlook and the intersessional process on beyond 2020, the Steering Committee for the Global Chemicals Outlook identified in December 2016 about 15 topics it considers important for addressing chemicals and waste management beyond 2020. For these topics, GCO-II aims to bring scientific research and knowledge to SAICM and the beyond 2020 process, and to help develop options to implement the chemicals and waste dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, as called for by UNEA 2.

The topics identified by the GCO-II Steering Committee for priority analysis and research include both *chemical management* topics, as well as *enabling topics*, such as research and development, innovation, education, and economic incentives. Further details and the indicative outline of GCO –II can be found in the information document SAICM/IP.1/Inf1.

Thank you for our attention.

**Comments of the World Health Organization on the Co-chairs' paper on the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.**

6 July 2017

WHO understands that the co-chairs' paper is now open for comments that may go beyond those expressed at the first meeting of the intersessional process. Our detailed comments are provided in the attached version of the document, and a summary of key points is presented below:

- Many of WHO's comments and suggested additions reflect the need for the multi-sector/multi-stakeholder approach to be further integrated/mainstreamed into all components of the post-2020 thinking and discussions.
- The co-chairs' paper includes reference to the vision, aspirational targets, the 11 essential elements, potential road map(s), measurable objectives, clear milestones and national action plans - it would be useful to conceptualize how all of these components might work together, and how they will feed into indicators of progress (both existing and potentially new).
- Collection and consolidation of data on the impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment needs to be included, along with estimation and communication of the full scope and magnitude of these impacts. This is extremely important for increasing political awareness and priority. As such, we have added a point under scope.
- Would it be possible to provide some examples or clarification of what is envisioned in the reference to "Voluntary standards, common objectives of protection and codes of practice, to which relevant stakeholders may voluntarily commit for some issues, should also be considered" in the first point under "governance"?
- Under "National Implementation" we think it would be important to reference the WHO chemicals road map here and have added a suggested bullet to this point.
- There seems to be some overlap between the different sections of the document - some ideas are repeated in more than one section, while others may fit better in another section. While this is to be expected as the outcome of a brainstorming type session, to aid the upcoming discussions, it might be useful to better define the different sections (at least on a conceptual basis) and then to further refine the points included. This point is reflected in many of the comments and suggestions in the attached document.

## CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>

*As an output of the first meeting in the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, the co-chairs of the meeting prepared this summary, which sets out their views of the contributions of the participants. This summary also incorporates input received from participants during the initial comment period following the first meeting in the intersessional process, reflecting factual additions and clarifications to the document.*

*Based on the co-chairs' summary a further elaborated document will be prepared throughout 2017 to support the preparations for and discussions at the second meeting in the intersessional process. All SAICM stakeholders will have opportunities, on multiple occasions, to provide input to this document through an open, transparent and online consultative process.*

*The co-chairs', with the support of the SAICM secretariat, will consolidate the input received as part of the process for the development of the document.*

### **Call for input:**

All SAICM stakeholders are invited and encouraged to submit input and suggestions on areas and issues that they feel are not already covered or sufficiently addressed in the co-chairs' summary.

The deadline for input is 7 July 2017. Input should be sent directly to the Strategic Approach secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@unep.org).

### **Introduction**

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), through Conference resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process to provide recommendations for consideration at ICCM5 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

ICCM resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term".

The present summary sets out the co-chairs' views of the contributions of the participants in the first meeting of the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 held in Brasilia, Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017. This summary should be read in conjunction with the official report of the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Document to be formally edited.

While the Co-Chairs' summary is not intended to present a consensus view, in some areas there was a common understanding. The document is solely that of the Co-Chairs and is non-negotiated.

It is important to note that the discussions at the first meeting of the intersessional process and the Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting are not intended to limit any additional ideas and views to be considered in further discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The present Co-Chairs' summary will be submitted to all SAICM stakeholders for further input and comments in order for it to further inform the discussions during the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

### Why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?

This section describes why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is being considered. This section is further linked to the vision for such a future platform.

#### Vision

- It should be built on the vision set out in UNEA I/5 and referenced in ICCM resolution IV/4, namely "To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development."<sup>2</sup>
- It is essential to enhance political awareness and commitment, at the highest levels, in order to meet this vision.

**Comment [WHO1]:** It would be better to refer to Rio+20 para 213 because it is not sector specific

Furthermore, the following elements may be considered:

- The vision may be timeless (not limited to 2030) and aspirational, and linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements.
- It should take into account the SAICM Overall Policy Strategy, the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, including the 11 basic elements.
- It should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and particular goals 3, 6 and 12 recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- All stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure the 11 basic elements of sound management of chemicals and waste, as set out in SAICM's Overall Orientation and Guidance, exist in all countries.
- The vision may be timeless (not limited to 2030) and aspirational, and linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements.

**Comment [WHO2]:** It would be useful to describe in what way these elements are to be considered? Are they to be considered for inclusion in the vision? Would some of them fit better under scope? Or are they meant to be additional general principles or goals?

Also, suggesting reordering so related ideas are together.

**Comment [WHO3]:** Related to the previous comment, it would be useful to conceptualize how the vision, the aspirational targets, 11 essential elements, the road map(s), and the national implementation plans might all work together, and how they will feed into indicators of progress (both existing and potentially new).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste – Annex I, paragraph 7: Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term.

- It should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and particular goals 3, 6 and 12 recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.  
Recognize the different but complementary roles of various sectors and stakeholders and, within this context, consider both collectively and individually. Consider efforts, in particular, where we have the largest opportunity to foster change and to have the greatest impact.
- It should be complementary to and foster coordination with the work of, other environmental multilateral agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap and to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels.
- Momentum should build upon strengthening the linkages of chemicals to policy areas of high priority like climate change and gender, amongst others.

**Comment [WHO4]:** While this seems a good general principle on a government by government, organization by organization, sector by sector basis, it isn't clear how it works in practice when dealing with such a collection of countries, regions, IGOs, NGOs, sectors etc. Each will have different opportunities and abilities to make an impact. What we really want is to call on everyone to 'put their best foot forward' in the same direction. Suggested changes are to try to convey this idea and/or at least start the conversation.

**Comment [WHO5]:** It isn't clear how these four points are to be considered as part of the "vision" – they seem more suited to scope, governance or function – unless we are expecting a much longer vision statement?

### What could a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 cover?

This section describes what a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 could cover. This section is further linked to the scope for such a future platform. Making progress on the scope of the future platform is a priority for the second meeting of the intersessional process.

In considering the *scope*, the following elements may be considered:

#### Scope

- π Scope should consider the 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, as well as the WHO health sector roadmap, as a practical way to reflect on the scope beyond 2020. A roadmap for chemicals and waste could be considered.  
It should also consider include and address the elements on 'Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long-term' as incorporated in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste.
- θ The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including waste. The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including the consideration of sectors, prevention and waste. At this meeting, there was no discussion regarding what type of waste issues are being considered in the scope of the beyond 2020 context.
- ρ The basics of chemicals and waste management systems must remain a priority in those countries – largely in the developing world – that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to emerging issues of concern.
- σ There are several Sustainable Development Goals where clear connections can be made and where measurable objectives and milestones and supplementary indicators could be developed in support of the 2030 Agenda.
- τ At the global, regional and national level, the scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to: prevention policies; new emerging issues; climate change; a broadened health agenda; institutional strengthening; the life cycle approach; the potential contribution of

**Comment [WHO6]:** Some reordering is suggested.

**Comment [WHO7]:** Why does it only "consider" the OOG but "include and address" UNEA 1/5? SAICM documents should be given precedence.

**Comment [WHO8]:** This seems repetitive perhaps it is a typo and needs to be deleted?

**Comment [WHO9]:** Any broadening of the scope needs to be clearly defined, particularly the inclusion of waste.

sustainable chemistry; sustainability; as well as gender and vulnerable populations, especially indigenous peoples, women, children, and through them future generations.

π The basics of chemicals and waste management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to emerging issues of concern.

θ Collaborative actions should be fostered on new and emerging issues, particularly issues not currently covered under existing policy frameworks and agreements.

ρ The Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach.

σ Work should be based on relevant scientific data and information and consider key elements of chemicals management systems.

At this meeting, there was no discussion regarding what type of waste issues are being considered in the scope of the beyond 2020 context. Collection and consolidation of data on the impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment needs to be included in the scope, along with estimation and communication of the full scope and magnitude of these impacts.

**Comment [WHO10]:** This has been cut & pasted almost verbatim from the section on new and emerging issues. As written, it doesn't really seem to belong under scope.

Perhaps it could be combined with the point below it and become something like: "The scope should be flexible enough to accommodate interest in new and emerging issues, while recognizing that the basics of chemicals and waste must remain the priority in many countries."

**Comment [WHO11]:** Does this belong under "scope" or under "governance"?

**Comment [WHO12]:** This seems to be more of a "governance" issue.

### How could the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 be realized?

This section describes how a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste could be realized. This section is connected to governance, new and emerging issues, science-policy interface, financing, sustainable and green chemistry as well as national implementation.

The how will be informed by the independent evaluation of SAICM and should focus on the gaps in reaching the 2020 goal.

Drawing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, linkages should be made to other agendas such as biodiversity, oceans and climate change, food and agriculture, health, gender and labour.

In considering the how, the following elements should be taken into account:

#### Governance

π The voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, that has been integral to the nature of SAICM, should continue. Voluntary standards, common objectives of protection and codes of practice, to which relevant stakeholders may voluntarily commit for some issues, should also be considered.

**Comment [WHO13]:** Would it be possible to provide some examples or clarification of this suggestion?

π Some participants advocated to explore more elements, as well as potential elements, that would be legally binding. Potential legally binding elements could also be explored.

- Functionally, the design should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sector participation at all levels (national, regional and global) along with a targeted approach, as an essential means to promote impact, involvement, ownership and commitment.

**Comment [WHO14]:** Would it be possible to clarify what is meant by "broader" and "wider"? Is it more people? More diversity? A greater number of sectors or a more balanced showing from the current sectors?

- There is a need to increase industry engagement, by for example promoting partnership approaches in the future platform and by including the waste and downstream sectors.

- Partnerships should focus on public needs and be in line with agreed principles and values. They should be transparent and accountable; ensure multi-stakeholder involvement;

provide an added value; and complement rather than substitute commitments made by governments.

- The future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill the gaps and coordinate with decision-making bodies of the Participating Organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), other relevant agencies and organizations. This could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the ICCM (i.e. governments, NGOs and IGOs) to one where the sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) can play a more formal role. There are opportunities to link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The new platform should take into account the need for greater networking within sectors (as well as between them) on issues related to chemicals management and engagement of sectoral networks (e.g. chemicals and health network called for in the WHO road map).

- Measuring progress, including objectives and milestones, and supplementary indicators, in addition to the SDG targets and indicators, as well as a related plan of action including at the national level. The 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance are a useful starting point.

It may also be useful to ask the various sectors and stakeholder groups to consider developing some specific objectives, milestones and indicators on some items that they could report on as part of the larger picture (e.g. perhaps industry would like to have an indicator on the implementation of responsible care).

- Measurable objectives, as noted in paragraph 10 of ICCM Resolution IV/4, should be considered, including on means of implementation in order to ensure effectiveness.
- Clear milestones would support the capacity to evaluate progress and would ensure transparency.

#### **New and emerging issues / Issues of concern**

- Ensure an information and knowledge base on chemicals and waste, including early warning systems that can inform work on new and emerging issues.
- Focus on scientific and technical capacity building facing new and emerging issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account different needs at the regional level.

The basics of chemicals management systems must remain a priority in those countries – largely in the developing world – that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to the issues of concern.

- Build on existing efforts by stakeholders and sectors and focus on prevention and minimization.

Develop a concept for a process of nomination, prioritization and evaluation that is robust and relevant with clear criteria for acceptance. Future activities on emerging issues should be focused on where there is added value.

- Monitoring of already identified emerging issues.
- There should be reflection on and consideration of the implementation of a lifecycle approach.
- Give priority to the identification of hazardous chemicals in products and throughout their lifecycle.

**Comment [WHO15]:** This has been cut and pasted under “scope”. The context of EPLs the following point is proposed as an introduction to the section, i.e.

#### **New and emerging issues / Issues of concern**

While recognizing that the basics of chemicals management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, we also need to be responsive to emerging issues of concern. In this regard, the following should be considered: (to be followed by the points in the section).

**Comment [WHO16]:** Please clarify the focus. Is it Impacts? Exposures? Releases? Uses?

**Comment [WHO17]:** Is this being proposed as a new or emerging issue? Given the reference to lifecycle in the vision, it seems like this might belong somewhere more fundamental like under scope?

**Comment [WHO18]:** This is new from the previous version. Wouldn't priority be placed on activities of most interest/highest priority for the stakeholders who will be working on the issue, and from which the most prevention and risk reduction can result?

It seems a bit premature to identify and prioritize specific topics like this one and could lead to a completely different discussion. For example why should priority be given to simply “identifying” hazardous chemicals in products? What about understanding the impacts of those chemicals? Or reducing the risks of chemicals we already know are there?

- **Actions should be categorized to facilitate work planning, for example:**
  - Areas where scientific information exists and there is a need to increase the knowledge basis.
  - New emerging issues where we need to promote understanding and awareness.
  - ∩. Development of national or regional chemicals and waste management systems, including refinement of existing systems.
  - (b) Issues which need global or coordinated action.

**Comment [WHO19]:** Shouldn't we also consider issues which are not necessarily "new" but are of emerging importance – where information and solutions exist but capacity or knowledge transfer is required? (e.g. lead in paint).

### **Science-policy interface**

- (γ) Explore how to strengthen the link between science, public health and policy in global chemicals and waste governance.
- (δ) Recognize the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice on chemicals and waste by intergovernmental and international bodies such as UNEP, WHO and the chemicals and wastes conventions secretariats.
- (ε) Consideration of the social interface and the full range of scientific and public health disciplines.
  - Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy-making and action, including existing mechanisms, in other clusters, such as climate change and biodiversity.
- (φ) Recognize that the link between science and policy is not always direct since there are other considerations, drivers and facts - besides scientific facts - that need to be taken into account and addressed in policy decisions, especially at the global scale.
- (γ) There were also come comments regarding the need to focus on scientific capacity building and caution about diverting resources from implementation.

### **Financing**

- 3 The integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste is composed of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing (UNEP/GC 27/12 and UNEA 1/5). The implementation of the integrated approach is essential for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term.
- 4 Providing sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long term with emphasis on the role of developed countries.
- 5 A broader range of contributions should be considered that are predictable, sustainable and adequate.
- 6 Mainstreaming in national budgets and sectoral policies.
- 7 Provide effective capacity building in relevant areas and also focus on the importance of building and strengthening institutional capacity and the need to engage industry in solutions.
- 8 Broadening the donor base for sound management of chemicals and waste, including exploring untapped resources linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 9 Building on existing funding structures at all levels, including lessons learned from existing funding mechanisms.
- 10 Promote enhanced funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the GEF Trust Fund, Green Climate Fund and others with access for all eligible countries and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with applicable rules.

- (δ) It is necessary to remove or avoid institutional barriers so that funding is available and accessible to a broad range of sectors and stakeholders. Coupled with this, there should be a mechanism to better ensure that funding is matched to the most appropriate actor/sector to undertake the type of work required or being requested (e.g. funding for projects that focus on health impacts should go to a health sector organization). This will enhance the ability of other sectors and stakeholders to contribute to the sound management of chemicals as well as improve efficiency.

### **Sustainable and Green Chemistry**

- (ε) There was some debate concerning the definition of sustainable versus green chemistry. However, there was agreement that there were useful aspects of these concepts that should be followed up at the next intersessional process meeting.

### **National Implementation**

99. National Action Plans were mentioned as a possible tool to address the sound management of chemicals and waste, focusing in particular on building in-country capacity for basic chemicals and waste management with the support of international cooperation.

KK. The WHO road map could also be drawn on in the development of such plans.

ΛΛ. Additional elements such as institutional strengthening and information sharing were highlighted for making progress at the national level.

### **Next steps following this stakeholder comment period:**

- (b) From July to September 2017, the co-chairs will further develop the work, incorporating the input received.
- (c) The next document would be posted on the Strategic Approach website for further stakeholder comments during October and November 2017.
- (d) The co-chairs would produce a final document in December 2017 that would be made available for discussion during regional meetings held in January and February 2018 in preparation for the second meeting in the intersessional process scheduled for March 2018.

## Co-chairs' summary of the discussions during the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

*As an output of the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, the co-chairs of the meeting prepared the present summary, which sets out their views of the contributions of the participants. The summary incorporates factual additions and clarifications received from participants during the initial comment period following the meeting.*

*Based on the co-chairs' summary a further elaborated document will be prepared over the course of 2017 to support the preparations for and discussions at the second meeting in the intersessional process. All Strategic Approach stakeholders will have the opportunity, on several occasions, to provide input for that document through an open and transparent online consultative process.*

*The co-chairs', with the support of the Strategic Approach secretariat, will consolidate the input received as part of the process for the development of the document.*

### Call for input

All Strategic Approach stakeholders are invited and encouraged to submit input and suggestions on areas and issues that they feel are not sufficiently covered in the co-chairs' summary.

The deadline for input is 7 July 2017. Input should be sent directly to the Strategic Approach secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@unep.org).

## Introduction

At its fourth session the International Conference on Chemicals Management, through its resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process for providing recommendations, for consideration at its fifth session, on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the outcome document from the first session of the Environment Assembly entitled "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term".

The present summary sets out the co-chairs' views of the contributions of the participants at the first meeting in the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, which was held in Brasilia from 7 to 9 February 2017. The summary should be read in conjunction with the official report of the meeting.

While the co-chairs' summary is not intended to present a consensus view, in some areas there was a common understanding. The summary, however, is solely the product of the co-chairs and was not negotiated.

It is important to note that the discussions at the first meeting in the intersessional process and the Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting are not intended to limit any additional ideas and views to be considered in further discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The Co-Chairs' summary will be submitted to all Strategic Approach stakeholders for further input and comments so that it may further inform the discussions during the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

## Why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?

The present section describes why a future platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is being considered. Among other things, that subject encompasses the vision for such a future platform.

### Vision

- (γ) A future platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 should be built on the vision set out in resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and referred to in resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, namely, “to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development.”<sup>1</sup>
- (δ) It is essential to enhance political awareness and commitment, at the highest levels, in order to achieve this vision.
- (ε) Furthermore, the following elements may be considered:

The vision should take into account the Strategic Approach Overall Policy Strategy and the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, including the 11 basic elements

All stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure that the 11 basic elements of the sound management of chemicals, as set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, exist in all countries.

The vision may be timeless (not limited to 2030) and aspirational and linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements.

The vision should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and in particular goals 3, 6 and 12, recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- (φ) The greatest opportunities to foster change and to have impact.

The vision should be complementary to and foster coordination with the work of other multilateral environmental agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap and should promote policy coherence at all relevant levels.

Momentum should build upon strengthening the linkages of chemicals to policy areas of high priority such as climate change and gender, among others.

**Comment [mb1]:** and waste?

**Comment [mb2]:** biodiversity? Health?

## What could a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 cover?

The present section describes the possible scope of a future platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, i.e., what it could cover. Making progress on the scope of the future platform is a priority for the second meeting of the intersessional process.

In considering scope, the following elements may be considered:

### Scope

- (δ) The scope should consider the 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, as well as the World Health Organization’s health sector roadmap, as a practical way to reflect on scope beyond 2020. A roadmap for chemicals and waste could be considered.

**Comment [mb3]:** To our view, it should be mentioned to be consistent with the “vision” that the scope should take due account of other instruments, such as legally-binding multilateral environmental agreements, and frameworks that have been developed and being implemented to date ... This suggestion is also in line with the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

Proposed wording inserted.

<sup>(e)</sup> Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its first session (A/69/25), annex I, resolution 1/5, para. 7.

- (ϕ) The scope should include and address the elements on strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long-term incorporated in Environment Assembly resolution 1/5.
- (γ) The scope of a platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 could be broader than the current Strategic Approach, including waste, sectors and prevention.
- (η) The scope should take due account of other instruments, such as legally-binding multilateral environmental agreements, and frameworks developed and being implemented to date.
- (ι) The basics of chemicals and waste management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while the question of how to be responsive to emerging issues of concern must also be considered.
- (ϕ) There are several Sustainable Development Goals to which clear connections can be made and for which measurable objectives and milestones and supplementary indicators could be developed in support of the 2030 Agenda.
- (κ) At the global, regional and national levels, scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to prevention policies; new emerging issues; climate change; a broadened health agenda; institutional strengthening; the life cycle approach; the potential contribution of sustainable chemistry; sustainability; gender; and vulnerable populations, in particular indigenous peoples, women, children and, through them, future generations.
- (λ) Collaborative actions should be fostered on new and emerging issues, in particular issues not currently covered under existing policy frameworks and agreements.
- (μ) The Aichi Biodiversity Targets were referred to as a potential model approach.
- (ν) Work should be based on relevant scientific data and information and consider key elements of chemicals management systems.
- (ο) At the meeting there was no discussion regarding what type of waste issues should be considered in the beyond 2020 context.

**How could a platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 be realized?**

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The present section describes how a future platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste could be realized. It encompasses governance, new and emerging issues, the science-policy interface, financing, sustainable and green chemistry and national implementation.

The how will be informed by the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach and should focus on gaps in reaching the 2020 goal.

Drawing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, linkages should be made to other agendas such as biodiversity, oceans and climate change, food and agriculture, health, gender and labour.

In considering the how, the following elements should be taken into account:

**Governance**

- 999. The voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach that has been integral to the nature of the Strategic Approach should continue. Voluntary standards, common objectives of protection and codes of practice, to which relevant stakeholders may voluntarily commit for some issues, should also be considered.
- KKK. Some participants advocated the exploration of more elements, as well as potential elements, that would be legally binding. Potential legally binding elements could also be explored.
- AAA. Functionally, the design should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sectoral participation at all levels (national, regional and global), along with a targeted approach, as an essential means of promoting impact, involvement, ownership and commitment.
- MMM. There is a need to increase industry engagement by, for example, promoting partnership approaches in the future platform and by including the waste and downstream sectors.

3. Partnerships should focus on public needs and be in line with agreed principles and values. They should be transparent and accountable; ensure multi-stakeholder involvement; provide added value; and complement rather than substitute commitments made by Governments.
4. The future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill gaps and coordinate with decision-making bodies of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), of chemicals and wastes-related multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant agencies and organizations. This could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the International Conference on Chemicals Management (i.e. Governments, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, including and MEA secretariats) so that sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) can play a more formal role. There are opportunities to link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. Measuring progress, including through objectives and milestones, and supplementary indicators, in addition to the Sustainable Development Goal targets and indicators, as well as related plans of action, including at the national level, should be considered. The 11 basic elements and six core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance are a useful starting point.
6. Measurable objectives, as noted in paragraph 10 of resolution IV/4, should be considered, including with regard to means of implementation in order to ensure effectiveness.
7. Clear milestones would support the capacity to evaluate progress and would ensure transparency.

**Comment [mb4]:** In order to support the vision which recognizes the need for complementary to the work of other instruments and frameworks, such as MEAs, it appears appropriate to include governing bodies of chemicals and wastes MEAs as a standalone group, which whom coordination needs to be sought. This is reinforced by the fact that MEA secretariats are not fully participating organizations of the IOMC.

#### New and emerging issues/Issues of concern

- (β) Ensure an information and knowledge base on chemicals and waste, including early warning systems, that can inform work on new and emerging issues.
- (χ) Focus on scientific and technical capacity-building facing new and emerging issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account various needs at the regional level.
- (δ) Maintain the basics of chemicals management systems as a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to issues of concern.
- (ε) Build on existing efforts by stakeholders and sectors and focus on prevention and minimization.
- (φ) Develop a concept for a process of nomination, prioritization and evaluation that is robust and relevant. Future activities on emerging issues should be focused where there is added value.
- (γ) Monitor already identified emerging issues.
- (η) Reflection on and consider the implementation of a life cycle approach.
- (ι) Give priority to the identification of hazardous chemicals in products and throughout their life cycles.
- (φ) Actions should be categorized to facilitate work planning, for example regarding:
  - Areas where scientific information exists and there is a need to increase the knowledge base.
  - New emerging issues about which there is a need to promote understanding and awareness.
  - Development of national or regional chemicals and waste management systems, including the refinement of existing systems.
  - Issues that need global or coordinated action.

**Comment [mb5]:** When developing objectives/milestones/indicators, consideration is suggested to be given to similar existing frameworks (e.g. SDG indicators or other processes, such as objectives/ indicators under MEAs) so as to benefit from existing data sets, ensure consistency of approaches and enhance reliability of data and accountability of stakeholders providing information sources.

### Science-policy interface

- Explore how to strengthen the link between science, public health and policy in global chemicals and waste governance.
- Recognize the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice on chemicals and waste by intergovernmental and international bodies such as UNEP, WHO and the chemicals and wastes conventions secretariats.
- Consider the social interface and the full range of scientific and public health disciplines.
- Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy-making and action, including existing mechanisms in other clusters such as climate change and biodiversity.
- There were also comments regarding the need to focus on scientific capacity-building and caution about diverting resources from implementation.

### Financing

- The integrated approach to financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste is composed of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing (UNEP/GC 27/12 and resolution 1/5). The implementation of the integrated approach is essential for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term.
- Provide sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long term with an emphasis on the role of developed countries.
- A broader range of contributions that are predictable, sustainable and adequate should be considered.
- Mainstream in national budgets and sectoral policies.
- Provide effective capacity-building in relevant areas and focus on the importance of building and strengthening institutional capacity and the need to engage industry in solutions.
- Broaden the donor base for the sound management of chemicals and waste, including by exploring untapped resources linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Build on existing funding structures at all levels, including lessons learned from existing funding mechanisms.
- Promote enhanced funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the Global Environment Facility trust fund, the Green Climate Fund and others with access for all eligible countries and relevant stakeholders in accordance with applicable rules.

### Sustainable and green chemistry

- (χ) There was some debate concerning the definition of sustainable versus green chemistry. There was agreement, however, that there were useful aspects of these concepts that should be followed up at the next intersessional process meeting.

### National implementation

- National action plans were mentioned as a possible tool for addressing the sound management of chemicals and waste, focusing in particular on building in-country capacity for basic chemicals and waste management with the support of international cooperation.
- Additional elements such as institutional strengthening and information sharing were highlighted for making progress at the national level.

**Comment [mb6]:** In the chemicals and wastes cluster, specifically under the BRS conventions, a number of processes and activities are taking place on enhancing the science to action interface.

At the 2017 COPs, Parties adopted similar decisions on science to action, among others, calling for the revision of a roadmap for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions at the regional and national levels, taking into account the roles of the scientific bodies of the conventions.

The draft roadmap considered at the 2017 COPs already provides some initial actions that countries and stakeholders may implement at the regional and national levels towards enhancing this interface, for instance:

- Build national and regional capacity on how to use scientific information in decision-making and to involve stakeholders in science-based decision-making
- Build networks and partnerships for enhanced science-based action
- Address challenges faced by developing countries and countries with economies in transition in science based decision-making
- (d) Enhance collaboration between Secretariat and other entities on information sharing and outreach on scientific aspects of the BRS conventions

**Comment [mb7]:** National plans are being developed and implemented by Parties to the chemicals and wastes related conventions (e.g. national implementation plans under SC, national action plans under RC, mercury initial assessments under MC). It is suggested that these "national action plans" are not developed in isolation and build on existing work under MEAs.

Numerous guidelines, guidance documents and manuals are being developed and approved by the conferences of the Parties to the conventions. They provide authoritative guidance on

**Next steps following the current stakeholder comment period**

- (e) From July to September 2017, the co-chairs will further develop the work, incorporating the input received.
- (f) The next document will be posted on the Strategic Approach website for further stakeholder comment during October and November 2017.
- (g) The co-chairs will produce a final document in December 2017 that will be made available for discussion during regional meetings held in January and February 2018 in preparation for the second meeting in the intersessional process scheduled for March 2018.

ADVANCE

## Comments on Intersessional Process on SAICM

Dear SAICM Secretariat,

SAICM has made great contributions on global sound management of chemicals in particular of POPs. When developing strategic approach for beyond 2020, attentions should be focused on the real problems and national needs. For management of agricultural chemicals, HHPs (highly hazardous pesticides) is a most important issue which is posing most threats to human health and the environment, and sustainable development of agriculture. It must be pointed out that most HHPs are not listed in BRS (Rotterdam and Basel Conventions), therefore whole HHPs should be covered in future by SAICM rather than only those listed in conventions, if we do want to protect human health and environment.

Best regards

### **Baogen Gu**

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# Non-Governmental Organizations

## **BEYOND 2020: SAICM AND AGENDA 2030**

Paper submitted on behalf of a coalition of CSOs involved on Sustainable Development and Chemical Safety issues in Togo

Submitted by Dr. Yahya Khamis Msangi

Email: aishamaulid@hotmail.com and

aishamaulid56@gmail.com **INTRODUCTION**

The significance of SAICM and the critical role that SAICM has played in ensuring that impact of chemicals on human and environment health is well documented and recognized by many particularly in the developing countries of the south. It is suffice to mention just a few of the critical achievements.

In Africa SAICM has facilitated prioritization of chemical safety issues at the national, sub regional and regional levels. Many countries have included chemical safety issues particularly in their Occupational and Safety Acts and in the National Environmental Policies and legislations. Those who already had included chemical safety in the policies and legislations used SAICM particularly the GPA to improve or review their policies and legislations.

Under its Multistakeholder doctrine SAICM also facilitated the establishment of good working between civil societies and government departments particularly ministries of environment and health.

SAICM also assisted civil societies to overcome the traditional challenge of accessing finance through the now defunct financial mechanism i.e. the QSP. This allowed CSOs to bring into the table meaningful and tangible contributions. This also promoted the good working relationship with the government.

To a certain extent SAICM assisted in harnessing resources from the chemical industry though much more resources are needed from the producers and the main beneficiaries of the trade in chemicals. Before SAICM it was extremely difficult for others to access finance from the industry.

The institutional mechanism under SAICM served as a good example to many other UN processes including the UNFCCC process, the Rio+20 process and the Post 2015 Development Framework process.

### **SAICM AND AGENDA 2020: KEY CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **i. The time lag**

It is important to note that by 2020 the SDGs process will be 5 years old giving it a 5 years head-start. This means that the SAICM process beyond 2020 will have to catch-up for it to fit into the 2030 agenda. We need to ask ourselves what will SAICM miss in between 2015 and 2020?

By 2020 SAICM would have missed a critical phase of Agenda 2030 process since this is the period when many governments in the developing world are supposed to design their National SDGs Implementation Plans or Strategies. It is the period where nationally determined goals, targets and indicators for each of the 17 SDGs will be crafted and adopted. This period is synonymous with the lactating period of an infant: If an infant misses this period it may die or grow into an unhealthy child.

Another key question is for us to ask ourselves can this baby SAICM catch – up? The truth is that we have lost a lot of critical period but if we are committed to the future of SAICM we can make this baby catch up. We must stop thinking of the future from 2020 but reflect back to 2015. We have 3 years remaining before we reach the year 2020; it is what we do between now and 2020 that will determine the future of SAICM beyond 2020 as we move towards 2030.

## **8 The new thinking**

Under current development paradigm a discussion about SAICM beyond 2020 is basically a discussion about the role or position of SAICM in Agenda 2030. Therefore the thinking must shift from the current approach of ensuring protection of human and environment health into how SAICM can contribute to sustainable development under the new development framework. As SAICM stakeholders we should think beyond sound management of chemicals and waste and look at SAICM as a tool for driving economic and social progress. We must lead the way in shaping for example how SAICM can contribute to poverty reduction, gender equality, reproductive health, access to clean and safe water, achievement of democracy and good governance, guarantee for decent work and social protection for all, etc. In principle we have to bring SAICM into life in the 17 SDGs.

This is what some of us including the trade union movement attempted to achieve during the dialogue phase through lobbying for a stand-alone goal on chemical safety.

### **□ The needed critical actions**

#### **a. Gap analysis**

In order to assess the gap between 2015 and 2016 countries should be requested to provide an update on national process. We need to know the status of implementation in order to evaluate the gap. The secretariat may develop a template that will provide guideline and ensure uniformity. We need to know to what extent national SDGs implementation plans have accommodated chemical safety issues. Without this baseline knowledge it will be illogical to plan for the future.

#### **b. Operationalizing the new SAICM**

SAICM implementation was based on the Global Plan of Action (GPA) hence the new SAICM will require a review of the GPA. We cannot use the old engine to run a new car! The GPA should be reviewed to reflect all the 17 SDGs as its core elements. SAICM stakeholders should design required goals, targets and indicators for all the 17 SDGs. SAICM stakeholders have the experience and expertise on this area unlike other stakeholders dealing with the SDG process. Mainstreaming of SMCW in all 17 SDGs will ensure guarantee the transformation from a SAICM that is narrowly confined to SMCW for protection of human and environment health into a SAICM that is a driver of sustainable development. The drafting of the new GPA can be trusted into the hands of the OEWG.

### **c. Other actions**

The future of SAICM will also depend on past experience particularly on the past mistakes or persistent weaknesses.

#### **i. The Multistakeholder approach**

The success of SAICM can be largely attributed to its concept of involving every stakeholder. Unfortunately and without plausible reasons under SAICM this concept was badly damaged when a new exclusive financial mechanism was brought in to replace the QSP. The new financial mechanism excluded CSOs. This was a serious setback in the implementation of SAICM. The participation of CSOs in the implementation of SAICM has dramatically reduced to almost zero. There is a need to bring back the inclusive nature of SAICM in the financial mechanism if we need SAICM to perform under Agenda 2030 that itself calls for 'leave no one behind'.

#### **ii. Prioritizing the needs of developing countries**

There has been too much lip service to some critical chemical safety issues raised by developing countries. A good example that stands out for all to see is the problem of illegal dumping and trafficking. This challenge was prioritized by the African region and was raised in many SAICM meetings. The challenge has not received the attention that it deserves; there are no concrete programs neither adequate financing to assist Africa to overcome this terrible challenge. We need to walk the talk otherwise it will be extremely difficult for SAICM to play a meaningful role inside agenda 2030. Agenda 2030 present more challenges in terms of diversity and intensity.

#### **iii. Making the industry more accountable and responsible**

The chemical industry has played some role in the SAICM process that need to be appreciated. However, it is evident that the industry did not live up to expectation of many stakeholders. Apart from in-house programs such as the product stewardship program and safe use program; the industry has failed to initiate programs that involve other stakeholders. For example CSOs could be of help in building awareness amongst workers, farmers and the general public but the industry has turned a blind eye on them. Its engagement with CSOs was limited to a few workshops and meetings or side events in SAICM meetings. The industry can do more; the industry has to do more if SAICM stakeholders wish to see a better SAICM under Agenda 2030.

#### **iv. Massive public education**

Workplace and community education has been one of the strong points of SAICM. However, the scrapping or sun setting of the QSP that was accessible to those who played a vital to workplace and community education and replacing it with an exclusive special programme inflicted a heavy blow on achievements made under SAICM on this area. The success of SAICM as we move towards 2030 will depend on how as SAICM stakeholders we manage to revive the important role that Civil Societies played in educating key groups such as workers, farmers, women, indigenous people, livestock keepers and the like. A special fund for public education has to be established to finance this area. The chemical industry should be requested to contribute to this fund instead of running its own in-house but questionable public education programmes.

#### **v. An expanded SAICM Bureau**

Agenda 2030 will widen the scope of expertise needed in order for SAICM to make a

meaningful contribution to the agenda. There is therefore a need for the Bureau to accommodate more people with different expertise on sustainable development issues as per the provisions of the 17 SDGs. This increase in members of the bureau must take into account equality of representation in terms of gender, UN regions, and the Agenda 21 nine major groups.

#### **vi. Strengthening regional mechanisms**

Regional groupings played an important role in the negotiation and implementation of SAICM. Regional groups played a critical role in the design and review of the current Global Plan of Action (GPA) which is the basis of many activities and programs implemented under SAICM. Many of the current decisions and emerging issues are the result of regional meetings. Unfortunately very limited funds were made available to regional groupings making it difficult for the Secretariat to facilitate the work of the regional groups. The need for regional groups will be much higher under Agenda 2030. SAICM Regional groups will be required to inform the SDGs process on a regular basis while at the same time maintaining its cardinal duty of ensuring SMCW. More financial support is therefore needed.

#### **vii. Enhanced coordination**

In many developing countries the chronic problem of non-coordination between line ministries persisted. The problem may be made more complex under Agenda 2030. Agenda 2030 require all government ministries to establish a closer coordination mechanism (institutional, policy and legal). As SAICM stakeholders we need to have a clear framework on coordination mechanisms that will be favourable to SMCW under Agenda 2030. Failure to do so will extend the weakness that has confined SAICM under one of two ministries (ministries of environment and health) only.

#### **viii. Strengthening and maintaining an independent SAICM Secretariat**

Since its establishment the SAICM Secretariat has done a wonderful job notwithstanding some various challenges. However, as we try to fit in SAICM in the 2030 Agenda we need to address certain challenges. First, as the Secretariat of a program whose foundation is based on the concept of Multistakeholder engagement the Secretariat need to be and to be seen as an independent body without any element of doubt or suspicion. Any stakeholder that needs to support the Secretariat should do so without compromising the independent nature of the Secretariat. The current placement of staff from the chemical industry inside the Secretariat compromises this requirement and should be corrected. It is our belief that the Secretariat was 'forced' to accept this kind of assistance due to financial limitation that has faced it for many years. The only way to avoid this is for SAICM partners to ensure the Secretariat is assured of adequate and timely financing particularly now that it will be handling matters related to Agenda 2030. To enable the secretariat to discharge its new role under Agenda 2030 two actions are needed: (i) recruitment of more staff (ii) establishment of regional offices particularly in regions representing developing countries.

## **Co-chairs' summary of the discussions during the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

*As an output of the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, the co-chairs of the meeting prepared the present summary, which sets out their views of the contributions of the participants. The summary incorporates factual additions and clarifications received from participants during the initial comment period following the meeting.*

*Based on the co-chairs' summary a further elaborated document will be prepared over the course of 2017 to support the preparations for and discussions at the second meeting in the intersessional process. All Strategic Approach stakeholders will have the opportunity, on several occasions, to provide input for that document through an open and transparent online consultative process.*

*The co-chairs', with the support of the Strategic Approach secretariat, will consolidate the input received as part of the process for the development of the document.*

### **Call for input**

All Strategic Approach stakeholders are invited and encouraged to submit input and suggestions on areas and issues that they feel are not sufficiently covered in the co-chairs' summary.

The deadline for input is 7 July 2017. Input should be sent directly to the Strategic Approach secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@unep.org).

## **Introduction**

At its fourth session the International Conference on Chemicals Management, through its resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process for providing recommendations, for consideration at its fifth session, on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the outcome document from the first session of the Environment Assembly entitled "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term".

The present summary sets out the co-chairs' views of the contributions of the participants at the first meeting in the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, which was held in Brasilia from 7 to 9 February 2017. The summary should be read in conjunction with the official report of the meeting.

While the co-chairs' summary is not intended to present a consensus view, in some areas there was a common understanding. The summary, however, is solely the product of the co-chairs and was not negotiated.

It is important to note that the discussions at the first meeting in the intersessional process and the Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting are not intended to limit any additional ideas and views to be considered in further discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The Co-Chairs' summary will be submitted to all Strategic Approach stakeholders for further input and comments so that it may further inform the discussions during the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

## Why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?

The present section describes why a future platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is being considered. Among other things, that subject encompasses the vision for such a future platform.

### Vision

- A future platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 should be built on the vision set out in resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and referred to in resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, namely, “to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development.”<sup>1</sup>
- It is essential to enhance political awareness and commitment, at the highest levels, in order to achieve this vision.
- Furthermore, the following elements may be considered:

The vision should take into account the Strategic Approach Overall Policy Strategy and the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, including the 11 basic elements

All stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure that the 11 basic elements of the sound management of chemicals, as set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, exist in all countries.

The vision may be timeless (not limited to 2030) and aspirational and linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements.

The vision should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and in particular goals 3, 6 and 12, recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- The greatest opportunities to foster change and to have impact.

The vision should be complementary to and foster coordination with the work of other multilateral environmental agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap and should promote policy coherence at all relevant levels.

Momentum should build upon strengthening the linkages of chemicals to policy areas of high priority such as climate change and gender, among others.

## What could a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 cover?

The present section describes the possible scope of a future platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, i.e., what it could cover. Making progress on the scope of the future platform is a priority for the second meeting of the intersessional process.

In considering scope, the following elements may be considered:

### Scope

- The scope should consider the 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, as well as the World Health Organization’s health sector roadmap, as a practical way to reflect on scope beyond 2020. A roadmap for chemicals and waste could be considered.

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- 3 The scope should include and address the elements on strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long-term incorporated in Environment Assembly resolution 1/5.
  - 4 The scope of a platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 could be broader than the current Strategic Approach, including waste, sectors and prevention.
  - 5 The basics of chemicals and waste management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while the question of how to be responsive to emerging issues of concern must also be considered.
  - 6 There are several Sustainable Development Goals to which clear connections can be made and for which measurable objectives and milestones and supplementary indicators could be developed in support of the 2030 Agenda.
  - 7 At the global, regional and national levels, scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to prevention policies; new emerging issues; climate change; a broadened health agenda; institutional strengthening; the life cycle approach; the potential contribution of sustainable chemistry; sustainability; gender; and vulnerable populations, in particular indigenous peoples, women, children and, through them, future generations.
- **workers** Collaborative actions should be fostered on new and emerging issues, in particular issues not currently covered under existing policy frameworks and agreements.
  - The Aichi Biodiversity Targets were referred to as a potential model approach.
  - Work should be based on relevant scientific data and information and consider key elements of chemicals management systems.
  - At the meeting there was no discussion regarding what type of waste issues should be considered in the beyond 2020 context.

#### **How could a platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 be realized?**

The present section describes how a future platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste could be realized. It encompasses governance, new and emerging issues, the science-policy interface, financing, sustainable and green chemistry and national implementation.

The how will be informed by the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach and should focus on gaps in reaching the 2020 goal.

Drawing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, linkages should be made to other agendas such as biodiversity, oceans and climate change, food and agriculture, health, gender and labour.

In considering the how, the following elements should be taken into account:

##### **Governance**

- The voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach that has been integral to the nature of the Strategic Approach should continue. Voluntary standards, common objectives of protection and codes of practice, to which relevant stakeholders may voluntarily commit for some issues, should also be considered.
- Some participants advocated the exploration of more elements, as well as potential elements, that would be legally binding. Potential legally binding elements could also be explored.
- Functionally, the design should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sectoral participation at all levels (national, regional and global), along with a targeted approach, as an essential means of promoting impact, involvement, ownership and commitment.
- There is a need to increase industry engagement by, for example, promoting partnership approaches in the future platform and by including the waste and downstream sectors.
- Partnerships should focus on public needs and be in line with agreed principles and values. They should be transparent and accountable; ensure multi-stakeholder involvement; provide added value; and complement rather than substitute commitments made by Governments.

Note 1

- The future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill gaps and coordinate with decision-making bodies of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and other relevant agencies and organizations. This could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the International Conference on Chemicals Management (i.e. Governments, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations) so that sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) can play a more formal role. There are opportunities to link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Measuring progress, including through objectives and milestones, and supplementary indicators, in addition to the Sustainable Development Goal targets and indicators, as well as related plans of action, including at the national level, should be considered. The 11 basic elements and six core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance are a useful starting point.
- Measurable objectives, as noted in paragraph 10 of resolution IV/4, should be considered, including with regard to means of implementation in order to ensure effectiveness.
- Clear milestones would support the capacity to evaluate progress and would ensure transparency.

#### **New and emerging issues/Issues of concern**

- Ensure an information and knowledge base on chemicals and waste, including early warning systems, that can inform work on new and emerging issues.
- Focus on scientific and technical capacity-building facing new and emerging issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account various needs at the regional level.
- Maintain the basics of chemicals management systems as a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to issues of concern.
- Build on existing efforts by stakeholders and sectors and focus on prevention and minimization.
- Develop a concept for a process of nomination, prioritization and evaluation that is robust and relevant. Future activities on emerging issues should be focused where there is added value.
- Monitor already identified emerging issues.
- Reflection on and consider the implementation of a life cycle approach.
- Give priority to the identification of hazardous chemicals in products and throughout their life cycles.
- Actions should be categorized to facilitate work planning, for example regarding:
  - Areas where scientific information exists and there is a need to increase the knowledge base.
  - New emerging issues about which there is a need to promote understanding and awareness.
  - Development of national or regional chemicals and waste management systems, including the refinement of existing systems.
  - Issues that need global or coordinated action.

#### **Science-policy interface**

- Explore how to strengthen the link between science, public health and policy in global chemicals and waste governance.
- Recognize the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice on chemicals and waste by intergovernmental and international bodies such as UNEP, WHO and the chemicals and wastes conventions secretariats.

- Consider the social interface and the full range of scientific and public health disciplines.
- Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy-making and action, including existing mechanisms in other clusters such as climate change and biodiversity.
- There were also comments regarding the need to focus on scientific capacity-building and caution about diverting resources from implementation.

### Financing

- The integrated approach to financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste is composed of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing (UNEP/GC 27/12 and resolution 1/5). The implementation of the integrated approach is essential for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term.
- Provide sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long term with an emphasis on the role of developed countries.
- A broader range of contributions that are predictable, sustainable and adequate should be considered.
- Mainstream in national budgets and sectoral policies.
- Provide effective capacity-building in relevant areas and focus on the importance of building and strengthening institutional capacity and the need to engage industry in solutions.
- Broaden the donor base for the sound management of chemicals and waste, including by exploring untapped resources linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Note 2

- Build on existing funding structures at all levels, including lessons learned from existing funding mechanisms.
- Promote enhanced funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the Global Environment Facility trust fund, the Green Climate Fund and others with access for all eligible countries and relevant stakeholders in accordance with applicable rules.

### Sustainable and green chemistry

- There was some debate concerning the definition of sustainable versus green chemistry. There was agreement, however, that there were useful aspects of these concepts that should be followed up at the next intersessional process meeting.

### National implementation

- National action plans were mentioned as a possible tool for addressing the sound management of chemicals and waste, focusing in particular on building in-country capacity for basic chemicals and waste management with the support of international cooperation.
- Additional elements such as institutional strengthening and information sharing were highlighted for making progress at the national level.

#### Next steps following the current stakeholder comment period

- From July to September 2017, the co-chairs will further develop the work, incorporating the input received.
- The next document will be posted on the Strategic Approach website for further stakeholder comment during October and November 2017.
- The co-chairs will produce a final document in December 2017 that will be made available for discussion during regional meetings held in January and February 2018 in preparation for the second meeting in the intersessional process scheduled for March 2018.

Note 1: Tough volunteerism is one of the principles of SAICM we have observed that a key player in this case the Industry has exploited this principle in a negative manner. Its voluntary initiatives are not transparent and are not open for validation by other stakeholders. It should be borne in mind that the other key principle in the SAICM process is its multistakeholder approach. This para is supporting the business as usual model of the current voluntary initiatives. We should not encourage 5 voluntary initiatives that involve self assessments. Perhaps the text on the 5th bullet should be introduced into this para. This 5th bullet is addressing the problem in a more clearer manner

Note 2: Though SAICM is a multistakeholder process its current financing mechanism excludes CSOs unlike the QSP. We have observed negation of QSP achievements and CSO involvement since the new funding mechanism was adopted. This para need to mention the need for securing multistakeholder participation in SAICM financing. The number of CSOs which have managed to access funding for SAICM-related activities is almost zero. This a completely opposite of the QSP scenario. Governments alone cannot ensure the success of SAICM.

**The NGO Forum for Health** is grateful to the Co-Chairs for a brief and lucid summary of SAICM’s first meeting of the intersessional process held in Brasilia on February 7-9, 2017. In the spirit of that multistakeholder process and of further building along SAICM’s constructive approach to the management of chemicals and waste for its next stage, 2020 to 2030 and beyond, the NGO Forum for Health is pleased to submit the following input and to underscore **nine major comments**. Reference to the Co-Chairs’ summary is made wherever relevant.

☐ In reference to:

**paragraph 2**, under **“Introduction”**, where the Co-Chairs report that:

“ICCM resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”;

the **sixth bullet point** under **“Vision” on page 2**, where the Co-Chairs recall that:

“[A future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020] should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and particular goals 3, 6 and 12 recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals”; and

the **fifth bullet point** under **“Scope” on page 3**, where the Co-Chairs conclude that:

“There are several Sustainable Development Goals where clear connections can be made and where measurable objectives and milestones and supplementary indicators could be developed in support of the 2030 Agenda”.

**COMMENT 1. An SDG that already refers precisely to hazardous chemicals should be highlighted**

It would be useful and constructive to make specific and fully elaborated reference to Sustainable Goal 3.9 that makes particular mention of hazardous chemicals:

SDG 3.9: “By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination”.

Importantly, SDG 3.9 underscores the health objective of the management of chemical and waste, thereby validating and strengthening SAICM’s agenda and “the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health” as stated in the Co-Chairs’ first bullet point under “Vision”.

☐ In reference to:

a. the **ninth bullet point** under **“Vision” on page 2**, where the Co-Chairs advance that:

“The vision should be complementary to and foster coordination *with the work of other multilateral environmental agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary*, while avoiding duplication and overlap and should promote policy coherence at all relevant levels” (emphasis added); and

☐ the **second bullet point** under **“Governance” on page 3**, where the Co-Chairs understanding was that:

“Some participants advocated the exploration of more elements, as well as potential elements that would be legally binding. Potential legally binding elements could also be explored”, and

c. the **sixth bullet point** under “**Governance**” on **page 3**, where the Co-Chairs stipulate that:

“The future platform needs to *link sectors and promote synergies*, fill gaps and coordinate with decision-making bodies of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and other relevant agencies and organizations. This could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the International Conference on Chemicals Management (i.e. Governments, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations) so that *sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) can play a more formal role*. There are opportunities to *link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” (emphasis added).

## **COMMENT 2. Relevant legally binding frameworks already exist in other sectors**

It is well to recall that specific existing binding frameworks that can be leveraged in order to advance the SAICM agenda already exist. The NGO Forum for Health is pleased to have this opportunity to remind the Co-Chairs of the specific points they raised in this regard at the intersessional meeting on two occasions on behalf of the **Trade Unions and Labour Major Group**, and takes the opportunity to add them in appendix here for information, as they are absent on the SAICM meeting webpage.

Very specifically, there are four Conventions of the International Labour Organization that signal a targeted objective to protect workers from identified chemicals, namely:

C013 - White Lead (Painting) Convention, 1921 (No. 13), *Convention concerning the Use of White Lead in Painting*

C136 - Benzene Convention, 1971 (No. 136), *Convention concerning Protection against Hazards of Poisoning Arising from Benzene*

C162 - Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162), *Convention concerning Safety in the Use of Asbestos*

C170 - Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), *Convention concerning Safety in the use of Chemicals at Work*

Moreover, there are a further eight ILO Conventions that address specific job-related exposure to chemicals (such as in commerce and offices, construction, industry, mines and agriculture) and/or specific hazards due to chemicals (such as radiation and cancer), namely:-

C115 - Radiation Protection Convention, 1960 (No. 115), *Convention concerning the Protection of Workers against Ionising Radiations*

C120 - Hygiene (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1964 (No. 120), *Convention concerning Hygiene in Commerce and Offices*

C139 - Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 (No. 139), *Convention concerning Prevention and Control of Occupational Hazards caused by Carcinogenic Substances and Agents*

C148 - Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977 (No. 148), *Convention concerning the Protection of Workers against Occupational Hazards in the Working Environment Due to Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration*

C167 - Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988 (No. 167), *Convention concerning Safety and Health in Construction*

C174 - Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174), *Convention concerning the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents*

C176 - Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176), *Convention concerning Safety and Health in Mines*

C184 - Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), *Convention concerning Safety and Health in Agriculture*

Finally and importantly, there are a further three ILO Conventions that address the institutional mechanisms and frameworks to ensure the application of all the aforementioned technical occupational safety and health Conventions, notably:

C155 - Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155), *Convention concerning Occupational Safety and Health and the Working Environment*

C161 - Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161), *Convention concerning Occupational Health Services*

C187 - Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), *Convention concerning the promotional framework for occupational safety and health*

### **COMMENT 3. Broad benefit of the protection of workers through occupational safety and health**

It is important to note that Conventions that protect workers from exposure to hazardous chemicals and waste and that control their utilization bring society-wide benefits. The potential benefit of protecting workers from toxic chemicals cannot be overestimated. A large proportion of the exposure of humans to toxic chemicals is in the workplace and in the production methods that are chosen by enterprises. Control of toxic chemicals in the workplace not only saves the lives and health of workers, but has major side benefits of protecting the health and environment of the communities in which the workers live and work and the health of their families. Removing toxic chemicals from production not only means that workers can no longer contaminate the world outside their workplace with residual toxicity, but that eventually the presence of the toxic substances will diminish everywhere. When the workplace leads in controlling toxic products, not only do workers benefit, but so does the health of persons of all ages and so does their common environment.

### **COMMENT 4. Limited inclusion to date of existing relevant binding legislation than can be used to leverage the SAICM agenda**

Regrettably, the full potential benefit of leveraging ILO Conventions in all the aforementioned areas has been by-passed to date. In the “Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management”, Table B. (“List of possible work areas and their associate activities actors, targets/timeframes, indicators of progress and implementation aspects”), only three ILO Conventions are mentioned under the work area of Occupational health and safety<sup>1</sup>:

C170 - Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), *Convention concerning Safety in the use of Chemicals at Work*

C174 - Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174), *Convention concerning the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents*

C184 - Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), *Convention concerning Safety and Health in Agriculture*

The failure to utilize the full scope of the work area on occupational safety and health to the benefit of workers and all society undermines the potential impact of ILO standards. In reality, the ILO standard-setting process – and its outcomes – are unique in resulting from dialogue between employers, workers and their governments. The process designs well utilized and proven pathways by which we can collectively work at a common goal of removing toxic substances and achieve it in a measure that assures the common good.

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<sup>1</sup>Occupational health and safety (OHS) and occupational safety and health (OSH) are interchangeable. The ILO prefers to use occupational safety and health.

**COMMENT 5. A process to review the occupational safety and health standards of the ILO is underway, perfectly timed to benefit the future SAICM platform with links to labour**

The NGO Forum for Health is pleased to bring to your attention a forthcoming activity at the ILO that is of special relevance to the agenda on chemicals and that is very timely. In November 2011, the ILO's Governing Body (GB) decided to establish "a Standards Review Mechanism (SRM) with the objective of ensuring that the ILO has in place a clear and robust body of up-to-date international labour standards that responds to the needs of the world of work, the protection of workers and promotion of sustainable enterprises." Subsequently, in March 2015, the ILO's GB established a Tripartite Working Group (TWG) under the Standards Review Mechanism (SRM) composed of 32 members, 16 of whom from Governments, and 8 each from Employers and Workers to meet once a year for a week to move the work forward. Their First and Second meetings were held in February and October 2016 when the TWG organized and ordered its work. At the second meeting in October 2016, occupational safety and health standards were pushed to the top of the SRM agenda and to be addressed in September 2017:

"within the strategic objective of social protection, it was agreed that the set of instruments concerning occupational safety and health, and specifically those subtopics relating to general provisions and *specific risks*, would be reviewed at the third meeting of the SRM TWG. This would involve the examination of 19 instruments (see table 2)" (emphasis added). [...]

Table 2. Instruments proposed for examination at the third meeting of the SRM TWG (September 2017)

**Occupational safety and health: General provisions:**

Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161)  
Prevention of Industrial Accidents Recommendation, 1929 (No. 31)  
Occupational Health Services Recommendation, 1985 (No. 171)

**Occupational safety and health: Specific risks:**

White Lead (Painting) Convention, 1921 (No. 13)  
Guarding of Machinery Convention, 1963 (No. 119)  
Maximum Weight Convention, 1967 (No. 127)  
Benzene Convention, 1971 (No. 136)  
Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162)  
Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170)  
Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174)  
Anthrax Prevention Recommendation, 1919 (No. 3)  
Lead Poisoning (Women and Children) Recommendation, 1919 (No. 4)  
White Phosphorus Recommendation, 1919 (No. 6)  
Guarding of Machinery Recommendation, 1963 (No. 118)  
Maximum Weight Recommendation, 1967 (No. 128)  
Benzene Recommendation, 1971 (No. 144)  
Asbestos Recommendation, 1986 (No. 172)  
Chemicals Recommendation, 1990 (No. 177)  
Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Recommendation, 1993 (No. 181)

**Footnote:**

In line with its terms of reference, the SRM TWG decided to authorize the attendance of eight advisers to assist the Government members at its third meeting in September 2017. The Office was tasked with determining the feasibility of the establishment of a side room where the groups could invite a limited number of additional technical experts to provide advice, while not participating directly in the meeting of the SRM TWG. The SRM TWG Officers may decide, at a later date and after further consideration, whether representatives of relevant international organizations and other ILO bodies should be invited to attend the meeting. "

The TWG agreement was endorsed by decision of the ILO GB in March 2017, and the meeting is to take place on 25 to 29 September 2017 at the ILO. As can be observed, the occupational safety and health

(OSH) Conventions and Recommendations to be examined concern chemicals in the majority<sup>2</sup> as well as the broader frameworks that serve to define, administer and govern OSH.

The NGO Forum for Health deems this review process to be of substantial interest to SAICM and of relevance to the future SAICM platform. According to the footnote to the aforementioned Table 2, there is provision for eight advisers in Government delegations as well as for inviting "a limited number of additional technical experts" and there is moreover a decision still to be made on the participation of "representatives of relevant international organizations" (which is part of the SRM TWG terms of reference).

**This may be a critical entry point for the IOMC partners and the IOMC process.**

**COMMENT 6. The review mechanism for ILO OSH Conventions now underway obviates criticism of their possible archaism or obsolescence**

Criticism of ILO Conventions includes arguments that national standards and/or evidence-based science dictate a higher standard for limiting exposure to hazardous chemicals than in the case of some older ILO Conventions (notably the Benzene Convention, 1971 (No. 136)), which is precisely being squarely addressed by the ILO SRM. The importance of this review process to ensure up-to-date and science-based applicability of ILO Conventions should therefore be neither underestimated nor ignored.

**COMMENT 7. The review mechanism has been given further substantial support by the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards of the International Labour Conference (ILC) at their June 2017 meeting.**

Based on input from the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), the ILC's Conference Committee on the Application of Standards held a substantive discussion of the "General Survey on the occupational safety and health instruments concerning the promotional framework, construction, mines and agriculture" earlier requested by the Governing Body. Even if the General Survey concerned only the sectors of construction, mines and agriculture, the instruments included in the survey refer to very specific issues in regard to chemicals, which are cited immediately below. The Conventions included in the General Survey were:

C167 - Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988 (No. 167), *Convention concerning Safety and Health in Construction*  
[See Article 28

HEALTH HAZARDS

Where a worker is liable to be exposed to any chemical, physical or biological hazard to such an extent as is liable to be dangerous to health, appropriate preventive measures shall be taken against such exposure.]

C176 - Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176), *Convention concerning Safety and Health in Mines* (Entry into force: Jun 1998)

[See Article 9

Where workers are exposed to physical, chemical or biological hazards the employer shall:

- ☐ inform the workers, in a comprehensible manner, of the hazards associated with their work, the health risks involved and relevant preventive and protective measures;
- ☐ take appropriate measures to eliminate or minimize the risks resulting from exposure to those hazards;
- ☐ where adequate protection against risk of accident or injury to health including exposure to adverse conditions cannot be ensured by other means, provide and maintain at no cost to the worker suitable protective equipment, clothing as necessary and other facilities defined by national laws or regulations; and
- ☐ provide workers who have suffered from an injury or illness at the workplace with first aid, appropriate transportation from the workplace and access to appropriate medical facilities.]

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<sup>2</sup> With the few exceptions of guarding of machinery, maximum weight and anthrax.

C184 - Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), *Convention concerning Safety and Health in Agriculture* [ See SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

Article 12

The competent authority shall take measures, in accordance with national law and practice, to ensure that:

there is an appropriate national system or any other system approved by the competent authority establishing specific criteria for the importation, classification, packaging and labelling of chemicals used in agriculture and for their banning or restriction;

those who produce, import, provide, sell, transfer, store or dispose of chemicals used in agriculture comply with national or other recognized safety and health standards, and provide adequate and appropriate information to the users in the appropriate official language or languages of the country and, on request, to the competent authority; and

there is a suitable system for the safe collection, recycling and disposal of chemical waste, obsolete chemicals and empty containers of chemicals so as to avoid their use for other purposes and to eliminate or minimize the risks to safety and health and to the environment.

Article 13

1. National laws and regulations or the competent authority shall ensure that there are preventive and protective measures for the use of chemicals and handling of chemical waste at the level of the undertaking.

2. These measures shall cover, inter alia:

the preparation, handling, application, storage and transportation of chemicals;

agricultural activities leading to the dispersion of chemicals;

the maintenance, repair and cleaning of equipment and containers for chemicals; and

the disposal of empty containers and the treatment and disposal of chemical waste and obsolete chemicals.]

**COMMENT 8. The International Labour Office has been asked to launch a ratification and implementation campaign for C187 - Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), *Convention concerning the promotional framework for occupational safety and health***

Furthermore, follow-up of the General Survey included the decision of the Committee to ask the International Labour Office to campaign for the ratification and implementation of C.187 - Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187). Together with the forthcoming Standard Review Mechanism's initial review of standards on OSH issues, the ratification campaign of C. 187 will put OHS on the front burner for all sectors at the ILO.

☒ In reference to:

a. The **first bullet point of "Vision" on page 2:**

"A future platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 should be built on the vision set out in resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and referred to in resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, namely, "to achieve the sound management of chemicals *throughout their life cycle* and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development" (emphasis added);

K. The **sixth bullet point of "Scope" on page 3:**

"At the global, regional and national levels, scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to prevention policies; new emerging issues; climate change; a broadened health agenda; institutional strengthening; *the life cycle approach*; the potential contribution of sustainable chemistry; sustainability; gender; and vulnerable populations, in particular indigenous peoples, women, children and, through them, future generations" (emphasis added); and

(c) The **seventh and eighth bullet points** under "**New and emerging issues**" on page 4:

“Reflection on and consider the implementation of a *life cycle approach*” (emphasis added).

“Give priority to the identification of hazardous chemicals in products and *throughout their life cycles*” (emphasis added).

**COMMENT 9. The life cycle of hazardous chemicals should be referred to as such to avoid confusion with the life cycle approach to health**

Each reference to the life cycle of hazardous chemicals and of their waste needs to be made clear when it is mentioned. It needs to be fully qualified for two reasons: first, because it is an important foundation for the inclusion of waste as inseparable from all other aspects such as production, marketing and distribution in the domain of chemicals management; and, second, because the life cycle approach has a specific meaning in the field of health, where it refers to the health of persons throughout their life, taking account of the characteristics of each stage of life from conception to oldest age. As health is also mentioned at least twice when the life cycle is mentioned, it would be helpful to make clear that it is the life cycle of each chemical - whether an input chemical, intermediate chemical, output chemical, and its full process until its disposition and/or containment as waste – that is being discussed.

End of commentary

## Appendix 1

### SAICM

First meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach

Brasilia, 7-9 February 2017

Opening statement from the **Trade Unions and Labour Group**, 7 February

I'm Odile Frank of the NGO Forum for Health speaking on behalf of the Trade Unions and Labour Group. Thank you for giving us the floor.

Looking beyond 2020 and into the future is an unique opportunity to enhance the actions and impact of SAICM and it is as a constructive contribution to SAICM that we are making the following remarks.

I'm going to address two issues: health and workers.

In regard to health, it appears to us that whether the objective of managing chemicals and waste is to preserve human health or the environment, the finality is the same: ultimately, protecting the environment serves to preserve human health as well as the future of the human species and the global biota. Health is central to the SAICM and to the multilateral environmental agenda.

Co-chairs, the trade unions and labour are dismayed by the slow progress on protecting health, given its urgency. Some have characterized the slow progress as due to complacency. As many have already pointed out in this meeting, there has been progress, but too little and too slowly.

In regard to workers, we are concerned about the failure to respect workers' rights. I am talking about the right of workers to know the nature of the substances they are dealing with in the workplace; to refuse or withdraw themselves when dealing with dangerous chemicals or waste; or to shut down production of dangerous chemicals or waste or processes that use them; to participate in decision-making that concerns their workplace; and to enjoy the right to health, which they share with all society. All of these rights are enshrined in instruments of public international law.

In this regard, protecting the health of workers has a multiplicative benefit on protecting the health of all societies. Furthermore, whereas a share of the global population may be protected in the workplace, workers in the informal economy are rarely protected, and this is where a large number of women earn their livelihood. So the protection of all workers is central to the benefit of all our societies.

We submit that the major reason that progress has been slow is the voluntary nature of any change that has occurred, and that we need to strengthen regulation, and enforce it. Now, bearing in mind that SAICM was not initially designed for that purpose, our proposal is to leverage the available public international law on the health of workers to speed up progress on protecting health in the management of chemicals and waste.

We also submit that whereas some partnerships don't work, social dialogue between governments, workers and employers in the International Labour Organization has successfully produced instruments of public international law – especially Conventions – since its creation in 1919

nearly a century ago. The Organization has adopted 186 Conventions since, but one of the very first Conventions, adopted in 1921, is the White Lead (Painting) Convention, designed to protect especially women and child workers.

Co-chairs, it has taken 100 years to ban lead in white paint, and yet there is still a large amount of lead paint in the housing stock of many countries, including developed countries, that must be removed. We cannot imagine a similar rate of progress for all the other sources of harm to human health from chemicals and waste, such as, for example, and also, especially, asbestos.

The International Labour Organization has adopted 12 Conventions that directly address the prevention and protection of workers from exposure to hazardous chemicals, by focussing on the chemicals themselves, or the sector of work where the exposure is known to occur. A further 3 Conventions address the institutional mechanisms and frameworks to ensure the application of occupational health and safety Conventions and other standards.

Finally, we should point out that whether a member State has ratified a Convention or not, the Convention is legally binding on each member State by virtue of their membership in the Organization. According to the ILO Constitution, member States that have not ratified a Convention must report on what they are doing to comply with the Convention in the meantime, and on action being taken to achieve ratification.

We are convinced that leveraging this body of public international law to speed up progress in protecting human health from chemicals and waste will strengthen the SAICM's strategic approach and that this improvement relative to the voluntary process will already enhance implementation of the 2020 agenda.

Moreover, this regulatory approach must have a central strategic role in the post-2020 SAICM agenda, especially to achieve consistency with the overarching objective of the Sustainable Development Goals to "transform our world".

This is our proposal.

Thank you.

## Appendix 2

### SAICM

First meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach

Statement on Item 5b from the **Trade Unions and Labour Group**, 8 February 2017

I'm Odile Frank of the NGO Forum for Health speaking on behalf of the Trade Unions and Labour.

The contact with other multistakeholders has been an unique part of the SAICM, including a true seat at the table for Trade Unions and Labour, and more broadly, civil society. This open and equal multistakeholder process must be maintained and enhanced beyond 2020.

The multistakeholder process not only enables dialogue and discussion on positions and views, but also, importantly, exchange of information and an understanding of the common values that unite us and the values that divide us. Regardless of their nature, understanding the partners in this process is very valuable to all our efforts, individual and collective, to manage the impact of chemicals and waste on human health.

The major challenge for us is to answer the question whether we can actually meet the pressing and urgent needs of formal and informal workers exposed to harmful chemicals worldwide, and the consequences for their families and communities with what is still a largely voluntary process.

Yesterday, we presented our proposal for the post 2020 SAICM agenda which was to leverage public international law into the process in order to speed up the benefits to human health of better management of chemicals and waste.

Today, I would like to speak to specific issues.

Trade Unions and Labour are especially concerned that we cannot achieve a global ban on the mining and use of asbestos, despite the work on the Rotterdam Convention, the existence of an ILO Convention that entered into force in 1989 and which is binding for all Member states, and the continuing work and guidance of the World Health Organization on ceasing its mining and use. We cannot afford to take 100 years to ban asbestos as we did for lead in white paint. And you heard just now from Dr Maria Neira of the World Health Organization that still two thirds of countries do not even have a legal mechanism to ban lead in paint, whereas lead is still causing substantial mortality and morbidity.

More generally, we are deeply concerned about the need to increase the participation of workers in the decisions regarding their exposure to harmful chemicals, especially if participation in the formal sector can have a secondary impact on the exposure of workers in the informal sector, for which opportunities to intervene are rarer. And such participation is rendered even more difficult in an economic environment in which workers are facing the revolution in automation and robotics, which are too frequently cited to weaken their negotiating power.

The fundamental challenge is to bring to bear clear evidence from scientific research and to give scientific findings a clear pathway to the decision-making table at multilateral and global levels, and ultimately at national level.

We look forward to a multistakeholder SAICM that is strengthened and enhanced by increased employment of the full range of binding legislation that is available in public international law and that is compatible and consistent with the global agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We therefore endorse the proposal from CIEL to engage in a review of the Governance alternatives for SAICM as we look beyond 2020 and look forward to the process and its outcome.

Thank you.



## **PAN International Response to the Co-Chairs Summary – SAICM 2017**

PAN thanks the Co-Chairs for their summary and the SAICM secretariat for making it available for discussion.

In our view, the Co-Chairs summary (C-CS) reasonably reflects most of the discussions at the First Intersessional Working Group (IWG1) in Brasilia in February 2017, with three significant exceptions, all of which have major impacts on PAN's work. These issues are:

- (h) HHPs
- 11 Future Governance
- (e) Human Rights

Some other aspects of the C-CS are also addressed below.

### **(f) Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)**

Although it was not intended that IWG1 discuss particular issues of concern, and few were raised, one issue was repeatedly raised: that of HHPs. A number of stakeholders, particularly officials from Ministries of Health who do not usually attend SAICM meetings, raised concerns about ongoing problems with poisonings from HHPs and the need for SAICM to take some action. PAN also repeatedly expressed concern about the lack of action on HHPs. The level of concern expressed by stakeholders is a reflection of the failure of SAICM to adequately address HHPs. That the C-CS failed to reflect the concern expressed in Brasilia is another indication that a change is necessary in how HHPs are to be managed in future.

HHPs were addressed in the original SAICM documents, including the Global Plan of Action, yet it took 9 years, and the concerted efforts of many stakeholders, before SAICM even acknowledged HHPs as an issue of concern. In 2012, at ICCM3, 65 stakeholder countries and organisations tabled a resolution calling for “a progressive ban on HHPs and their substitution with safer alternatives”. At the Open Ended Working Group in 2014, the entire African region, supported by other stakeholders, called for the formation of a Global Alliance to Phase-Out HHPs. Powerful interests managed to prevent the formation of the Alliance at ICCM4 in 2015, yet that meeting still resolved that HHPs should be addressed, including their replacement by agroecological practices. But, in 2017, there is still no progress.

Another indication of the scant regard being paid to HHPs is the failure in the C-CS, in its discussion of the contribution of SAICM to achieving the SDGs and mentioning particular SDGs 3,6,12, to include SDG 2 – *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*. Addressing the issue of HHPs and their replacement with agroecology is pivotal in achieving this goal: it cannot be achieved without the sound management of HHPs and their replacement with agroecology.

Likewise, it is not possible to achieve sound management of chemicals without addressing the main group of chemicals that are deliberately released into the environment to poison organisms – pesticides. And yet the failure to soundly manage pesticides is all too obvious.

It is not possible to even approach achievement of the SDGs without a fundamental shift in attitudes towards pesticides and the way food and fibres are grown. Not only is addressing HHPs essential for achieving SDG 2, it is also essential for achieving SDGs 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, and 15, and arguably all the other SDGs.

## **II Human Rights**

Human rights, and particularly the rights of children and of women, were expressly referred to by a number of stakeholders, with the request that they be specifically addressed in Beyond 2020. Yet these have been entirely omitted from the C-CS. A rights-based framework must be incorporated into future governance of chemicals, and it must recognize the special vulnerability of children, millions of whom are exposed to toxic chemicals without their informed consent. The rights of women must also be included, addressing their greater vulnerability to many chemicals and their often disempowered position within sound chemicals management. Support for this human rights approach in the sound management of pesticides is provided by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food,<sup>1</sup> and by the UN Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes.<sup>2</sup> The Nordic Council of Ministers Report on Chemicals and Waste Management Beyond 2020,<sup>3</sup> also points out that a stronger link between chemicals and waste management, and human rights and the health of vulnerable populations such as children, should be made.

## **III Future Governance – voluntary or binding?**

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MM. A/HRC/34/48. A/HRC/34/48. Report to the Human Rights Council (Effects of pesticides on the right to food). <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Food/Pages/Annual.aspx>

NN. E.g., Impact of Toxics and Pollution on Children's Rights. 2016. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/ToxicWastes/Pages/Annual.aspx>

OO. Chemicals and Waste Governance Beyond 2020: Exploring Pathways for a Coherent Global Regime. 2017. <https://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1061911/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

Whilst PAN agrees that the Brasilia meeting expressed unanimous support for the multi-stakeholder approach of SAICM going forward beyond 2020, we disagree with the C-CS that there was agreement that the voluntary approach should continue. There was not. There were a number of stakeholders who expressed their view that a legal binding approach is needed, at least for some issues. Unsurprisingly, those stakeholders tended to be the same ones that raised concerns about HHPs, the ongoing poisonings, and SAICM's failure to act.

The voluntary approach of SAICM has worked well for some well-defined simple issues, such as removing lead from paint, but it has failed for HHPs, a much more complex issue with a powerful industry with vested interests in not phasing out HHPs, and especially in not replacing them with agroecology.

PAN supports the statement by the UN Special Rapporteur for the right to food to the UN Human Rights Council in April 2017,<sup>4</sup> which amongst other things called for a global legally binding instrument for pesticides throughout their life-cycle, taking into account human rights principles. That report rightly acknowledged pesticides as a global human rights concern; that they undermine the rights to adequate food and health for present and future generations; that there is “a systematic denial, fuelled by the pesticide and agroindustry, of the magnitude of the damage inflicted”; that hundreds of hazardous pesticides are not eligible for regulation under existing treaties to control critical stages of their life cycle; and that “although certain multinational treaties and non-binding initiatives offer some limited protections, a comprehensive treaty that regulates highly hazardous pesticides does not exist, leaving a critical gap in the human rights protection framework”, and these treaties and initiatives are failing to protect people and the environment. She noted that “regulatory authorities may be under strong pressure from the industry to prevent or reverse bans on hazardous pesticides”; that the industry has failed to take a life-cycle approach to responsibility for their products; and “the pesticide industry’s efforts to influence policymakers and regulators have obstructed reforms and paralysed global pesticide restrictions globally”. Her report also supports the SAICM stakeholders’ call for a global phase-out of HHPs, and the ICCM4 recommendation that HHPs be replaced with agroecology, as part of a comprehensive legally binding instrument.

PAN believes this is the only way forward for the sound management of pesticides, and the failure of SAICM to adequately address the issue over 11 years justifies this. This proposal must be placed on the table and taken forward into the discussions for Beyond 2020. In the interim, until such a legally binding treaty is in place, it would be appropriate to commence a global alliance to phase-out HHPs. We, therefore, support renewing discussions on such a global alliance as an interim measure.

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(e) A/HRC/34/48. Report to the Human Rights Council (Effects of pesticides on the right to food). <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Food/Pages/Annual.aspx>

PAN also supports the suggestion in the Nordic Council of Ministers' Report<sup>5</sup> for a global overarching chemical convention that could incorporate the existing chemical conventions as annexes. We would see a new legally binding convention on the management of pesticides as fitting into such an overarching convention. Alternatively, it could be a stand-alone convention.

***Recommendations:***

- (g) In support of SDGs 2 and 3, a preliminary proposal be drafted for a global legally binding convention on the management of hazardous pesticides to include at least the following elements:

A timeframe for phasing out HHPs

Their replacement by agroecology

Preventing the double standard of countries exporting pesticides they have themselves banned to countries with weaker regulatory systems

Strict liability for pesticide producers for human and environmental harm

Life-cycle management, including manufacturers taking back empty containers; and obsolete, fraudulent and illegally traded pesticides

Recognition of the increased vulnerability of the unborn foetus, children, women, elderly, and chronically-ill people

Polluter pays principle is implemented

Human rights are incorporated with particular attention to children rights

Monitoring of human health and environmental impacts

- (h) In the interim, until such a convention is finalised, ICCM5 establishes the Global Alliance on Phasing out Highly Hazardous pesticides, with the following objectives:

To raise the awareness of government authorities and regulators, farmers, rural communities, indigenous peoples, private industry, consumers, workers, trade unions, civil society, and health-care providers about the harms of HHPs and the availability of safer alternatives

To catalyse the design and implementation of appropriate prevention-based programmes to phase-out HHPs, replace them with agroecological practices and approaches to sustainable food and fibre production, and public health vector control as a priority. When processes for phasing-out HHPs are put in place, arrangements must be made to ensure a fair and safe transition that protects workers' health and employment;

To provide assistance to farmers to enable them to phase out HHPs while maintaining their agricultural livelihood;

To provide assistance to health professionals on identifying and reporting pesticide poisonings, to promote efficient surveillance and identification of HHPs;

To provide assistance to government authorities with identifying appropriate alternatives, particularly for public health vector control;

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(e) Chemicals and Waste Governance Beyond 2020: Exploring Pathways for a Coherent Global Regime. 2017. <https://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1061911/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

- (f) To promote the establishment of appropriate national regulatory frameworks to stop the manufacture, import, sale and use of HHPs, as well as the sound disposal of HHPs;
- (g) To provide guidance and promote assistance to identify, reduce and avoid exposure to HHPs, including for communities near areas of cultivation and urban areas.

#### IV Other Aspects of the Co-Chair Summary

##### *(a) Vision*

PAN does not agree that, beyond 2020, the vision as adopted by UNEA1 is sufficient for sound chemicals management. We believe the vision needs to be updated. Currently, it states that, to achieve the sound management of chemicals it is necessary only to “prevent or minimise significant adverse effects on human health and the environment”. PAN does not agree that sound management of chemicals should be built on allowing adverse effects that are determined by someone to be non-significant, when in all likelihood they would be significant to the person concerned. Significant is a word that can never be defined, and so in terms of sound management of chemicals it becomes meaningless. Notably, it is not used in the SDGs target 12.4, which states:

By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

In our view, minimizing effects is also not acceptable, when they can be eliminated, so the vision should be based on *the prevention of adverse effects on human health and the environment*.

##### *(b) Scope*

The C-CS misses two important aspects of sound chemicals management:

- (p) Under the 6<sup>th</sup> bullet point, a range of linkages are referred to, such as sustainable chemistry, sustainability, etc, but nowhere is mentioned *safer alternatives*. It might be assumed by some that this is covered by the sustainable chemistry but, as will be explained below, this is not the case for HHPs; and so it is critically important that the terminology of safer alternatives is not disguised as sustainable chemistry. *Safer alternatives* are a feature of the original SAICM documents and must be retained in whatever eventuates beyond 2020.
- (q) Last bullet point: “Work should be based on relevant scientific data and information...”. This fails to acknowledge the vast wealth of knowledge and innovation that occurs on the farm as a result of practical experience in developing and implementing agroecological practices, and which can be used

to inform sound management of HHPs. Hence this bullet point should also include “*practical experience*”.

### ***(c) Partnerships***

PAN agrees on the importance of partnerships, but stresses that any with industry must be transparent, accountable, inclusive of other stakeholders and they should be with those that provide the solutions not the problems. There is a fundamental conflict of interest between the pesticide industry and the aims of SAICM. A large part of the pesticide industry has a vested interest, of trillions of dollars, in preventing the replacement of HHPs with agroecology as recommended by ICCM4. The pesticide industry has done little in the 11 years of SAICM to phase out HHPs. PAN has identified 297 HHPs in current use.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, PAN’s Consolidated List of Banned Pesticides shows that 370 current use pesticide active ingredients have been banned by one or more of 106 countries.<sup>7</sup> Yet CropLife, which represents the mainstream, western part of the pesticide industry, has decided to stop manufacturing only two of these.<sup>8</sup> They are the problem industry not the solution. During the 11 years of SAICM, PAN and its partner organisations, and FAO, have done far more to minimise the harms caused by HHPs than pesticides industry will ever do, until they stop manufacturing and selling HHPs.

SAICM should form partnerships with those organisations that are involved in agroecology – i.e. the solution to HHPs – and partner with them: from farmers’ organisations and NGOs, to researchers and academics, to sectors producing biological controls and botanical or biopesticides, and others facilitating the implementation of agroecology. Currently, apart from NGOs such as PAN and IPEN, none of the others referred to here are engaged in the SAICM process at all. There needs also to be recognition that these sectors and organisations are poorly funded in comparison with the pesticide industry, and partnerships need to make provision for that. If the polluter pays principle is applied to the pesticide industry, and in particular to HHPs, resources would be available to fund implementation of agroecology.

### ***(d) Issues of concern***

This section of the report failed to reflect the need for *safer alternatives*, focusing only on identification of issues, knowledge about them, and monitoring. Priority should be given to the identification and information on safer alternatives if meaningful change is to occur. SAICM has failed to do this. Safer alternatives are a critical part of sound management of chemicals.

PAN fully supports a life-cycle approach being taken to chemicals and waste. We also welcome the proposed addition of waste to the SAICM agenda – obsolete pesticides and discarded containers poison fields, rivers, wells, food and families on a daily basis, and

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NNN. [http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN\\_HHP\\_List.pdf](http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN_HHP_List.pdf)

OOO. <http://pan-international.org/pan-international-consolidated-list-of-banned-pesticides/>

PPP. Information presented by CropLife at the Sustainable Chemistry side event, Triple COPs, April-May 2017

the industry does little to take responsibility for them. Discarded pesticide containers also contribute to marine plastics, an issue that was repeatedly raised at IWG1.

***(e) Financing***

ICCM should operationalize the polluter pays principle for internalization of costs in chemical producing industries.

***(f) Sustainable and Green Chemistry***

Sustainable chemistry is not the answer to HHPs and the recent enthusiasm for it should not derail the already agreed ICCM5 approach to replace HHPs with agroecological practices. It was noted at the Sustainable Chemistry side event at the Triple COPs, an attempt to define non-chemical alternatives to pesticides as sustainable chemistry – they are not, they are sustainable biology. In agroecology, chemistry is replaced with biology. Agroecology and agroecological practices are a very well established scientific discipline, backed by extensive implementation and experience in the field, with academics and farmers contributing extensive innovative knowledge. Hence the comment in (c) (ii) above about the need to include experience alongside scientific knowledge and data.

CropLife's reluctance to be part of the solution to HHPs was demonstrated by their keynote speech at the Triple COPs side event on sustainable chemistry. Their view of sustainable chemistry was the above-mentioned cessation of 2 active ingredients and the reformulation of some products. This clearly indicates why sustainable chemistry is not the solution for HHPs.

***(e) Women and chemicals***

There was considerable discussion by a number of stakeholders at IWG1 on the importance of recognising both the impact of chemicals on women and their role in the sound management of chemicals, with the secretariat asked to produce a briefing paper on this. Yet the C-CS fails to mention this.

SDG 5 is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The Rio Principles and SAICM Overarching strategy equally acknowledge the need to strengthen the role of women in environmental and chemicals management.

SAICM should acknowledge that factors affecting women and chemical safety include different types of occupational exposures, unique time periods of susceptibility, that different physiology affects exposure and impacts, and unequal decision-making power.

***Recommendations:***

8. A multi-stakeholder women and chemical safety working group is established by 2020 to develop recommendations for actions on women and chemical

safety that are included in work plans guiding SAICM emerging policy issues and issues of concern.

- (k) Female Ministers of Environment, Health, and Agriculture make a ministerial declaration on women and chemical safety in 2020 that springs from the findings and recommendations of their report and is consistent with the needs and strategies outlined in the SAICM agreement.

***(a) Climate change***

Toxic chemicals and climate change are two of the most significant environmental challenges humanity faces and they are strongly linked – yet this link is not addressed in SAICM, and not mentioned in the C-CS.

***Recommendations:***

- That climate change impacts, i.e. emissions and mitigation, be addressed in all SAICM programmes.
- A paper be developed on how agroecology reduces climate change emissions and mitigates climate change impacts.

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July 2017

## CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>

Note about commenting: There is widespread confusion about why the secretariat and the Beyond 2020 Co-Chairs are requesting comments on the same document twice. Many do not understand how to add their ideas to this document nor the role their comments will play in developing a draft for review in the early 2017 regional meetings and subsequently at IP2. For this reason, the Co-Chairs and the secretariat might consider some ability to receive comments that result from the SAICM regional meetings. Once SAICM stakeholders understand the use of this modified document as a basis for discussion at IP2, they will be able to provide ideas. This is essential to provide broad input into the process since there is so much confusion about the current July 2017 commenting deadline.

### Structure of paper for IP2

The Co-Chairs might consider the following outline for the paper to be considered at IP2:

- Introduction
- Vision
- Objective
- Scope
- Governance
- Measurable objectives in support of Agenda 2030
- Financing
- National implementation
- Adoption of the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework

### **Introduction**

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), through Conference resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process to provide recommendations for consideration at ICCM5 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

ICCM resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term".

The present summary sets out the co-chairs' views of the contributions of the participants in the first meeting of the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 held in Brasilia, Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017. This summary should be read in conjunction with the official report of the meeting.

While the Co-Chairs' summary is not intended to present a consensus view, in some areas there was a common understanding. The document is solely that of the Co-Chairs and is non-negotiated.

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(d) Document to be formally edited.

It is important to note that the discussions at the first meeting of the intersessional process and the Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting are not intended to limit any additional ideas and views to be considered in further discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The present Co-Chairs' summary will be submitted to all SAICM stakeholders for further input and comments in order for it to further inform the discussions during the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

[Note: The Co-Chairs might consider mentioning the papers that IP1 requested that the secretariat prepare for consideration at IP2.](#)

### **Why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?**

This section describes why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is being considered. This section is further linked to the vision for such a future platform.

#### **Vision**

- It should be built on the vision set out in UNEA I/5 and referenced in ICCM resolution IV/4, namely “To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development.”<sup>2</sup>
- It is essential to enhance political awareness and commitment, at the highest levels, in order to meet this vision.

#### **Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework vision:**

[The vision of the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework should be long-term and timeless. Global civil society groups have adopted “Toxics-free Future” as their vision for accomplishing SAICM’s goals. This is well understood by the public and similar to the vision of “non-toxic environment” which has been proposed by others. It will be essential to enhance political awareness, commitment and effective implementation at all levels, including the highest levels, in order to meet this vision.](#)

#### **Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework objective:**

[The objective of the Framework should incorporate elements of the WSSD goal, SDG12.4, and UNEA I/5. This text effectively combines these sources for an effective long-term objective:](#)

[Achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their lifecycle to prevent and minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment.](#)

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly resolution I/5 on chemicals and waste – Annex I, paragraph 7: Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term.

Furthermore, the following elements may be considered:

- It should take into account the SAICM Overall Policy Strategy, the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, including the 11 basic elements.
- All stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure the 11 basic elements of sound management of chemicals and waste, as set out in SAICM's Overall Orientation and Guidance, exist in all countries.
- The vision may be timeless (not limited to 2030) and aspirational, and linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements.
- It should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and particular goals 3, 6 and 12 recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Consider efforts, in particular, where we have the largest opportunity to foster change and to have the greatest impact.
- It should be complementary to and foster coordination with the work of, other environmental multilateral agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap and to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels.
- Momentum should build upon strengthening the linkages of chemicals to policy areas of high priority like climate change and gender, amongst others.

### **What could a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 cover?**

This section describes what a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 could cover. This section is further linked to the scope for such a future platform. Making progress on the scope of the future platform is a priority for the second meeting of the intersessional process.

In considering the *scope*, the following elements may be considered:

#### **Scope**

- (ε) Scope should consider the 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, as well as the WHO health sector roadmap, as a practical way to reflect on the scope beyond 2020. A roadmap for chemicals and waste could be considered.
- (φ) It should include and address the elements on ‘Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long-term’ as incorporated in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste.
- (γ) The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including waste. The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including the consideration of sectors, prevention and waste.
- (η) The basics of chemicals and waste management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to emerging issues of concern.

- (η) There are several Sustainable Development Goals where clear connections can be made and where measurable objectives and milestones and supplementary indicators could be developed in support of the 2030 Agenda.
- (ι) At the global, regional and national level, the scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to: prevention policies; new emerging issues; climate change; a broadened health agenda; institutional strengthening; the life cycle approach; the potential contribution of sustainable chemistry; sustainability; as well as gender and vulnerable populations, especially indigenous peoples, women, children, and through them future generations.
- (φ) Collaborative actions should be fostered on new and emerging issues, particularly issues not currently covered under existing policy frameworks and agreements.
- (κ) The Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach.
- (λ) Work should be based on relevant scientific data and information and consider key elements of chemicals management systems.
- (μ) At this meeting, there was no discussion regarding what type of waste issues are being considered in the scope of the beyond 2020 context.

**IPEN comment on scope:** The scope of the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework should maintain the broad scope of SAICM, but the ministerial declaration could slightly widen it to include human rights and explicitly include wastes as part of the lifecycle.

### **Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework scope**

- 34 Environmental, economic, social, human rights, health, and labor aspects of chemical safety.
- 35 Agricultural and industrial chemicals at all stages of their lifecycle including in wastes and products.

### **Reasons for including human rights**

SAICM has already linked chemical safety to human rights through its Dubai Declaration, Overarching Policy Strategy and emerging policy issues. SAICM's ministerial Dubai Declaration commits all stakeholders to human rights, stating that, "We commit ourselves to respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, understanding and respecting ecosystem integrity and addressing the gap between the current reality and our ambition to elevate global efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals."<sup>3</sup> The SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) provides important objectives for human rights, including risk reduction, information, illegal international traffic, technical cooperation and good governance, and notes the importance of pollution prevention as the primary means of achieving the SAICM objective. SAICM emerging policy issues have developed to protect those who are particularly vulnerable to advance human rights in specific areas. For example, the issue of chemicals in products centers on the right to information. The elimination of lead paint advances the right of every child to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Initiatives on nanomaterials and electronics are closely linked with the rights of workers to a safe and healthy workplace. The recent Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG) provides important "elements" and "activity areas" for advancing human rights. For example, human rights bodies have recognized the need for effective legislation, regulation and enforcement, as well as intersectoral and international cooperation, to protect vulnerable groups from human rights abuses by businesses.<sup>4</sup>

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(b) UNEP - WHO (2006) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

[http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475](http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475)

(c) Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment no. 16.

Governments adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in October 2015. The Agenda 2030 Declaration resolves, “to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls...”<sup>5</sup> The Declaration envisages, “A world where we reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and where there is improved hygiene; and where food is sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious” and a world, “of universal respect for human rights and human dignity...”<sup>6</sup> Agenda 2030 calls on businesses to not only innovate but also to protect labor rights, “and environmental and health standards in accordance with relevant international standards and agreements and other ongoing initiatives in this regard, such as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the labour standards of the International Labour Organization, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and key multilateral environmental agreements, for parties to those agreements.”<sup>7</sup> Finally, Agenda 2030 reaffirms the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments relating to human rights and international law.

### **How could the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 be realized?**

This section describes how a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste could be realized. This section is connected to governance, new and emerging issues, science-policy interface, financing, sustainable and green chemistry as well as national implementation.

The how will be informed by the independent evaluation of SAICM and should focus on the gaps in reaching the 2020 goal.

Drawing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, linkages should be made to other agendas such as biodiversity, oceans and climate change, food and agriculture, health, gender and labour.

In considering the how, the following elements should be taken into account:

#### **Governance**

- (㉓) The voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, that has been integral to the nature of SAICM, should continue. Voluntary standards, common objectives of protection and codes of practice, to which relevant stakeholders may voluntarily commit for some issues, should also be considered.
- (㉔) Some participants advocated to explore more elements, as well as potential elements, that would be legally binding. Potential legally binding elements could also be explored.
- (㉕) Functionally, the design should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sector participation at all levels (national, regional and global) along with a targeted approach, as an essential means to promote impact, involvement, ownership and commitment.

(c) United Nations (2015) Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN General Assembly, A/RES/70/1 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

(d) United Nations (2015) Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN General Assembly, A/RES/70/1 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

(e) United Nations (2015) Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN General Assembly, A/RES/70/1 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

- (δ) There is a need to increase industry engagement, by for example promoting partnership approaches in the future platform and by including the waste and downstream sectors.
- (ε) Partnerships should focus on public needs and be in line with agreed principles and values. They should be transparent and accountable; ensure multi-stakeholder involvement; provide an added value; and complement rather than substitute commitments made by governments.
- (φ) The future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill the gaps and coordinate with decision-making bodies of the Participating Organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), other relevant agencies and organizations. This could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the ICCM (i.e. governments, NGOs and IGOs) to one where the sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) can play a more formal role. There are opportunities to link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- (γ) Measuring progress, including objectives and milestones, and supplementary indicators, in addition to the SDG targets and indicators, as well as a related plan of action including at the national level. The 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance are a useful starting point.
- (η) Measurable objectives, as noted in paragraph 10 of ICCM Resolution IV/4, should be considered, including on means of implementation in order to ensure effectiveness.
- (ι) Clear milestones would support the capacity to evaluate progress and would ensure transparency.

### **Governance of the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework**

Key governance features of the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework include:

- (ε) UNEP and WHO at least as UN agency “anchors” for the secretariat
- (φ) Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework endorsed by the governing bodies of all IOMC organizations and other relevant international bodies.
- (γ) Multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral
- (η) Integration of the relationship between women and chemical safety
- (ι) Effectiveness evaluation
- (φ) Reporting on concrete actions to contribute to Agenda 2030
- (κ) Implementation guidelines
- (λ) Flexibility for possible legally-binding aspects in the future

SAICM’s Overarching Policy Strategy (Paragraph 29) establishes UNEP and WHO to take lead roles in the secretariat, however, WHO has not seconded anyone to the secretariat in several years. The original rationale for having UN agency leads on environment and human health still holds true and both agencies should serve roles in the Framework secretariat. In addition, the governing bodies of all IOMC organizations and other relevant international bodies should endorse the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework.

SAICM has clearly established the benefits of a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach. There is broad agreement on continuing this approach and this should be an essential governance element in the new Framework.

The Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework should address and integrate the important relationship between women and chemical safety. Paragraph 18 of the Dubai Declaration on

governance objectives and Paragraphs 16 g and h of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy provide further support for special actions on the relationship between women and chemical safety and having a declaration on this topic by female ministers of environment at ICCM5 in 2020 (please see below in the sections on Agenda 2030 and Adoption of the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework.)

Effectiveness evaluation and reporting are both extremely important for measuring progress and revealing gaps in implementation. However, SAICM is missing effectiveness evaluation and the reporting indicators cannot really assess implementation. This should be addressed in the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework by utilizing measurable objectives as described below in the section on Agenda 2030.

The possibility of having the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework develop implementation guidelines should be explored. A current analogy is the model law for lead paint prohibition developed by UN Environment. While not obligatory, it provides a useful template for enacting a national law to prevent further damage to human health and the environment. Various initiatives under the measurable objectives in support of Agenda 2030 (please see below) could also be areas where international standards or guidelines would be useful. The principle advantage would be to accelerate reduction of harm at the national level. They would also provide key fundable, tangible activities that could become part of a national implementation plan and subsequent reporting.

The Beyond 2020 process should include the possibility of legally-binding elements sometime in the future. While the chemicals conventions are extremely useful, there are very large gaps in chemical safety that become lost in priority setting because SAICM is not legally binding. Such legally binding elements could take the form of specific protocols to the framework on issues that are not appropriately covered by existing approaches, such as chemicals in products or plastics, among others.

Finally, consideration should be given to expanding the Montreal Protocol ozone units to serve as chemical units for implementation of SAICM and the chemicals conventions. Ideally, the chemical units would locate chemical safety responsibilities in a single effectively-operated institutional arrangement. The updated chemical units could have a multi-disciplinary nature, including a role in coordination, regulation, financing /mainstreaming, compliance, needs assessment, reporting and others. The units should interface with all stakeholders as well as the regional centers established by the Basel and Stockholm Conventions. The efforts to establish synergies in the chemicals conventions have primarily focused on the secretariats. This proposal focuses on synergies at the national level.

### **Measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Since this is one of the only mandated tasks the Beyond 2020 process must complete, this topic should have its own section and focus during the discussions leading to adoption of the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework.

In adopting SAICM, governments agreed that advancing chemical safety should be viewed as a necessary component of the sustainable development agenda. The diseases and behavior disorders caused by chemical exposures not only cause human suffering, they also retard economic productivity and impose costly additional burdens on a country's health and

education systems. Shortfalls in a country's ability to manage chemicals become barriers that block economic development and poverty reduction initiatives.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reaffirms all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and it envisages, "a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want."<sup>8</sup> It reaffirms commitments regarding, "the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation"; "improved hygiene"; and a world, "where food is sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious."<sup>9</sup> Actions related to chemical safety and toxic chemicals are either referenced or implied in many, if not all of the SDGs. The Agenda also acknowledged that progress made toward achieving these goals should be measurable.

The actions in support of the 2030 Agenda should be clearly measurable with adequate quantitative and qualitative indicators that facilitate a running assessment of the SAICM successes and challenges. Twelve initiatives under the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework could form contributions to achieving Agenda 2030. These are described below.

Two key initiatives should be considered in the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework: A Global Alliance to Phase-out Highly Hazardous Pesticides and addressing the relationship between women and chemical safety. Both are intimately linked to the Framework's overall objectives and the SDGs. For more information on these initiatives please Annexes 1 and 2.

The following 12 initiatives could represent an initial group of actions by the Beyond 2020 Chemical Framework to contribute to fulfilment of Agenda 2030.

#### **(f)Lead in paint**

Relevant SDG(s): 3, 16

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is successfully encouraging companies to stop manufacturing and selling lead paints, encouraging governments to enact regulatory controls, and providing tools to stakeholders to achieve actual change on the ground. Substantial measurable reductions in the manufacture and sales of lead paints have already been achieved and more can be anticipated. These primary prevention achievements translate easily into measurable reductions in lead exposures of future generations, and these in turn, translate into reduced incidents of mental impairments, cardiovascular disease and other non-communicable diseases.

#### Key measurable objectives

- (g) By 2020, analytical data on lead in paint from 80 developing and transition countries is publicly available as a contribution to enable all countries to: 1) Establish effective legally-binding regulatory controls by 2022 on lead decorative paints and lead paints for other applications most likely to contribute to children's lead exposure; and 2) Establish effective, legally-binding regulatory controls by 2027 prohibiting the use of lead in paint, varnishes, stains, enamels, glazes, primers or other coatings.
- (h) By 2025, publicly available monitoring of lead content of paint on the market shows that no new decorative paint or paints for other applications most likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure are being sold.

(h) — United Nations (2015) Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN General Assembly, A/RES/70/1 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

(i) — United Nations (2015) Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN General Assembly, A/RES/70/1 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

By 2027, strategies and guidance on safe management of legacy lead paint have been developed and made publicly available.

By 2030, publicly available monitoring shows that no varnishes, lacquers, stains, enamels, glazes, primers or coatings that are being produced, sold, exported, imported or used for any purpose contain lead.

## **8. Highly hazardous pesticides**

Relevant SDG(s): 2, 3, 8

The Dubai Declaration notes that one of the key reasons for taking concerted action on chemical safety concerns is the “dependency on pesticides in agriculture.”<sup>10</sup> In 2015, the ICCM4 adopted Resolution IV/3 establishing Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) as a SAICM Issue of Global Concern.<sup>11</sup> Delegates recognized, “that highly hazardous pesticides cause adverse human health and environmental effects in many countries, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries” and agreed to take concerted efforts to implement a strategy developed by FAO, UNEP, and WHO. Delegates further indicated that this should be done, “with emphasis on promoting agroecologically based alternatives.” FAO and WHO have developed technical criteria to define HHPs and the Pesticide Action Network International has also contributed additional criteria to define them.<sup>12</sup> The Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework can contribute to Agenda 2030 by developing a plan of action to implement this FAO, UNEP, WHO strategy to increase the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers while at the same time achieving significant measurable reductions in human and environmental exposures to HHPs through implementation of agroecology. The objectives below would be facilitated by developing a Global Alliance to Phase-out HHPs (please see Annex 1).

### Key measurable objectives

Identify and make publicly available, environmental and health information on 50 pesticides that should be classified as highly hazardous under the conditions of their ordinary use in 75 developing and transition countries by 2025; 150 countries by 2030.

Provide guidance on safer alternatives to HHPs with priority to non-chemical alternatives and ecosystem approaches to sustainable food and fiber production to 50 countries by 2025; 150 countries by 2030.

Phase out the manufacture, import, sale and use of 20 highly hazardous pesticides in 50 countries by 2025 and 150 countries by 2030.

By 2030, provide assistance to 1,000,000 farmers in 100 countries to enable them to discontinue the use of highly hazardous pesticides while maintaining their agricultural livelihood.

## **20. Chemicals in products**

Relevant SDG(s): 3, 8, 16

The Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework should advance information about chemicals in products through private sector implementation of the agreed chemicals in products

23. ——— UNEP - WHO (2006) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management [http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475](http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475)

24. ——— UNEP (2015) IV/3 Highly hazardous Pesticides, Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its fourth session, SAICM/ICCM.4/15

25. ——— See PAN International list of HHPs, December 2016, in <http://pan-international.org/resources/>

programme, monitoring, and by addressing the issue at its source with comprehensive information about chemicals in commerce. Note that a number of lists of chemicals of concern could be useful for further efforts on this topic, including the Substitute It Now (SIN) list<sup>13</sup> and lists and monitoring results performed by the Danish Consumer Council,<sup>14</sup> among others.

#### Key measurable objectives

Monitor 50 chemicals of concern<sup>15</sup> in consumer products in 75 countries with publicly available results completed by 2025.

By 2030, private sector implements the SAICM chemicals in products programme in 150 countries by giving priority to the identification of hazardous chemicals in products within the supply chain and throughout product lifecycle while publicly disclosing all chemicals in products.

Private sector publicly provides comprehensive information on adverse effects for all chemicals in commerce by 2030, including mutagenicity, carcinogenicity and adverse effects on the reproductive, developmental, endocrine, immune and nervous systems.

### **iii Hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products**

Relevant SDG(s): 3, 8, 12

This SAICM emerging policy issue covers design, production and use, and end of life aspects of hazardous chemicals in electrical and electronic products. The issue has focused primarily on electronic waste so far and the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework should turn its attention to the design and production parts of the lifecycle. Few SAICM issues are as pertinent to the public as this one and more attention and work should be conducted to advance recommendations made by the international workshop mandated by ICCM on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, hosted by UNIDO and held in Vienna on 29–31 March 2011.

#### Key measurable objectives

By 2025, assess implementation of the 2011 Vienna recommendations on hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products in 20 countries designing and/or producing electrical and electronic equipment.

By 2025, develop and publicly disseminate a list of chemicals of concern to human health and the environment used in electronics production and products.

By 2030, 50 countries enact meaningful right to know regulations for workers producing electrical and electronic equipment, including sub-contractors.

#### **Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs)**

Relevant SDG(s): 3, 16

EDCs are a global and ubiquitous problem. Exposure occurs at home, in the office, on the farm, in the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink. Despite this widespread

<http://chemsec.org/business-tool/sin-list/>

<http://kemi.taenk.dk/english>

Groups of chemicals that might be prioritized include persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances (PTS); very persistent and very bioaccumulative substances; chemicals that are carcinogens or mutagens or that adversely affect, inter alia, the reproductive, endocrine, immune or nervous systems; persistent organic pollutants (POPs), mercury and other chemicals of global concern; chemicals produced or used in high volumes; chemicals subject to wide dispersive uses; and other chemicals of concern at the national level. SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy para 9.

exposure, information about EDCs is lacking and difficult to access in developing and transition countries. Regulators cannot identify which substances are EDCs, their presence in media, food, products, etc. is unknown, and in many countries these substances are unregulated. The UNEP / WHO State of the Science report on EDCs outlines the current scientific information and effects on human health and recommends improved testing and reduced exposure.<sup>16</sup>

#### Key measurable objectives

By 2020, UN Environment assembles a list(s) of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and potential EDCs and sources of exposure from the UNEP/WHO State of the Science report and other sources and makes it publicly available on its website.

By 2022, conduct monitoring studies of EDC regulatory measures and EDCs in the environment and products in 4 – 6 developing and transition countries in four UN regions for a total of 16 – 24 countries.

By 2030, monitoring and research results are translated into EDC control actions in 5 developed countries and 3 developing and transition countries in 4 UN regions for a total of 17 countries.

#### Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

Relevant SDG(s): 3, 16

Among other items, nanomaterials are present in food, cosmetics, household appliances, computers, mobile phones, pharmaceuticals, textiles, ceramics, construction materials, sports equipment, and military weapons, although no publicly available inventory of nanomaterials in products exists.<sup>17</sup> There are many uncertainties about the potential harms of nanomaterials, but policies have been primarily focused on accelerating their use with very limited consideration of toxicity or precautionary approaches.<sup>18 19 20</sup> The Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework should address the information issue by working to establish a global inventory of nanomaterials. The safety of nanotechnologies and nanomaterials should be considered in synergy with worker safety issues in SAICM, and include health surveillance of workers in the nanotechnology industry.

#### Key measurable objectives

- By 2025, establish a living, publicly available global inventory of nanomaterials on the market. The global inventory should include sufficient characterization information on

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<sup>p</sup> UNEP, WHO (2013) State of the science of endocrine disrupting chemicals, ISBN: 978-92-807-3274-0 (UNEP) and 978 92 4 150503 1 (WHO) (NLM classification: WK 102)

<sup>q</sup> Foladori G, Invernizzi N, Bejarano F (2012). Social and Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. ReLANS / IPEN/ CMS-UCSB <http://ipen.org/documents/social-and-environmental-implications-nanotechnology-development-latin-america-and>

<sup>r</sup> Senjen R, Foladori G, Azoulay D (2013). Social and Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology Development in the Asia Pacific Region. NTN (National Toxics Network Australia) / ReLANS (Latin American Nanotechnology and Society Network) / IPEN

<http://ipen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Social%20and%20Enviro%20Implications%20of%20Nano%20Development%20in%20Asia-Pacific.pdf>

<sup>s</sup> Musee N, Foladori G, Azoulay D (2012). Social and Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology Development in Africa <http://ipen.org/documents/social-and-environmental-implications-nanotechnology-development-africa>

<sup>t</sup> Foladori G, Invernizzi N, Bejarano F (2012). Social and Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. ReLANS / IPEN/ CMS-UCSB

<http://ipen.org/documents/social-and-environmental-implications-nanotechnology-development-latin-america-and>

nanomaterials on the market to effectively support research and possible risk reduction measures

- o Conduct biomonitoring and health surveillance of workers handling nanomaterials in 15 countries by 2025; 50 countries by 2030.
- p By 2030, the private sector publicly provides comprehensive and verifiable information on adverse effects for all nanomaterials in commerce, including mutagenicity, carcinogenicity and adverse effects on the reproductive, developmental, endocrine, immune and nervous systems.
- q By 2030, use model legislation to support the development or strengthening of adequate governance and/or regulatory frameworks in 5 countries in 5 UN regions for a total of 25 countries.

□ **Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPP)**

Relevant SDG(s): 3, 7

At ICCM4, environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants – an issue that relates primarily to water pollution – was adopted as a SAICM Emerging Policy Issue. In addition, in the SAICM Global Plan of Action, activity 203 is about evaluating pollutant releases to air, land, and water. More generally, reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials is a centrally important aspect of the sound management of chemicals and wastes. It is also of central importance to the minimization of significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health associated with exposures to hazardous chemicals and wastes. The Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework can therefore further develop future SAICM initiatives and plans of action associated with SDG7.

Key measurable objectives

By 2022, develop a global roadmap on how pharmaceuticals can be produced, used and disposed of in a sustainable way, with an emphasis on the quality/rational use of medicines (human and veterinary), preventing microbial resistance and reducing and eliminating pharmaceutical pollution downstream of production facilities.

By 2025, establish an inventory of available techniques in waste water treatment/water treatment plants for destroying pharmaceutical pollutants, applicable in all countries.

By 2025, establish regular monitoring and public reporting of water sources in 50 countries, including potable water, surface and ground water sources, sewage treatment effluents and sewage sludge for the presence of EPPPs and their bioactive transformation products.

By 2025, governments and the private sector apply extended producer responsibility so that the pharmaceutical industry is accountable for all pharmaceutical waste and environmental residues throughout the life cycle of their products.

By 2030, achieve clean production and zero discharge of pharmaceuticals into the environment.

□ **Zero waste**

Relevant SDG(s): 11, 12, 13

SDG11 calls on countries to address municipal and other waste management to make cities sustainable. Zero waste is the approach most consistent with fulfillment of sustainable waste management objectives because it addresses sustainable resource management.<sup>21</sup>

#### Key measurable objectives

By 2025, all major cities containing more than 1 million inhabitants have finalized a waste audit to find out the amount and type of waste being produced, imported, and exported.

By 2030, implement segregation of waste at source for reuse, recycling and composting in all major cities of one million inhabitants or more.

By 2030, the private sector makes products that do not contain hazardous chemicals and makes products that are durable; reusable; easy to dismantle, repair and rebuild; minimally and appropriately packaged; recyclable and/or compostable at the end of life according to agreed criteria and publicly reports progress periodically.

By 2030, facilitate circular economy/cradle to cradle systems without toxic chemical recycling in 100 countries in 5 UN regions.

#### Workplace right to know

Relevant SDG(s): 3, 8, 16

The SAICM Dubai Declaration notes that one of the reasons to take concerted action on toxic chemicals is, “*exposure of workers to harmful chemicals and concern about the long-term effects of chemicals on both human health and the environment.*”<sup>22</sup> Workers have a right – often denied them – to have full access to information about the chemicals they use and about the hazards those chemicals pose. The Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework can do much more than has been done in the past to promote initiatives aimed at promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers. In some cases, these might be the promotion of workplace-focused activities that are related to already-identified Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Global Concern such as: highly hazardous pesticides; nanotechnologies and nanomaterials; hazardous substances in electronics (aimed at preventing toxic exposures to workers both at the point of production and end-of-life waste management and recovery); and chemicals in products.

#### Key measurable objectives

1. By 2030, ILO Convention 170 ratified and implemented in all countries.
2. By 2030, establish and enforce occupational health and safety regulations that provide meaningful right to know to workers, prioritize prevention, establish exposure limits protective of the most vulnerable populations, and provide equal protection in the workplace and the community in 150 countries.
3. WHO initiates a hazard surveillance program in 75 countries by 2025 to identify agricultural settings where there are particular pesticide exposures and health hazards to workers; 150 countries by 2030.

<sup>21</sup>Note that SAICM risk reduction objectives include reducing, “*the generation of hazardous waste, both in quantity and toxicity, and to ensure the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste, including its storage, treatment and disposal.*”<sup>21</sup> Global Plan of action items relevant to waste management including zero waste are outlined in items 68-73, 118, 121, 161-162, 169, 171-172, 187, 234, 258-262, and 272-273

<sup>22</sup> UNEP - WHO (2006) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management  
[http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475](http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475)

4. Conduct biomonitoring and health surveillance of workers handling endocrine disrupting chemicals and nanomaterials in 50 countries by 2025; 100 countries by 2030.
5. By 2025, the manufacturing sector completes an inventory of hazardous chemicals used in manufacturing processes as a baseline for subsequent reduction and publicly reports their chemical footprint periodically.

## **10. Agroecology**

Relevant SDG(s): 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13

In 2009, the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) concluded that sustainable development can be promoted through reduced agrochemical inputs and by the use of agroecological management approaches. FAO promotes a paradigm of sustainable crop production intensification (SCPI) that conserves and enhances natural resources, and develops a healthy agroecosystem as the first line of defense against crop pests.<sup>23</sup> At the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in May 2013, Parties agreed unanimously to give priority to ecosystem-based approaches to pest control to replace the insecticide endosulfan, which is listed under the Convention for global phase out.<sup>24</sup> Finally, in 2015, the ICCM4 adopted Resolution IV/3 establishing Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) as a SAICM Issue of Global Concern.<sup>25</sup> Delegates recognized, “that highly hazardous pesticides cause adverse human health and environmental effects in many countries, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries” and agreed to take concerted efforts to implement a strategy developed by FAO, UNEP, and WHO. Delegates further indicated that this should be done, “with emphasis on promoting agroecologically based alternatives.” The Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework can contribute to Agenda 2030 by developing an initiative focused on agroecology. This initiative would synergize with the issue of concern focused on highly hazardous pesticides but would broaden the issue in keeping with SDG2 and other relevant SDGs.

### Key measurable objectives

1. Adopt policies and instruments in 75 countries by 2025 that implement agroecological strategies and practices that reduce synthetic inputs, such as pesticides and fertilizers, and are based on biodiversity and integrated soil nutrition and thus increase agricultural productivity in a sustainable way, strengthen adaption to climate change and mitigate greenhouse gases; 150 countries by 2030.
2. Increase local markets by 50% in 75 countries by 2025 so that the increase in agricultural production and productivity will translate into higher incomes; 150 countries by 2030.
3. Implement policies and their instruments to achieve access to education, land, agricultural extension, and credit equitably between women and men, respecting community cultures and practices in 75 countries by 2025; 150 by 2030.

## **11. Plastics**

Relevant SDG(s): 11, 12, 14

<sup>23</sup>See <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/spi/en/>

<sup>24</sup>Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its sixth meeting. SC-6/8: Work programme on endosulfan, point 2. P46. [http://chm.pops.int/Convention/Conference of the Parties\(COP\)/ReportsandDecisions/tabid/208/Default.aspx](http://chm.pops.int/Convention/Conference%20of%20the%20Parties(COP)/ReportsandDecisions/tabid/208/Default.aspx)

<sup>25</sup>UNEP (2015) IV/3 Highly hazardous Pesticides, Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its fourth session, SAICM/ICCM.4/15

UN Environment has identified plastic marine pollution and particularly microplastics as a major global environmental threat with estimates suggesting that there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish by 2050.<sup>26 27</sup> The Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework must play a key role in promoting safer chemicals policy through toxics reduction, elimination and substitution to avoid and ultimately eliminate the adverse toxic impacts embedded throughout the whole life cycle of plastic products and packaging from raw materials extraction, use and final disposal.

#### Key measurable objectives

1. By 2023, plastics audits in municipal and industrial wastes conducted and results publicly released in 50 countries.
2. By 2025, ban multi-layered, single use plastic packaging and products, particularly sachets, in 150 countries.
3. Private sector funds recycling infrastructure in 75 countries by 2025, 150 countries by 2030.
4. By 2022, initiate a monitoring program for chemicals in microplastics in the world's oceans as an effectiveness evaluation measure for SAICM and the chemical conventions.

## **12. Women and chemical safety**

Relevant SDG(s): 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Despite the fact that women make up roughly half the population and chemical exposures are widespread, the gender aspects of chemical safety have been largely ignored.<sup>28</sup> Rio Principle 20 states, “Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.”<sup>29</sup> The SAICM ministerial Dubai Declaration commits governments to, “work towards effective and efficient governance of chemicals management by means of transparency, public participation and accountability involving all sectors of society, in particular striving for the equal participation of women in chemicals management.”<sup>30</sup> Risk reduction measures need to be improved, “to prevent the adverse effects of chemicals on the health of children, pregnant women, fertile populations, the elderly, the poor, workers and other vulnerable groups and susceptible environments.”<sup>31</sup> The Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework should address aspects of the relationship between women and chemical safety in each of its emerging policy issues and issues of concern. These might include lack of data, disparity in environmental assessments

<sup>26</sup> Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2016) The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the New Plastics Economy. <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications/the-new-plastics-economy-rethinking-the-future-of-plastics>

<sup>27</sup> UNEP (2016) Marine Plastic Debris and microplastics. Global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change. <http://www.unep.org/about/sgb/Portals/50153/UNEA/Marine%20Plastic%20Debris%20and%20Microplastic%20Technical%20Report%20Advance%20Copy.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> For more information on this topic, please see the IPEN paper, Beyond 2020: Women and chemical safety  
<sup>29</sup> United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992) Rio Declaration on environment and development. <http://www.unep.org/documents.multilingual/default.asp?documentid=78&articleid=1163>

<sup>30</sup> UNEP - WHO (2006) Dubai Declaration, para 18, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management [http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475](http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475)

<sup>31</sup> UNEP - WHO (2006) Overarching Policy Strategy, para 7, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management [http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475](http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475)

[and impacts, occupational exposures, and decision-making. For more information on this topic, please see Annex 2.](#)

#### [Key measurable objectives](#)

1. [Make “women and chemical safety” an Issue of Concern.](#)
2. [Address the relationship between women and chemical safety in all SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Concern.](#)
3. [Include women and chemical safety components as an integrated component in all IOMC and national projects.](#)

#### **New and emerging issues / Issues of concern**

- Ensure an information and knowledge base on chemicals and waste, including early warning systems that can inform work on new and emerging issues.
- Focus on scientific and technical capacity building facing new and emerging issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account different needs at the regional level.
- The basics of chemicals management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to the issues of concern.
- Build on existing efforts by stakeholders and sectors and focus on prevention and minimization.
- Develop a concept for a process of nomination, prioritization and evaluation that is robust and relevant. Future activities on emerging issues should be focused on where there is added value.
- Monitoring of already identified emerging issues.
- There should be reflection on and consideration of the implementation of a lifecycle approach.
- Give priority to the identification of hazardous chemicals in products and throughout their lifecycle.
- Actions should be categorized to facilitate work planning, for example:
  - Areas where scientific information exists and there is a need to increase the knowledge basis.
  - New emerging issues where we need to promote understanding and awareness.
  - Development of national or regional chemicals and waste management systems, including refinement of existing systems.
  - Issues which need global or coordinated action.

#### **New and emerging issues / Issues of concern**

[IPEN prefers “issues of concern” as a title for initiatives that focus on specific chemical safety issues. This title is broader and reflects current realities – particularly in developing and transition countries.](#)

[Issues of concern in the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework should be subsumed under concrete measures to contribute to implementation of Agenda 2030. Existing and some new issues of concern are described above. These are linked to contributing to specific SDGs and](#)

contain measurable outputs for ease of performing effectiveness evaluation and reporting – both with the Framework and to HPLF or other bodies involved in implementation of Agenda 2030. Most importantly, these activities reflect tangible activities to reduce harm on the ground and not just process objectives.

### **Science-policy interface**

- Explore how to strengthen the link between science, public health and policy in global chemicals and waste governance.
- Recognize the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice on chemicals and waste by intergovernmental and international bodies such as UNEP, WHO and the chemicals and wastes conventions secretariats.
- Consideration of the social interface and the full range of scientific and public health disciplines.
- Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy-making and action, including existing mechanisms, in other clusters, such as climate change and biodiversity.
- There were also come comments regarding the need to focus on scientific capacity building and caution about diverting resources from implementation.

### **Science-policy interface**

The actual proposal is not certain, though some have suggested formation of a body to address scientific issues. It is not clear what tangible problem this proposal is trying to address. In many instances, acting on existing scientific evidence is a stronger need than collecting additional information (e.g. the listing of the paraquat formulation and chrysotile asbestos is still pending under the Rotterdam convention despite very clear data and recommendations from the CRC). All the emerging policy issues and issues of concern that have been proposed and worked on during SAICM so far, have been solidly justified and no extra scientific body would have altered or improved decision-making on them. Considering the serious resource challenges facing chemical safety implementation, a funded scientific body would be a low priority compared to many other pressing concerns. If such a body were to be considered, then very precise terms of reference would be needed to ensure that all appropriate stakeholder groups are able to fully participate and that the full spectrum of scientific and public health disciplines related to chemical safety are actively engaged. In addition, strict measures to prevent conflict of interest and bias would need to be instituted to protect scientific integrity in policy decisions.

### **Financing**

- The integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste is composed of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing (UNEP/GC 27/12 and UNEA 1/5). The implementation of the integrated approach is essential for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term.
- Providing sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long term with emphasis on the role of developed countries.
- A broader range of contributions should be considered that are predictable, sustainable and adequate.

- Mainstreaming in national budgets and sectoral policies [through cost internalization and cost recovery mechanisms](#).
- Provide effective capacity building in relevant areas and also focus on the importance of building and strengthening institutional capacity and the need to engage industry in solutions.
- Broadening the donor base for sound management of chemicals and waste, including exploring untapped resources linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Building on existing funding structures at all levels, including lessons learned from existing funding mechanisms.
- Promote enhanced funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the GEF Trust Fund, Green Climate Fund and others with access for all eligible countries and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with applicable rules.

## **Financing**

[A successful Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework depends on sufficient, predictable funds that can be accessed by relevant SAICM stakeholders. While SAICM had a program to finance enabling activities, the funds need for SAICM implementation on a serious scale never arrived.](#)

[Key elements that should form part of the finalized framework include:](#)

- [Donor government development assistance agencies should substantially increase visibility and financial support for chemical safety, particularly since the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework links sound chemicals management to sustainable development and will develop measurable objectives in support of Agenda 2030.](#)
- [A clearing house mechanism should publicly track development aid for sound chemicals management.](#)
- [The Special Programme should be supplemented to enable access by all relevant Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework stakeholders.](#)
- [Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework effectiveness evaluation should also evaluate SAICM financing.](#)
- [UNEP should execute a study on how to implement economic instruments to internalize, within relevant industries, the cost to governments of implementing robust programs for sound chemicals management. This is because the global chemical industry has an annual turn-over of approximately USD\\$4.1 trillion per year and a 0.1% levy would yield USD\\$4 billion for sound chemicals management.<sup>32</sup>](#)
- [The overwhelming majority of the funds generated by a levy on the industry should be directed to assist chemical safety activities in developing and transition countries. The UNEP study should include input by stakeholders and include global or regional approaches consistent with Rio Principle 16.](#)

## **Sustainable and Green Chemistry**

- There was some debate concerning the definition of sustainable versus green chemistry. However, there was agreement that there were useful aspects of these concepts that should be followed up at the next intersessional process meeting.

<sup>32</sup>[United Nations Environment Programme \(2012\). Global Chemicals Outlook](#)

### **IPEN comments on sustainable and green chemistry**

Both green chemistry and sustainable chemistry are useful concepts. However, the major focus of the Beyond 2020 process should be to identify and characterize the features of a new framework, its governance, and the obligation to develop concrete measures in support of Agenda 2030. Note that neither green chemistry nor sustainable replaces the need for sound chemicals management and dealing with legacy issues. Sustainable chemistry will be useful only if it is clearly defined in a way that includes reducing and eliminating the hazards of chemicals over their lifecycle as a priority. In some uses, that includes non-chemical approaches such as agroecology. Leaving the term “sustainable chemistry” without a clear definition invites labeling all kinds of current chemistries as sustainable chemistry, watering down the term to render it nearly useless and leaving opportunities to “greenwash” chemistries with a term that suggests social or environmental benefits that do not exist. Green chemistry should be an obligatory part of sustainable chemistry so that hazard reduction is fully incorporated into the sustainable chemistry concept.

### **National Implementation**

- National Action Plans were mentioned as a possible tool to address the sound management of chemicals and waste, focusing in particular on building in-country capacity for basic chemicals and waste management with the support of international cooperation.
- Additional elements such as institutional strengthening and information sharing were highlighted for making progress at the national level.
- National cost recovery mechanisms was highlighted as key for national implementation

### **National implementation**

National implementation plans are extremely important to ensure action. While the OOG describes important elements, it is primarily focused on process. To fulfill the vision and objectives of the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework it will be critical that national implementation plans include tangible actions to prevent and reduce harm. These actions can spring directly from measurable objectives to implement Agenda 2030 or other country priorities that directly address preventing and minimizing the adverse impacts of chemicals and wastes on human health and the environment. National implementation plans should also provide a basis for financing since specific objectives and outcomes will be included.

Another important aspect of national implementation and overall implementation of the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework is regular effectiveness evaluation. This would be facilitated by having measurable objectives as outlined above in the section on Agenda 2030. These same objectives would also facilitate reporting since the current SAICM indicators are vague and do not capture actual implementation and its challenges. National implementation plans

### **Adoption of the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework**

The Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework should be welcomed with a ministerial statement at ICCM5 in 2020. Optimally, the statement would include ministers from environment, health, agriculture, labour and other relevant ministries. The SAICM agreement should be reaffirmed and preserved in the new Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework.

In addition, to the overall ministerial statement, there should be a launch of actions on the relationship between women and chemical safety. This launch should occur via a ministerial statement about women and chemical safety from female ministers of environment, health, agriculture, labour and others at ICCM5. While gender issues have received attention by the BRS Secretariat<sup>33</sup> and the GEF<sup>34</sup>, the need for this type of declaration and subsequent actions are especially acute in chemical safety.

A ministerial statement by women ministers is consistent with past international agreements. Rio Principle 20 states, “Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.”<sup>35</sup> The ministerial SAICM Dubai Declaration commits governments to, “work towards effective and efficient governance of chemicals management by means of transparency, public participation and accountability involving all sectors of society, in particular striving for the equal participation of women in chemicals management.”<sup>36</sup> One of SAICM’s objectives is, “To ensure equal participation of women in decision-making on chemicals policy and management.”<sup>37</sup>

The ministerial statement on women and chemical safety would be highly relevant to kickstarting actions on contributing to fulfilment of SDG5, among other SDGs. Each of the current SAICM emerging policy issues and issues of concern is closely connected to the SDGs and the relationship between women and chemical safety. For example:

Highly hazardous pesticides: UNEP’s Global Gender and Environment Outlook notes that in some countries, “women make up 85% or more of the pesticide applicators on commercial farms and plantations, often working whilst pregnant or breastfeeding” and that, “Overall, women are more biologically sensitive than men to many pesticides.”<sup>38</sup>

Lead in paint: WHO notes that, “Exposure of pregnant women to high levels of lead can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, premature birth and low birth weight, as well as minor malformations.”<sup>39</sup>

Chemicals in products: Different patterns of product use can also result in different potential chemical exposures. For example, women use more personal care products than men and a wide variety of chemicals found in these products raise health concerns.

Hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products: The issue of women in electronics is an ongoing matter of concern due to the large use of chemicals and the high proportion of women workers. An analysis of epidemiological data found evidence suggesting reproductive risks to women from semiconductor fabrication jobs including

<sup>33</sup><http://www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=3651>

<sup>34</sup> Global Environment Facility (2011) Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF

<sup>35</sup> United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992) Rio Declaration on environment and development, <http://www.unep.org/documents.multilingual/default.asp?documentid=78&articleid=1163>

<sup>36</sup> UNEP - WHO (2006) Dubai Declaration, para 18, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management [http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475](http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475)

<sup>37</sup> UNEP - WHO (2006) Overarching Policy Strategy, para 16, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management [http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475](http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475)

<sup>38</sup> Watts M (2013) Breast cancer, pesticides, and you. Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific <http://www.panap.net/sites/default/files/Breast-cancer-pesticides-and-you.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs379/en/>

spontaneous abortion, congenital malformation, and reduced fertility.<sup>40</sup> A subsequent examination of reproductive risks among female microelectronics workers aged 20 – 39 years old found a significantly higher risk for spontaneous abortion and menstrual aberration.<sup>41</sup>

Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials: Titanium dioxide nanoparticles can cause ovarian dysfunction, affect genes regulating immune response, disrupt the normal balance of sex hormones and decrease fertility.<sup>42</sup> In addition, many nanoparticles can cross the placenta where they can cause, “altered organogenesis and morphology as well as defects in the reproductive and nervous systems of the offspring.”<sup>43</sup>

Endocrine-disrupting chemicals: In women, “EDCs can adversely affect the ovary, uterus, vagina, anterior pituitary, and/or steroid production, which can lead to reproductive disorders such as early puberty, infertility, abnormal cyclicity, premature ovarian failure/menopause, endometriosis, fibroids, and adverse pregnancy outcomes.”<sup>44</sup> A special concern for exposures during pregnancy is that alterations in fetal programming events can predispose adults to chronic diseases.

Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants: Concerns around exposure to pharmaceutical pollutants in women include chemical exposures during development, exposures to chemical mixtures, chemical exposures in women of reproductive age, and the fact that some pharmaceutical pollutants, “are prohibited from prescription to pregnant women or children.”<sup>45</sup>

### **Annex 1. Global Alliance to Phase-out Highly Hazardous Pesticides**

The proposal for a Global Alliance to Phase-out Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) grew out of concerns about HHPs expressed in SAICM regional meetings prior to ICCM4 in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. At ICCM4, a conference room paper proposing a Global Alliance to Phase-out HHPs was put forward jointly by Albania, Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, Jordan, Liberia, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Yemen, International Trade Union Confederation, International POPs Elimination Network, Pesticide Action Network and International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associations. Other stakeholders were not ready to move

<sup>40</sup> Kim MH, Kim H, Paek D (2014) The health impacts of semiconductor production: an epidemiologic review, Int J Occup Environ Health 20:94-114

<sup>41</sup> Kim I, Kim MH, Lim S (2015) Reproductive Hazards Still Persist in the Microelectronics Industry: Increased Risk of Spontaneous Abortion and Menstrual Aberration among Female Workers in the Microelectronics Industry in South Korea, PLoS One doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0123679

<sup>42</sup> Sun J, Zhang Q, Wang Z, Yan B (2013) Effects of nanotoxicity on female reproductivity and fetal development in animals models, Int J Mol Sci 14:9319 – 9337  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3676785/>

<sup>43</sup> Sun J, Zhang Q, Wang Z, Yan B (2013) Effects of nanotoxicity on female reproductivity and fetal development in animals models, Int J Mol Sci 14:9319 - 9337

<sup>44</sup> Gore AC, Chappell VA, Fenton SE, Flaws JA, Nadal A, Prins GS, Toppari J, Zoeller RT (2015) EDC-2: The Endocrine Society’s Second Scientific Statement on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals, The Endocrine Society, ISSN Print 0163-769X ISSN Online 1945-7189  
<https://www.endocrine.org/~media/endosociety/files/publications/scientific-statements/edc-2-scientific-statement.pdf?la=en>

<sup>45</sup> UNEP (2015) Nomination for a new emerging policy issue: environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemicals Management, SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/15

forward with a Global Alliance at ICCM4, however, delegates did agree to advance the issue. The ICCM4 resolution on HHPs called for concerted action on HHPs, “with emphasis on promoting agroecologically based alternatives.”<sup>46</sup>

In light of the new global focus on sustainable agriculture outlined in SDG2, the time has come to reconsider establishing a more formal concerted global effort to deal with HHPs through a Global Alliance. This could draw from lessons learned during the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

A Global Alliance to Phase-out HHPs would support implementation of two key policy decisions:

- (a) Paragraphs 84 and 86 of the 131<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council of the Food and Agricultural Organisation,<sup>47</sup> in which the Council endorsed SAICM and recognized FAO’s role in SAICM implementation through activities on risk reduction, including the progressive ban of highly hazardous pesticides and promoting good agricultural practices; and
- (b) Sustainable Development Goal #2, “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.”<sup>48</sup> This includes a focus on Target 4, “By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.”

The overall goal of the Global Alliance would be to promote the implementation of paragraphs 84 and 86 of the 131<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council of the Food and Agricultural Organisation on the progressive ban of highly hazardous pesticides and promoting good agricultural practices. The Global Alliance would be a voluntary and collaborative relationship between various parties, whether governmental, non-governmental, public or private, in which all participants agree to work together systematically to attain the overall goal of phasing out highly hazardous pesticides. It would be open to Governments, intergovernmental organizations, research and academic organisations, and representatives of civil society and the private sector that support the partnership goal. The Global Alliance could undertake its work primarily through electronic communication mechanisms. However, opportunities in conjunction with regional meetings of Strategic Approach stakeholders and international, regional and national meetings on chemical management could also be used. FAO would be an ideal UN agency to support the Global Alliance, however if the agency is unwilling to perform this secretariat function, perhaps UN Environment might consider moving it forward.

Specific objectives of the Alliance should include the following:

- (a) To raise the awareness of government authorities and regulators, farmers, rural communities, indigenous peoples, private industry, consumers, workers, trade unions and health-care providers about the harms of highly hazardous pesticides and the availability of safer alternatives;

<sup>46</sup> UNEP (2015) IV/3 Highly hazardous pesticides, Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its fourth session, SAICM, ICCM.4/15

<sup>47</sup> Report of the Council of FAO, 131<sup>st</sup> Session, 20 – 25 November, 2006, CL131/REP

<sup>48</sup> United Nations (2015) Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/#8d796abdf942e9d1e>

- (b) To catalyse the design and implementation of appropriate prevention-based programmes to phase-out highly hazardous pesticides, replace them with nonchemical alternatives, agroecological practices and ecosystem approaches to sustainable food and fibre production, and public health vector control as a priority. When processes for phasing-out highly hazardous pesticides are put in place arrangements must be made to ensure a fair and safe transition that protects workers' health and employment;
- (c) To provide assistance to farmers to enable them to phase out highly hazardous pesticides while maintaining their agricultural livelihood;
- (d) To provide assistance to health professionals on identifying and reporting pesticide poisonings to promote efficient surveillance and identification of highly hazardous pesticides;
- (e) To provide assistance to government authorities with identifying appropriate alternatives, particularly for public health vector control;
- (f) To promote the establishment of appropriate national regulatory frameworks to stop the manufacture, import, sale and use of highly hazardous pesticides, as well as the sound disposal of highly hazardous pesticides;
- (g) To provide guidance and promote assistance to identify, reduce and avoid exposure to highly hazardous pesticides including for communities near areas of cultivation and urban areas.

A variety of partnership activities could also be envisioned to advance the Global Alliance objective of phasing out HHPs. These could include

(a) Information

- (1) Exchanging information on pesticides that meet the criteria for highly hazardous pesticides;
- (2) Exchanging information on the effects and potential effects of highly hazardous pesticides on health and the environment;
- (3) Exchanging information on pathways of exposure to highly hazardous pesticides for children and adults;
- (4) Exchanging information on highly hazardous pesticide use in various countries;
- (5) Exchanging information on national, provincial, State and local regulations, legislation, and policies restricting and prohibiting highly hazardous pesticides in various countries;
- (6) Exchanging information on highly hazardous pesticides that have been or are being phased out in countries;
- (7) Exchanging information on national, provincial, state and local regulations, legislation, and policies prioritizing nonchemical substitution and providing for the implementation of ecosystem-based agriculture;
- (8) Exchanging information on nonchemical alternatives, agroecological practices and ecosystem-based approaches;
- (9) Exchanging information on labeling and certification systems with regard to the presence and concentrations of highly hazardous pesticides in food;
- (10) Exchanging information on methods to make fields safe for work by or presence of pregnant women and children;

(11) Exchanging information on suggestions for warning labels on food grown with highly hazardous pesticides alerting users to the health risks that could result.

(b) Monitoring:

(12) Encouraging nations to monitor health to estimate the prevalence of highly hazardous pesticides in use and in the environment, food, and/or humans;

(13) Encouraging nations to conduct monitoring to estimate the prevalence of highly hazardous pesticides in the environment (for example, in water, soil and animals);

(14) Encouraging nations to conduct market surveys to estimate the prevalence of highly hazardous pesticides in food.

(c) Capacity building and expertise:

(15) Building capacity to monitor health to estimate poisonings due to highly hazardous pesticides;

(16) Building capacity and providing training in nonchemical techniques, agroecological practices, and ecosystem approaches to pest and crop management, including farmer exchanges;

(17) Building capacity and providing information and knowledge in human and laboratory equipment to facilitate laboratory tests for highly hazardous pesticides;

(18) Building capacity and providing information and knowledge to help officials in a range of ministries to test for highly hazardous pesticides;

(19) Providing technical expertise in the design and implementation of studies to estimate the levels of highly hazardous pesticides in the environment, food, and/or humans;

(20) Providing expertise in policy development at the national level on implementing nonchemical techniques and agroecology.

(d) Regulatory

(21) Discussing and providing technical assistance on steps that could be taken to phase out highly hazardous pesticides worldwide;

(22) Encouraging the use of financial incentives to support the use of nonchemical alternatives, agroecology and ecosystem approaches to agriculture and public health vector control;

(23) Developing guidelines for establishing national standards, including those that would regulate and stimulate use of organic agriculture;

(24) Encouraging nations to require that only crops grown without highly hazardous pesticides be supported with government funds;

(25) Encouraging nations to require that crops grown with agroecology be given preference for public procurement;

(26) Providing guidance for and information on effective enforcement of national standards, including on how to avoid smuggling of highly hazardous pesticides;

(27) Building the legal enforcement capacity of environmental health officers in ministries, local authorities and mines;

(28) Providing international support to developing countries by devising further methods to enact comprehensive legislation to phase out highly hazardous pesticides completely;

(29) Exchanging information and providing international support to strengthen and harmonize existing national legislation that focuses on protecting public health in relation to the phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides;

(30) Enhancing the elimination of highly hazardous pesticides around schools and other areas where children will be present, given children's special vulnerability to highly hazardous pesticides;

(31) Minimizing risks of previously applied highly hazardous pesticides by using effective containment.

(e) Research and extension

(32) Sharing knowledge on the availability of safer alternatives to replace highly hazardous pesticides;

(33) Developing agroecological alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides;

(34) Developing guidelines with descriptions of simple analytical methods and test kits to identify highly hazardous pesticides;

(35) Assessing the hazards of substitutes for highly hazardous pesticides.

(f) Outreach to industry and market.

(36) Encouraging wholesalers and retailers to halt sales of highly hazardous pesticides;

(37) Assessing the feasibility of the voluntary phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides in cooperation with business and industry, including at the (sub) regional level.

Finally, the Global Alliance would develop and implement a monitoring mechanism for tracking progress on activities undertaken through and by the partnership. This would facilitate publicly available reporting on progress both with the Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework and the Agenda 2030 processes.

## **Annex 2. Women and chemical safety**

Chemicals impact women and men in different ways and through different routes. These differences have consequences that play out against the larger backdrop of issues related to gender (in)equality and sustainable development. As UNEP's Global Gender and Environment Outlook notes, "Sustainable development will not advance, nor will environmental protection policies and actions be as effective as they need to be, if gender equality is not protected and enhanced."<sup>49</sup> Despite the fact that women make up roughly half the population and chemical exposures are widespread; the gender aspects of chemical safety have been largely ignored. The Beyond 2020 Chemical Safety Framework and its links to Agenda 2030 provide a needed impetus to finally establish actions on the relationship between women and chemical safety.

Factors affecting women and chemical safety include these elements:

- **Lack of data:** Knowledge of exposure routes and the true impacts of chemical exposures on women are difficult to determine because gender-disaggregated data is thin or entirely absent. As a result, current exposure standards are usually based on an assumed average male height and body weight and this reduces protection for both women and children. In addition, without links to other gender data such as the number of women in certain occupations, linkages to certain health effects cannot be identified. Better understanding of gender-dependent hazards will improve how protective and preventive measures are designed and implemented.
- **Environment assessments of and activities on chemicals and wastes usually ignore gender aspects:** This disparity hides differences in gender susceptibility to chemical exposure. To achieve better outcomes from chemicals management measures, and awareness-raising and capacity-building activities, it is sometimes crucial to address men and women differently. For example, information workshops addressing households are often attended by the male head of the family, even though often the women should have the information first hand. This could lead to many recommendations not being implemented in the household (e.g. waste handling). Therefore, chemicals and waste projects should have a gender assessment before they start, gender sensitive indicators and activities, and a gender evaluation after they finish, to increase the effectiveness of the outcomes.
- **Different physiology affects exposure and impacts:** Women and men have different hormone systems that influence a whole host of body functions during development and as adults. Throughout their lives, women are exposed to numerous harmful chemicals that can be transferred across the placenta during fetal development and through breast milk to the nursing infant. Exposures to chemicals that dissolve in fat are especially relevant, as women tend to have higher fat content. Exposures during fetal development can cause lifelong harm and increase the risks of such harmful effects as preterm births, birth defects, childhood and adult diseases. Adverse effects can also be carried across multiple generations. A growing number of chemicals have been shown to exert multigenerational and transgenerational effects. Exposure to pregnant females not only impacts the offspring (F1) but also their offspring (F2) and even the subsequent generation (F3.)

<sup>49</sup>United Nations Environment Programme (2016) Global Gender and Environment Outlook: The Critical Issues, DEW/1970/NA <http://www.unep.org/gender/portals/24117/GGEO%20TRIFOLDER%20final.pdf>

- **Unique time periods of susceptibility:** Men and women have different time periods in which impacts of chemical exposure can be especially high. For women, these time periods include adolescence, pregnancy, lactation, and menopause.
- **Different types of occupational exposures:** Women and men both experience occupational exposures to chemicals, but these may differ based on the region, type of occupation, and access to information. For example, women working in agriculture in some countries can represent the majority of workers involved in pesticide spraying. In some countries, women working in rural areas are exposed to chemicals due to the traditional practice of burning agricultural stubble and waste in preparation for planting. Beauty salon workers are overwhelmingly women, and are often exposed to chemicals in the products they handle. Women are also exposed at home while using cleaning products, household pest control products, washing pesticide-contaminated clothing, the storage of pesticides and spray equipment in kitchens, or dealing with wastes. Women typically work at the lowest level in global production systems. This feminization of poverty makes women more susceptible and vulnerable to toxic chemical exposure, putting their health at risk.
- **Exposures to chemicals in different types of consumer products:** Women use a different spectrum of consumer products than men. For example, women use substantially more personal care products than men and usually do house work using cleaning products containing chemicals. This and other differential use of products results in different types of chemical exposures.
- **Decision-making on environment and chemical safety issues is not equal:** Women generally have more limited decision-making power and this is consistent with the low number of parliament seats and higher-level government positions held by women, as well as decision-making at the household level. The role of women as educators, trainers, and decision-makers in addressing chemicals and waste problems is both underestimated and underutilized. There are wide disparities between women and men in access to education, resources, social protection, financing, capacity-building and training, and technical knowledge and skills. This creates different exposure scenarios, impacts empowerment, and undermines the development of gender responsive policies.

The relationship between women and chemical safety is highly relevant to concrete actions in support of Agenda 2030. For example:

Highly hazardous pesticides: UNEP’s Global Gender and Environment Outlook notes that, “Gender differences in the effects of chronic exposures to pesticides are related to the different physiologies of men and women. Overall, women are more biologically sensitive than men to many pesticides.”<sup>50</sup>

Lead in paint: The human fetus is the most vulnerable to the toxic effects of lead and a pregnant woman can transfer lead that has accumulated in her body to her developing child.<sup>51</sup>

50 — United Nations Environment Programme (2016) Global Gender and Environment Outlook: The Critical Issues, DEW/1970/NA <http://www.unep.org/gender/portals/24117/GGEO%20TRIFOLDER%20final.pdf>

<sup>51</sup>Bellinger, DC (2008) Very low lead exposures and children’s neurodevelopment. Current Opinion in Pediatrics, 2008. 20:172-177

Lead is also transferred through breast milk when lead is present in a nursing mother.<sup>52</sup> WHO notes that, “Exposure of pregnant women to high levels of lead can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, premature birth and low birth weight, as well as minor malformations.”<sup>53</sup>

Chemicals in products: Women use more personal care products than men and a wide variety of chemicals found in these products raise health concerns. These include 1,4-dioxane, acrylates, carbon black, coal tar, diethanolamine, formaldehyde, and others.<sup>54</sup> However, information on these and other toxic chemicals is usually not disclosed and is not included on product labels, which makes women unaware of potential health hazards caused by toxic ingredients. IPEN studies of chemicals in products have revealed a wide variety of toxic metals in skin-lightening creams and other consumer products.<sup>55 56 57 58 59</sup>

Hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products: By the mid-1970s, there were about one million workers in electronics assembly in Asia and 90% of them were women.<sup>60</sup> An analysis of epidemiological data found evidence suggesting reproductive risks to women from semiconductor fabrication jobs including spontaneous abortion, congenital malformation, and reduced fertility.<sup>61</sup> A subsequent examination of reproductive risks among female microelectronics workers aged 20 – 39 years old found a significantly higher risk for spontaneous abortion and menstrual aberration.<sup>62</sup> More than 300 cases of occupational diseases in electronics workers in the Republic of Korea have been documented and court or government decisions have linked some of the illnesses to working conditions.<sup>63</sup>

Nanotechnologies and nanomaterials: Toxicity studies in animals indicate that nanomaterials used in consumer products can harm the female reproductive system. Titanium dioxide nanoparticles can cause ovarian dysfunction, affect genes regulating immune response, disrupt the normal balance of sex hormones and decrease fertility.<sup>64</sup> In addition, many nanoparticles can cross the placenta where they can cause, “altered organogenesis and morphology as well as defects in the reproductive and nervous systems of the offspring.”<sup>65</sup>

<sup>52</sup>Bjorklund KL, Vahter M, Palm B, Grander M, Lignell S, Berglund M (2012) Metals and trace element concentrations in breast milk of first time healthy mothers: a biological monitoring study, Environ Health 11:92

<sup>53</sup><http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs379/en/>

<sup>54</sup>[www.safecosmetics.org/get-the-facts/chemicals-of-concern/](http://www.safecosmetics.org/get-the-facts/chemicals-of-concern/)

<sup>55</sup><http://ipen.org/site/toxics-products-overview>

<sup>56</sup><http://ipen.org/documents/imeap-report-market-investigation-illegal-importation-mercury-containing-skin-whitening>

<sup>57</sup><http://ipen.org/documents/ecowaste-coalition-imeap-poster-market-investigation-illegal-importation-mercury>

<sup>58</sup><http://ipen.org/site/china-results>

<sup>59</sup><http://www.ipen.org/sites/default/files/documents/EARTH%20Hg%20in%20Whitening%20-%20Report.pdf>

<sup>60</sup>Lim LY (1981) In: Dauber R, Cain ML, eds. Women and technological change in developing countries. Boulder, Colorado, Westview Press, 1981. 181-90. (AAAS Selected Symposium 53)

<http://www.popline.org/node/385070>

<sup>61</sup>Kim MH, Kim H, Paek D (2014) The health impacts of semiconductor production: an epidemiologic review, Int J Occup Environ Health 20:94-114

<sup>62</sup>Kim I, Kim MH, Lim S (2015) Reproductive Hazards Still Persist in the Microelectronics Industry: Increased Risk of Spontaneous Abortion and Menstrual Aberration among Female Workers in the Microelectronics Industry in South Korea, PLoS One doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0123679

<sup>63</sup>Personal communication from Supporters for the Health and Rights of People in the Semiconductor Industry (SHARPS)

<sup>64</sup>Sun J, Zhang Q, Wang Z, Yan B (2013) Effects of nanotoxicity on female reproductivity and fetal development in animals models, Int J Mol Sci 14:9319 – 9337

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3676785/>

<sup>65</sup>Sun J, Zhang Q, Wang Z, Yan B (2013) Effects of nanotoxicity on female reproductivity and fetal development in animals models, Int J Mol Sci 14:9319 - 9337

Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs): In women, “EDCs can adversely affect the ovary, uterus, vagina, anterior pituitary, and/or steroid production, which can lead to reproductive disorders such as early puberty, infertility, abnormal cyclicity, premature ovarian failure/menopause, endometriosis, fibroids, and adverse pregnancy outcomes.”<sup>66</sup> A special concern for exposures during pregnancy is that alterations in fetal programming events can predispose adults to chronic diseases.

Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants: Concerns around exposure to pharmaceutical pollutants in women include chemical exposures during development, exposures to chemical mixtures, chemical exposures in women of reproductive age, and the fact that some pharmaceutical pollutants, “are prohibited from prescription to pregnant women or children.”<sup>67</sup>

Two areas for concrete actions on the relationship between women and chemical safety are:

### **Make women and chemical safety a high-level issue of concern**

1. A multi-stakeholder women and chemical safety working group is established by 2020 to develop recommendations for actions on women and chemical safety that are included in workplans guiding SAICM emerging policy issues and issues of concern.
2. Female Ministers of Environment, Health, and Agriculture, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, develop a report for SAICM on women and chemical safety for release in 2020 that includes case studies and concerns from all UN regions.
3. Female Ministers of Environment, Health, and Agriculture make a ministerial declaration on women and chemical safety in 2020 that springs from the findings and recommendations of their report and is consistent with the needs and strategies outlined in the SAICM agreement.

### **Address women and chemical safety as an integrated component in all IOMC and national projects**

1. Develop gender guidelines for sound chemicals and waste management and agriculture in all IOMC and national projects by 2020. Existing gender guidelines could serve as the baseline, but do not currently address specific aspects of chemicals and wastes and the differences of their implications in women and men, and thus need to be expounded upon.
2. Donors and IOMC organizations require gender assessments, collection of sex-disaggregated data, and gender trainings for involved staff and project participants for all chemicals, waste, and agriculture projects by 2020.
3. Donors and IOMC organizations develop quantitative and qualitative gender and social class indicators for both policy and projects on chemicals, waste, and agriculture by 2020 to better understand gender and social class implications related to chemicals and waste topics, which will further lead to improved conditions for women and men equally, and empower them to play an active role as agents of change.

<sup>66</sup>Gore AC, Chappell VA, Fenton SE, Flaws JA, Nadal A, Prins GS, Toppari J, Zoeller RT (2015) EDC-2: The Endocrine Society’s Second Scientific Statement on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals, The Endocrine Society, ISSN Print 0163-769X ISSN Online 1945-7189  
<https://www.endocrine.org/~media/endosociety/files/publications/scientific-statements/edc-2-scientific-statement.pdf?la=en>

<sup>67</sup> UNEP (2015) Nomination for a new emerging policy issue: environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemicals Management, SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/15

4. Donors and IOMC organizations require a section about gender-related activities and outcomes of the project in all chemicals, wastes, and agriculture projects by 2020.
  5. Donors and IOMC organizations make all gender-disaggregated data retrieved in all projects publicly available beginning in 2022, to increase the protection of human health and to stimulate further scientific research.
-

Although my organization was not present at **“the First meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the Sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020”**, Please find below some points that may give some light on sound management of chemicals in a developing country such as Cameroon:

- Strengthening the capacity of NGOs, CBO, Public and private sector on the health and resource benefits of the sound management of chemicals and wastes. Chemicals are mostly used in the small and medium size enterprises in the developing countries where the primary safety practices are ignored by the users. Then, there is good benefit for the health of the workers in these sectors to build capacities on the sound management of chemicals. In addition, there is very lack of knowledge on the resources that can be gained with the sound management of wastes. This should also be strengthened to give opportunity for the unemployed people
- NGOs may play a crucial role for the sound management of chemicals and waste in developing countries where the national policies are neglected by many governments. Then, there should be a mechanism that facilitate NGOs from the developing countries to get capacity building and know how without a serious intervention of national government from the north countries.
- There is also need for the academics and educators in the developing countries to be involved for the sound management of chemicals and wastes in these developing countries
- There should be a mechanism of rapid intervention in the developing countries in case hazards related to the mismanagement of industrial chemicals and wastes
- Specific session to take into account the management of chemicals and waste with heavy metals in developing countries

These are point that may deepen the problem of sound management of chemicals and waste in some developing countries. There are more contributions from my organization that are going to be added as this process continues.

Best regards,

Samuel TETSOPGANG

President and Co-Founder

The Institute of Total Environment

P.O. Box 31314 Yaoundé

Cameroon

Dear Brenda

My contribution on informal waste management will be linked to the findings from the National Mercury MIA projects.

Informal waste disposal and burning is prevalent in the African Region and from the MIA's we observe that generally the Regions major releases and emissions of mercury are from mercury added products, ASGM and waste. If any mercury is present in the waste, it is anticipated that most of it will be released into the environment given the volatility of mercury. Many countries struggle to get good quality data from both the municipal systems and also industries in the waste management system.

The UNEP mercury toolkit allows countries to estimate releases (5 g/Hg/t of waste burned for the calculation of the emission from informal burning of waste, but this has never been validated in the Region... which brings me to my recommendation that it would be really useful for the countries in the African Region to develop Regional emission factors for chemicals and waste. Ideally this would be undertaken by local government experts and consultants.

I hope this is useful.

For now warm regards,

Rico

**Prof. Dr. Martin Scheringer**Chair, International Panel on Chemical Pollution  
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and

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6 July 2017

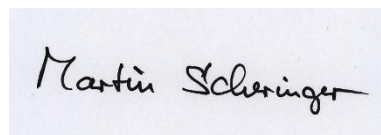
*Re.: Input in response to the co-chairs' summary of discussions at first meeting of the intersessional process*

Dear Ms. Koekkoek,

please find attached to this letter the input in response to the co-chair's summary submitted by the International Panel on Chemical Pollution, IPCP.

If you have any questions regarding our input, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Martin Scheringer

Chair of the International Panel on Chemical Pollution

**Input in response to the co-chairs' summary of the discussions during the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, submitted by the International Panel on Chemical Management (IPCP)**

The International Panel on Chemical Management (IPCP) and its members welcome the efforts made at the first meeting of the intersessional meeting, and have the honour to submit their views on the sound management of chemicals and waste (SMCW) beyond 2020, particularly related to the science-policy interface. We look forward to explaining our views and listening to the views of others and engaging in a constructive spirit in discussions to reach a common understanding regarding the SMCW beyond 2020.

1. It should be recognized that academic scientists in the field of chemicals and waste have much to offer to the SMCW, but in comparison to other stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations and industry are much less organized and coordinated with respect to policy-related work. Thus, in contrast to the fields of climate change and biodiversity, only a small number of academic scientists have been individually called in by some ministries and agencies, whereas the majority of academic scientists are neither participating nor represented in the current science-policy discussion of chemicals and waste. As a consequence, the academic community has a rather limited voice in the current science-policy interface in the field of chemicals and waste. Accordingly, a future, strengthened science-policy interface should leverage existing associations of academic scientists, engage scientists globally, and facilitate a harmonized contribution of the academic community, similarly to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Working Groups under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.
2. It should be recognized that a strong science-policy interface should facilitate bi-directional communication, and thus, promote the co-production of science and policy in the field of chemicals and waste, including perspectives from developing and developed countries: scientific evidence from exploratory research can grow stronger if the policy context defines a need for additional research, and, similarly, a weak policy context can become stronger if confirmatory scientific evidence is produced. The future, strengthened science-policy interface should therefore have at least the following functions:
  - a. to monitor and evaluate the progress of science, identify new and emerging issues, and inform decision-makers about those issues;
  - b. to monitor and evaluate progress on methods for monitoring and reporting in support of policy initiatives; and
  - c. to monitor and evaluate progress of policy, identify fields where gaps in the relevant science exist and are critical, and inform scientists about these gaps.

3. The future, strengthened science-policy interface with the engagement and involvement of the academic community may be established both on the national/regional and international levels in the following ways:
  - a. On the national level, one route of more actively including academic scientists could be through continuous, broad outreach by national agencies and ministries. This could be similar to the current practices, but may also be enhanced through regular dialogue between agencies/ministries and the academic community in individual countries.
  - b. On the international level, governments may wish to provide financial support for the coordination and facilitation of the academic community to be present at international meetings and conferences to provide scientific and technical inputs as well as for scientists to understand the existing research needs and better organize future research activities within the academic community to fill these gaps.
4. The future, strengthened science-policy interface should be neutral (i.e., without financial conflict of interest), independent, transparent and science/facts-oriented.
5. The International Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP), is a global network of academic scientists across all UN regions who work on chemical pollution issues ([www.ipcp.ch](http://www.ipcp.ch)). The IPCP is currently preparing an “International Workshop Supporting the Dialogue Between Science and Policy on PFASs”. The workshop intends to engage leading scientists and regulators across the globe to review the status quos of science and policy in the field of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), an “Other Issue of Concern” under SAICM. The workshop further intends to, building on the review and dialogue, identify common goals and a strategic plan (or a roadmap) that highlights major needs on each side and milestones along the pathways to address them in the next 5–10 years. The workshop in its current form also serves as a first step in addressing such an emerging issue, for which existing information warrants actions while critical data gaps may still need to be filled: It first brings academic scientists and regulators on the same page, which can then be used as a basis for a constructive dialogue among a wide range of stakeholders, including industry and civil society. This could be a model case to test and evaluate how such a “science-policy” dialogue may contribute to the processes under SAICM to address new and emerging issues. The organizers have invited one of the Co-Chairs, Ms. Reis de Carvalho, and the SAICM Secretariat to participate in the workshop. In addition, the workshop outcomes will be published and shared with all stakeholders.

## Concept note on assessment

### “Illegal and illicit trade of chemicals”

June 2017.

By GRID-Arendal, Norway

#### Background

Chemicals<sup>1</sup> surround us in our daily life. - From food and clothing to transport and technology, chemicals are the building blocks of the things we use and consume. According to UNEP’s Global Chemical Outlook, the global output of chemicals (produced and shipped) was valued at US\$ 171 billion in 1970, which by comparison in 2010 had grown to US\$ 4,12 trillion. With this increase in the production, trade and use of chemicals, it is evident that chemicals play a vital role in the global economy. While chemicals can provide key benefits to society and people, they also provide risks for human welfare and the environment. Therefore, with the growth in global chemical output and as we are seeing new levels of complexity in the chemical supply chain, sound use and management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle is more important than ever. This is expressed in the Sustainable Development goal (SDG) 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns<sup>2</sup> – and specifically through target 12.4:

*“By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment”<sup>3</sup>.*

As chemical outputs are growing, so does the regulations of chemicals, which in turns lead to a growth in illegal and illicit activities. The illegal trade of chemicals and waste is also boosted by growing gap between economically and politically strong and weak countries opening up new markets for marginal products. Weak governance and/or limited possibilities to secure overview of transboundary movements allow, particularly low risk illicit activities such as chemical and waste trade, to be carried out.

Moreover, what is waste or by-product for someone is a treasure for others. This opens up possibilities for trade of “adjustable products” to different markets. Among these concerns, emerging issues of chemicals are linked to the concept of global circular economy, opening up for marginal new consumer products coming back to a new value chain.

Furthermore, the increasing usage of chemicals in products and processes also challenges international policy frameworks, and international/ national regulation and law implementation. International and national policy gaps, weak or non-existing regulations provides so-called “grey” areas which can lead to environmental and human security risk.

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of chemicals: chemical substances and compounds that can exist naturally and are produced industrially.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, Report of the Secretary-General, "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals", E/2016/75.

<sup>3</sup> Available at the United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg12](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg12)

This is especially relevant in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, whereby, weak chemical regulations and (or) poor and fragmented implementation and enforcement of laws and regulations have been identified as areas that needs attention<sup>4</sup>.

Considering these concerns, a key obstacle in reaching the SDG target 12.4, is the illegal trade and illicit markets of chemicals. According to the Strategic Approach for International Chemical Management (SAICM)<sup>5</sup>, progress has been achieved in areas such as risk reduction, governance, capacity-building and technical cooperation. However, extremely little information is available about dynamics, scales and trends related to illegal international traffic of chemicals. This major knowledge gap needs to be addressed.

Therefore, GRID-Arendal, together with partner organizations, suggests to prepare a comprehensive assessment of the current available information of illegal transboundary traffic in chemicals. The objective of the assessment is to provide an overview of an important knowledge gap on illegal trade of toxic, hazardous and severely restricted chemicals, and areas with non-existing or low areas of chemical regulations. Moreover, the objective is to propose recommendation to combat illegal and illicit chemical trade.

The report will contain information about the official global chemical trade and international policies and frameworks. It would provide the current state of information on illegal chemical trade, and its scale, illicit markets and emerging “grey” areas where more enforcement, regulations and juridical attention is needed. It would also include a thorough overview of the human rights and environmental risks associated with the illegal trade of chemicals. The report would have a global scope and scale, but provide specific case studies and examples.

The proposed assessment on the illegal trade of chemicals would be relevant decision-makers at all levels and highly relevant to SAICM process.

To develop this study, GRID-Arendal proposes to form a group of relevant organizations such as Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), IPEN, Pesticide Action Network (PAN), Basel Action Network (BAN), Global Financial Integrity and similar organizations providing applied research support to decision making processes. The work will build up on existing regional gap analyses such as initiated by the Nordic Council calling for incremental improvement in chemical management<sup>6</sup>. Consultations and overarching advisory support should be maintained with leading international institutions such as United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and Interpol.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.saicm.org/>

<sup>5</sup> SAICM is a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world, which was adopted by the First International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1) 2006 to support the achievement of the 2020 goal agreed at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development.

<sup>6</sup> Honkonen, T., Khan, S.A., (2017). Chemicals and Waste Governance Beyond 2020. Exploring Pathways for a Coherent Global Regime. Nordic Council of Ministers

**Timeline:** *The next Working Group meeting of the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM) will be held in the autumn of 2018. The report should be launched for this meeting.*

## Table of content Illegal trade of chemicals

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Content. (NB: suggestions for a table of content).

### Foreword

### Executive Summary & Recommendations

- Assessment objectives highlighted
  - Scale and scope of illegal or illicit trade of chemicals linked to damaging environmental and human health consequences;
  - Identifying emerging new “grey” areas that requires attention.
- Methodology explained (examination of data bases, available information, prosecuted case studies, involvement of experts etc.)
- Key findings summarized
- Key recommendations

### Part 1: Chemicals – all around us and vital to the world economy (the context)

- Definition
- Chemicals are the building blocks of many of the things we use and consume, and provides solutions and benefits for our modern lifestyle. Vital for the world economy.
- Life-cycle span of chemicals – from production –to usage in products – to afterlife (waste).
- Scope: particularly focusing on emerging issues and/or with high-level impact on the environment and human welfare.
  - Pesticides
  - Industrial by-products (e.g., petroleum, chlor-alkali industry, textile industry other waste vs product discussion)
  - Electrical and electronic products chemicals in products (e-waste)
  - Consumer products (e.g., toys)
  - Etc.
- Most important global legal instruments around chemicals to achieve SDGs. (e.g., Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management).
- Different products for different markets

### Part 2: International policy and governance of chemicals

- International framework – the three key international Conventions
  - the Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes
  - the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
  - the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Other relevant framework
  - OECD guidelines on Pesticide compliance and enforcement
  - EU mechanisms

- Bamako and Waigani Conventions
- National law and implementation – an area often weak, fragmented and ineffective.
- Policy analyses on legal and illegal trades. What is legal in one country is illegal in another country.
- Mapping out “grey areas” in legislation frameworks. Challenges with certain product, waste, by-product, nanomaterials etc.

### 3.2 Case study: area of weak or no regulation

#### *Potential example – to showcase “grey” areas*

- Potential grey areas (no international regulations for chemicals in products nanomaterials)
- Emerging issues such as pesticides e.g., land leasing by foreigner investors and trade of obsolete pesticides
- Case study: illegal trade of petroleum. Gasoline is produced through a process of mixing together intermediate products from the oil refineries, a process also called blending. This is often seen as a technical process which has to fulfil the standards and regulations set by society (and the market), however there are examples of fuels being produced of bad quality (with high levels of hazardous components – for example sulphur) and sold to the African markets. This industry, consisting of abuses the legislation gaps in global trade of petrol or petrol by-products to produce bad quality fuels, labelled “African Quality”, at the risk of human life and the environment

7.

## Part 3: Official global chemical output, trade patterns and illegal chemical trade (in hazardous substances and dangerous products)

- Official global chemical output
- What are the global trends and trade routes of illegal chemicals?
- “Different market” strategies.
- What is monetary accountability of illegal trade of hazardous substances? Analyses of selected illegal streams such as illegal petroleum and pesticides (based on case studies).

### 3.1 Illegal trade of pesticides – economic output

According to the Global Chemical Outlook, agricultural chemicals, such as fertilizers and pesticides, have some of the largest volume uses of chemicals worldwide. The global pesticide trade is being estimated to increase by 2,7 per cent between 2014 and 2019. Consequently, pesticide trade with banned, severely restricted or never registered pesticides is following the global trend. New trends in pesticide trade is linked to land grabbing.

#### *Potential examples*

- The annual growth rate of agricultural pesticide in Southeast Asia (especially countries such as Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia) is growing fast, however, there is

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<sup>7</sup>Case study taken from the report ‘A Public Eye Investigation, September 2016’.

also a major black market of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) which flows into the countries through porous borders<sup>8</sup>.

- Laos – China trade of pesticide linked to Chinese owned banana plantations in Laos. Some pesticides are imported from China or other countries<sup>9</sup>.
- Kazakhstan – China trade of pesticides linked to Chinese leasing in Kazakhstan (IPEN investigation).
- “Grey areas” such as industrialised countries producing pesticides for internationally vulnerable countries (e.g., Swiss company producing pesticides for Asian market; Denmark producing pesticides from Latin American countries etc.)

### 3.2. Industrial by-products

Industrial by-products from e.g., petroleum industry, chlor-alkali industry, textile industry etc. The by-products from these industries at times become consumer product to be sold particularly in countries with low economies. Trade patterns. Analyses of existing examples such as Probo Koala, Traffigura, Vest Tank (Norway), or “grey areas” like Swiss company selling weak fuel standards petrol to Africa.

Mercury (also known as quicksilver), albeit highly toxic<sup>10</sup> for humans and animals, are used in a number of industries such as chlor-alkali industry. Because of its toxicity there is a need for safe waste management processes in the end-cycle of the usage. However, mercury is very demanded commodity, therefore it may drift back to value chain instead of safe disposal. There are recorded examples of mercury waste trade such as international shipment of hazardous waste to Cato-Ridge, South Africa, and German company DELA GmbH which indicates illegal flow of illegal trade.

#### *Potential example – clear breach of international framework (illegal)*

- The German company DELA GmbH in Dorsten, Germany, was for many years seen as a leading firm in sound management of mercury. However, in 2014, the company’s facilities underwent a police radar which led to the discovery of illegal trade of mercury. In the 2016, the company was convicted by a German court of illegally exporting over 1000 tons of excel metallic mercury to the global market<sup>11</sup>.

### 3.3. Electrical and electronic products chemicals in products (e-waste)

New routes, new trends in e-waste trade, emerging destinations (e.g., Hong Kong)

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<sup>8</sup> See Chela Vázquez, Dr. Koa Tasaka, Keam Makarady, Chhoun Monorum and Yim Sopha (2013), with two studies: “illegal pesticides in Cambodia (2011) and “Illegal pesticide trade in Mekong countries: Case of Lao PDR (2011 to 2013).

<sup>9</sup> See news story from Reuters.com <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-silkroad-laos-idUSKBN187334>

<sup>10</sup> Mercury is considered by World Health Organization (WHO) as one of the top ten chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern (WHO Fact Sheet, 2017).

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs361/en/>

<sup>11</sup> See DorstenerZeitung.de, available news stories:

<http://www.dorstenerzeitung.de/staedte/dorsten/Prozess-am-Landgericht-Essen-Giftmuell-Skandal-Ex-Dela-Geschaefsfuehrer-legt-Gestaendnis-ab;art914,2992507>

<http://www.dorstenerzeitung.de/staedte/dorsten/Recyclingfirma-im-Indupark-Dela-stillgelegt-Insolvenzverfahren-eroeffnet;art914,2349952>

### 3.4. Consumer products

<to be added>

## Part 4: Chemicals, environmental consequences and human rights

The environmental impact is often directly linked to the human welfare component, this human welfare and security of vulnerable groups is especially a concern. In 2017, the World Health Organization launched a new report (2017) that draws attention to the linkages between environmental risks (such as air pollution, unsafe water, sanitation, inadequate hygiene or chemicals) and childhood deaths and diseases. The implications of hazardous substances and toxins, was also raised as an issue by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in 2016.

### 4.1 Case study: pesticides - impacts on environment and human welfare

According to the Global Chemical Outlook, agricultural chemicals, such as fertilizers and pesticides, have some of the largest volume uses of chemicals worldwide.

#### *Potential examples*

- <to be added>

## Part 5: Solutions & action

- Capacity development on the national level – better equipped to meet the challenges

## Concluding remarks

## References and further reading

Chela Vázquez, Dr. Koa Tasaka, Keam Makarady, Chhoun Monorum and Yim Sopha (2013). "Illegal Pesticide Trade in the Mekong Countries: Case studies from Cambodia and Lao PDR"

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Geeraerts, K., Illes A. and J-P Schweizer (2015). "Illegal shipment of e-waste from the EU: A case study on illegal e-waste export from EU to China. A study compiled as a part of the EFFACE project". London: IEEP

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# Input to the Intersessional Process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Dear Madam/Sir,

Appended to this document are two documents initially prepared by Greenpeace for submission to the United Kingdom's Chemicals Stakeholder Forum (UKCSF) in response to an invitation to assist the establishment of UK's position on sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. We have subsequently been encouraged by UKCSF to submit them directly to the SAICM secretariat as a contribution to the Intersessional Process. We hope that they may provide some useful principles and ideas to help guide the discussions on the future of SAICM beyond 2020 as they go forwards.

We have particular interest in the science-policy interface mentioned in the co - chairs' summary report. From our perspective, it will be necessary but not sufficient only to strengthen the existing scientific bodies currently advising different aspects of global chemical and waste sound management work. Just as the somewhat fragmented existing chemical and waste instruments will require an overarching framework to ensure co-ordination and to fill the gaps, so the existing relevant scientific bodies, which normally sit ONLY under, or work ONLY for, one of these existing instruments, would also benefit substantially from consolidation. We see a huge potential for greater collaboration, streamlining, or even merging of separate working groups and/or taskforces under one overarching scientific panel/body, in order to enhance the breadth and depth of strategic guidance, improve coherence and synergy, avoid duplication of work, and increase efficiency and credibility of policy decision -making on global chemical and waste work. There could also be significant financial benefits from such consolidation.

An overarching panel might also enable more timely and consistent responses within potential action areas under SAICM and beyond 2020, e.g. EPIs. We fear that the current lack of a stable, strong and credible overarching scientific body under SAICM, may well have contributed in part to the relatively slow progress on such issues. Furthermore, such a global overarching scientific body could provide the critical mass necessary in order to encourage engagement of the wider scientific community with relevant expertise on chemical and waste issues, which has not so far been mobilized as effectively as it could. By analogy, many scientists & civil society organisations around the world have been mobilized by the critical mass of the IPCC within the field of climate science. We hope the document in Annex 1 which was originally prepared for UKCSF could serve as a contribution to this broad issue.

The second annex was a very brief analysis of the correlation between SDGs and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. In our opinion, the core but not exclusive focus of the 'beyond 2020' mechanism under discussion should be on the two SDGs listed below, which are complementary to each other:

1) SDG 12.4 sound management of chemicals and wastes through life cycle to minimize adverse impacts on human health & environment, in accordance with agreed international frameworks. Note: 1) it's not restricted to activities by 2020 and should be extended to beyond 2020, and 2) this beyond 2020 framework under

discussion will be one of the “agreed international frameworks” to make contribution to SDGs), and

2) 12.5 waste generation reduction.

Working on Targets 12.4 & 12.5 will be dealing with the root causes for many other SDGs, e.g. 14.1 marine pollution, 3.9 death from chemicals & pollution etc.

We hope you find our submission useful.

Please feel free to get back to us if you have any questions.

With thanks and best regards,

Dr Melissa Wang  
Greenpeace Research Laboratories  
Greenpeace International

Dear Brenda, UNEP and SAICM colleagues,

Thank you very much for your hard work on the Intersessional Process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Greenpeace has submitted to the United Kingdom's Chemicals Stakeholder Forum (UKCSF) in response to an invitation to assist the establishment of UK's position on sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. We have subsequently been encouraged by UKCSF to submit them directly to the SAICM secretariat as a contribution to the Intersessional Process.

We hope that they may provide some useful principles and ideas to help guide the discussions on the future of SAICM beyond 2020 as they go forwards.

In short, we see a huge potential and benefits for greater collaboration, streamlining, or even merging of separate working groups and/or taskforces under one overarching scientific panel/body. It might also enable more timely and consistent responses within potential action areas under SAICM and beyond 2020.

Furthermore, it could provide the critical mass necessary in order to encourage engagement of the wider scientific community with relevant expertise on chemical and waste issues, which has not so far been mobilized as effectively as it could.

On the other hand, we think the core but not exclusive focus of the 'beyond 2020' mechanism under discussion should be on the SDG 12.4 & 12.5, which are complementary to each other.

Here attached you'll find the full cover letter of our submission to intersessional process, with more detailed documents on 1) science-policy interface, and 2) correlation between SDGs and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 as annex to the cover letter.

Thank you very much! And we hope you'll find the documents helpful.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is anything else we could be of help. Sincerely,

Dr Melissa Wang

## UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum

### Sub-Group on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

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#### Briefing document of IPCP (International Panel on Chemical Pollution) for SAICM Science-Policy Interface discussion

Submitted by Greenpeace Research Laboratories (in consultation with IPCP, [www.ipcp.ch](http://www.ipcp.ch))

#### ***Executive Summary:***

In the first SAICM intersessional meeting in Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017, a science-policy interface has been proposed again as an important element for the realization of sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

In this regard, the IPCP (International Panel on Chemical Pollution), with its comprehensive knowledge and expertise on chemical science and policy issues, a profound understanding and extensive experience on science-policy interface work on international, regional, and national levels, and a mission very much in line with the post-2020 chemical and waste management agenda, would be a suitable candidate or, at least, an established and credible starting point for such a role, while providing the opportunity to minimize the concern over duplicated effort and resources. The way IPCP has been working is also consistent with the preferred model suggested in the report from Nordic Council of Ministers. Therefore the analysis and proposition of IPCP could be an important contribution that UK makes to this crucial 'beyond-2020' discussion.

#### ***Background:***

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), through Conference resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process to provide recommendations on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The first meeting of the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste was held in Brasilia, Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017.

The science-policy interface has been proposed again as an important element for the realization of sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. In the [co-chairs' summary](#) the advised action points on science-policy interface includes:

- Explore how to strengthen the link between science and policy in global chemicals governance.
- Consideration of the social interface.
- Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy making and action, including existing mechanisms, in other clusters, such as climate change and biodiversity.

This document provides an initial analysis of the potential to build the science-policy interface for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 based on the work and

experience of IPCP, as a contribution that UK could make to this crucial discussion about SAICM beyond-2020.

### ***Science-policy interface for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020:***

The importance of scientific information in sound chemical management has been emphasized in the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS) of SAICM, on risk reduction, knowledge and information, as well as capacity building and technical cooperation. The role of science in SAICM and beyond-2020 agenda-setting is perhaps of most relevance in relation to emerging policy issues, the nominations of which, along with any subsequently adopted resolutions, must be based on sound science, showing the link between chemical exposures and effects on human health and the environment<sup>1</sup>.

Abundant experience has been gained under other international mechanisms to demonstrate the importance and value of a credible and transparent scientific panel or advisory group in guiding timely and informed decision-making through provision of scientific expertise and advice, e.g. IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) for UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, POPRC (POPs Review Committee) of the Stockholm Convention, CRC (the Chemical Review Committee) under the Rotterdam Convention, the Scientific Groups of the London Convention/London Protocol on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Mater, and GESAMP (Join Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection) for different UN systems.

Although precise models and mandates vary among those science panels, the core principles are similar in each case, including an ability for such bodies to work independently of vested interests to provide high-quality scientific advice and reports on both established and emerging issues of relevance to those instruments, drawing upon other expertise as required. In the case of chemicals management, such an interface could, for example, consider evidence relating to substances and groups of substances under regulation or of emerging concern in a transparent way, and could suggest concrete and focused action if mandated, with a credibility and, therefore, authority of which is internationally accepted. This model was preferred in the “Chemicals and Waste Governance Beyond 2020” report of Ministers, by which Nordic Cou was presented to the Brazil meeting.

In the same report, it was suggested that ways should be sought to utilize more effectively the existing scientific panels that focus on chemicals and waste, in order to avoid duplication and extra costs.

Taking all of these into consideration, IPCP could serve as a strong candidate or, at least, an established and credible starting point to fill this gap, which has also been mentioned in the Nordic Council report.

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<sup>1</sup> Nordic Council of Ministers (2017): Chemicals and Waste Governance Beyond 2020.

### ***IPCP (International Panel on Chemical Pollution):***

[IPCP](#) is a non-profit association established under Swiss law in 2008. With an increasing awareness of the chemical cocktail humans and the environment are exposed to, and inspired partly by IPCC, the IPCP aims to provide leadership in identifying priority topics of concern, to bridge the gap between science, policy and the public, and therefore to provide policymakers with credible scientific basis to aid decision-making on chemical issues. The IPCP members are independent academic scientists from across the globe and from many scientific fields, which differs from most discipline-based scientific organizations that derive their membership from multiple sectors such as academia, business and government. As such, the IPCP strives to preserve its independence from other sectors and its scientific credibility. The core goal of IPCP of providing independent scientific input and helping to bridge the science-policy gap is fully in line with the needs of SAICM in developing a post-2020 framework.

For these reasons, the IPCP has been closely involved in the SAICM process in the past.

- On policy: IPCP has extensive experience from projects under SAICM and the Stockholm Convention. It has been deeply involved in the 3 science areas in SAICM OPS identified above (details in Annex 1). It has provided detailed analysis of issues connected with substances and groups of substances under regulation or as emerging concern, e.g. PFCs (Per- and poly-fluorinated compounds) and EDCs (Endocrine Disruptive Chemicals), as well as suggesting concrete and focused action for the work of UNEP, OECD and other organizations. Such a role is consistent with the preferred model suggested in the Nordic Council report.
- Funding: The work of the IPCP is mainly project-funded; funding mainly comes from the OECD, UN Environment, and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment.
- On Science: IPCP has chosen to work independently with other scientific organizations such as SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) in order to maintain its position as an organization of independent academic scientists. A list of IPCP publications can be found in Annex 2.

(For the details of the individual projects or publications, please contact IPCP directly at [info@ipcp.ch](mailto:info@ipcp.ch))

Therefore, in our view, given its broad knowledge and expertise on chemical issues, its deep understanding and extensive experience on science-policy interface work on international, regional, and national levels, and the fact that its mission is very much in line with SAICM and the post-2020 chemical management agenda, IPCP already provides a strong basis upon which to build a science-policy interface or standing scientific advisory body to guide the future work post-2020. Building on IPCP, rather than starting from scratch, will minimize the funding and other resources required in order to establish such capacity. Further discussion of synergies among this new interface with existing ones under different international chemical mechanisms might be useful to further streamline the resources and outputs, by e.g. possibly integrate existing ones with SAICM/post-2020-framework or help the existing ones operate in liaison with SAICM/post-2020-framework.

The analysis and proposition of IPCP could be an important contribution that UK makes to this crucial 'beyond-2020' discussion.

## UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum

### Sub-Group on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

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#### Discussions around the post 2020 framework for SAICM (the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) - Greenpeace Views on Most Relevant SDGs:

SDG 3: good health & well being - 3.9 death from chemicals: further regulations on pesticide & industrial chemicals (e.g. EDCs) are closely relevant to the environment & health burden (e.g. NHS burden) in the UK, particularly in the light of Brexit.

SDG 9: industry innovation & infrastructure: a good chemical and waste management system should be one that could drive innovation for a greener and more sustainable future, particularly in the light of Brexit.

SDG 11: sustainable cities & communities: a chance to re-define what kind of sustainable cities & communities are desired by people, e.g. tackle the air pollution issues.

SDG12: responsible consumption & production: planetary boundary for resources and for pollution has a limit. The unsustainable consumption in developed world drives unsustainable production and lots of unnecessary waste (of resource & energy) & pollution. The double standard implemented by many global companies not only bring in pollution into manufacturing countries, but also bring pollution back to developed countries (like UK) via either global trade, or the trans-boundary movement of chemicals.

SDG 13: climate action: SAICM (& chemical and waste issues) could be more prioritized if the climate relevant regulations/conventions could be included under its umbrella, e.g. the Montreal Protocol.

SDG 14: life below water - 14.1 reduce marine pollution: it could include both chemical and waste (e.g. plastic) pollution which is currently quite a hot topic in the UK. In 2015 Meeting of Contracting Parties to London Convention/London Protocol, the governing bodies "encouraged Parties to take into account the issue of plastics and marine litter when applying the dredged material waste assessment guidance". LC/LP could however could only deal (partly) with end of pipe problem, therefore it's up to SAICM beyond 2020 to tackle the source issue.

SDG 17: partnership for the goals: it's cross-cutting issues, needs multi stakeholder, multi-sector partnership.

## Annex 1. IPCP activities under SAICM, Stockholm Convention and other matters, on technical work, science-policy communication and capacity building

(A clearer version with hyperlinks to those work is available in the second attachment of this email.)

International Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP)		
Technical Work	<p>2016-2017: Observer and on-site technical support for the Swiss delegate at the meetings of POPRC and COP</p> <p>2013-2015: Drafted two papers on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances [oe.cd/IFR; oe.cd/IFQ], commissioned by OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group</p> <p>2015-2016: Commissioned by UN Environment to provide technical assistance in implementing and developing its GEF-funded projects related to "Chemicals in Products"</p> <p>2016-2017: Developing three overview reports on the scientific knowledge and regulatory frameworks of endocrine disrupting chemicals, commissioned by UN Environment</p>	<p>2012: International Expert Workshop on "Planetary Boundaries for Chemical Pollution". (<a href="http://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2015.02.001">http://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2015.02.001</a>)</p> <p>2017: Developing a chapter on Emerging Policy Issues for &lt;&lt;Global Chemicals Outlook II&gt;&gt;, commissioned by UN Environment</p>
Capacity Building	<p>2010-2012: Commissioned by UN Environment to provide technical assistance in implementing its GEF-funded projects: "Passive Air Sampling under the Global Monitoring Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants 2010-2011" in 20 developing and transition countries, incl. capacity building (<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.trac.2012.05.01">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.trac.2012.05.01</a>)</p> <p>2010-2014: QSP Project in Armenia, Chile and Ghana "Training on risk assessment of chemicals at national level in a global context"</p>	
Science-Policy Communication	<p>2013: side event at COP 6 "Challenges for POPs monitoring - How can we use international synergies to support the effectiveness evaluation under the Stockholm Convention?"</p> <p>2015: side event at ICCM 4 "Transfer of knowledge from science to policy"</p>	<p>2017: Co-organising "SAFU-ETH-IPCP: International Workshop Supporting the Dialogue Between Science and Policy on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances"</p>
	the Stockholm Convention	SAICM
		Other matters

## Annex 2. IPCP publications

- 2017: Co-organising a - ETH“BAFU-IPCP International Workshop Supporting the Dialogue Between Science and Policy on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances”.
- 2017: Developing a chapter on Emerging Policy Issues for Global Chemicals Outlook II, commissioned by UN Environment.
- 2016–2017: Developing three overview reports on the scientific knowledge and regulatory frameworks of endocrine disrupting chemicals, commissioned by UN Environment.
- 2016–2017: Observer and provider of on-site technical support for the Swiss delegate at the meetings of the POPRC and the COP of the Stockholm Convention.
- 2015–2016: Commissioned by UN Environment to provide technical assistance in implementing and developing its GEF-funded projects related to “Chemicals in Produc
- 2015: Publication: Diamond ML, CA De Wit, S Molander, M Scheringer, T Backhaus, R Lohmann, R Arvidsson, Å Bergman, M Hauschild, I Holoubek, L Persson, B Suzuki, M Vighi, C Zetzsch. 2015. Exploring the planetary boundary for chemical pollution. *Environment International* 78:8-15. DOI: 10.1016/j.envint.2015.02.001.
- 2015: Side event at ICCM 4 on “Transferknowledgeof from science to policy”
- 2013–2015: Drafted two publications on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (oe.cd/1FR; oe.cd/1FQ), commissioned by OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group
- 2013: Side event at COP5 of the Stockholm Convention on“Challenges foritoringPOPs– mon How can we use international synergies to support the effectiveness evaluation under the Stockholm Convention?”
- 2012: International expert workshop on “Planetary Boundaries fo publication in 2015 (<http://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2015.02.001>)
- 2010–2014: IPCP was the executing agency of a SAICM QSP project (multi-country) in collaboration with the governments of Armenia, Chile and Ghana; the title of the project is "Training on risk assessment of chemicals at national level in a global context".
- 2010–2012: Commissioned by UN Environment to provide technical assistance in implementing its GEF-funded project "Passive Air Sampling under the Global Monitoring Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants 2010-2011" in 20 developing and transition countries, incl. capacity building (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/ j.trac.2012.05.0 11>)
- 2011: Publication “The International Panel on Chemical Pollution der Kolk, J., Mohapatra, A., Agarwal, R. (eds.) *Chemicals, Environment, Health. A Global Management Perspective*. Taylor & Francis, Boca Raton, USA, 359–370.

Brussels/Stockholm, 7 July 2017

We recognize that it is very important that the successor to SAICM post 2020 supports the Agenda 2030 in the best possible way, as well as puts even stronger focus on the 11 basic elements of sound chemicals and waste management according to SAICM's Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG). We support the development of complementary targets to the already existing Agenda 2030 targets, with specific reference to the goals where SAICM clearly supports the Agenda 2030. Furthermore, we think that targets for the 11 basic OOG elements should be developed. A standardized reporting scheme and requirements in relation to the targets should be established.

The above was raised by SAICM stakeholders, or briefly touched upon, at the first intersessional meeting. We also want to highlight two additional things that have not been discussed.

Chemicals in products (CiP) has been an emerging policy issue in the SAICM work since 2009. Repeatedly, studies by various stakeholders show that hazardous chemicals are found in consumer products all over the world. The root cause of this problem is non-transparency between stakeholders in supply chains. In connection with IICM4, the CiP Programme was launched, to provide guidance for fostering transparency in supply chains. So far, only one private sector organization has registered to the programme<sup>i</sup>. We recognize the importance of the CiP Programme up to 2020, but strongly believe that it is necessary to take the work with CiP to a new level in the successor to SAICM post 2020, as a purely voluntary framework will not safeguard sufficient information sharing on chemicals in products among stakeholders.

We live in a globalized economy. This implies that any hazardous chemical not disclosed by a stakeholder in a supply chain potentially becomes a global issue, with widespread impacts. Hazardous chemicals in products is not a local issue, rather a global. There is also an aspect of justice linked to it. Some low income regions, such as Africa, are net importers of products and completely dependent on the good will of the exporters to disclose the presence of hazardous chemicals in the products. In the objectives of the CiP Programme it says "Information on chemicals relating to the health and safety of humans and the environment should not be regarded as confidential"<sup>ii</sup>. Chemicals that are mutagenic, carcinogenic, toxic to reproduction (CMR), endocrine disrupters (EDCs), neurotoxic, persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) or very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) may have serious and often irreversible effects on human health and the environment, yet only a few of them are currently regulated or banned under the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.

So, which are the chemicals that are not yet regulated or banned, but ought to be?

A prominent tool for identifying them is the SIN list<sup>iii</sup>, and the Clean Production Action's GreenScreen List Translator<sup>iv</sup> can also be helpful. When it comes to EDCs specifically, the UNEP/UN Environment reports on EDCs<sup>v</sup> and the Endocrine Disruption Exchange list of potential EDC<sup>vi</sup> are relevant.

Consequently, there is no need to reinvent the wheel; we can just adopt already existing data and classifications.

The presence of chemicals with the above mentioned qualities in products should not be allowed to be referred to as intellectual properties by companies. In fact, chemicals with

- potentially serious impacts on human health and the environment, and
- global transport and distribution in products.

warrant global action and regulation or bans.

We therefore urge the SAICM stakeholders to seriously consider exploring the possibility of creating **a post 2020 framework with a legally binding component on full transparency of the contents of chemicals of very high concern, especially those currently not regulated/banned by any international convention, in all constituent components of products.** This information could, e.g., be contained in a chip in each component and easily retrieved by scanning. Most of the costs for establishing such a system will be on high and middle income countries that are net producers of products. But everyone, not the least net importer countries, gain from full transparency. It will be easier for importers and exporters to secure compliance with national regulations, substitution work will be simplified, and materials not suitable for recycling due to their content of hazardous chemicals can be separated, and terminal waste treated safely and properly. **We suggest that the SAICM stakeholders take a decision at the next intersessional meeting to commission a legal consultant to investigate how a post 2020 legally binding successor to SAICM , that builds on the existing voluntary regime can be constructed.** This would add flexibility and a whole new dynamics and significance to SAICM post 2020.

**We also suggest that the SAICM stakeholders take a decision at the next intersessional meeting to commission a consultant to investigate how chemicals that should be subject to legally binding rules on transparency are best identified, based on preexisting lists for chemicals of very high concern.**

We strongly believe that CiP is mature enough of being elevated into a legally binding component, not the least because transparency is key for a safe circular economy, and a circular economy will be an important strategy to facilitate fulfillment of a number of targets to the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030.

Target 8:4 directly refers to circular economy, and there are clear linkages to several other targets (3:9; 6:3; several targets to goal 8, referring to providing jobs; 11:6; 12:2; 12:4; 12:5; 14:1; 15:1 and 15:6).

With a circular economy we can:

- Save raw materials;
- Save water;
- Save processing chemicals;
- Save energy;
- Prevent creation of waste needed to be landfilled or incinerated; and
- Potentially creates new jobs.

There are already large informal partially circular economies in many low and middle income countries. They support many poor people. It is hard as it is to secure safe working conditions in the informal sectors, and non-transparency of the chemicals contents in products means that many

materials handled by informal recyclers potentially contain chemicals hazardous to their health and to the environment. This is a serious issue that further adds to the need for global action to elevate the work with CiP into a legally binding component.

As far as we know, at the first intersessional meeting for the post 2020 process no SAICM stakeholder specifically raised CiP in this holistic, truly life cycle perspective, in relation to a circular economy and its importance for the realization of the Agenda 2030. We want to be clear, specific and concrete already at this early stage in the discussions on the successor to SAICM post 2020.

**Elevating the CiP work into a legally binding component, requiring full transparency of the contents of chemicals of very high concern in all constituent components of products, in the successor to SAICM post 2020, and highlight its crucial importance for a safe circular economy, necessary for fulfillment of the Agenda 2030, would substantiate the function of the SAICM post 2020 framework for sustainable development in a very concrete way.**

Consequently, we kindly request the SAICM secretariat to include our input to the document to be further discussed at the second intersessional meeting 2018.

For more information please contact:

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<sup>i</sup><http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/what-we-do/science-and-risk/chemicals-products/cip-programme-participating-stakeholders>

<sup>ii</sup>Chemicals in Products Programme, page 8.  
(file:///C:/Users/hemdator/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/2GY1YBOB/CiP%20programme%20October2015\_Final.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup><http://sinlist.chemsec.org/>

<sup>iv</sup><https://www.greenscreenchemicals.org/learn/greenscreen-list-translator>

<sup>v</sup><http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/what-we-do/science-and-risk/endocrine-disrupting-chemicals>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://endocrinedisruption.org/interactive-tools/tedx-list-of-potential-endocrine-disruptors/search-the-tedx-list>

## CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>

### Introduction

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), through Conference resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process to provide recommendations for consideration at ICCM5 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

ICCM resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term".

The present summary sets out the co-chairs' views of the contributions of the participants in the first meeting of the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 held in Brasilia, Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017. This summary should be read in conjunction with the official report of the meeting.

While the Co-Chairs' summary is not intended to present a consensus view, in some areas there was a common understanding. The document is solely that of the Co-Chairs and is non-negotiated.

It is important to note that the discussions at the first meeting of the intersessional process and the Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting are not intended to limit any additional ideas and views to be considered in further discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The present Co-Chairs' summary will be submitted to all SAICM stakeholders for further input and comments in order for it to further inform the discussions during the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

### Why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?

This section describes why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is being considered. This section is further linked to the vision for such a future platform.

#### Vision

- It should be built on the vision set out in UNEA I/5 and referenced in ICCM resolution IV/4, namely "To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant

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<sup>1</sup> Document to be formally edited.

adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development.”<sup>2</sup>

- It is essential to enhance political awareness and commitment, at the highest levels, in order to meet this vision.

Furthermore, the following elements may be considered:

- It should take into account the SAICM Overall Policy Strategy, the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, including the 11 basic elements.
- All stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure the 11 basic elements of sound management of chemicals and waste, as set out in SAICM's Overall Orientation and Guidance, exist in all countries.
- The vision must be time limited (not necessary ~~ay~~ be timeless (not limited to 2030)) and aspirational, and linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements.
- It should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and particular goals 3, 6 and 12 recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Consider efforts, in particular, where we have the largest opportunity to foster change and to have the greatest impact.
- It should be complementary to and foster coordination with the work of, other environmental multilateral agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap and to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels.
- Momentum should build upon strengthening the linkages of chemicals to policy areas of high priority like climate change, Human Rights and gender, amongst others.

### **What could a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 cover?**

This section describes what a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 could cover. This section is further linked to the scope for such a future platform. Making progress on the scope of the future platform is a priority for the second meeting of the intersessional process.

In considering the *scope*, the following elements may be considered:

#### **Scope**

- Scope should consider the 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, as well as the WHO health sector roadmap, as a practical way to reflect on the scope beyond 2020. A roadmap for chemicals and waste could be considered.

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<sup>2</sup>United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste – Annex I, paragraph 7: Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term.

- It should include and address the elements on ‘Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long-term’ as incorporated in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste.
- The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including waste. The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including the consideration of sectors, prevention and waste.
- The basics of chemicals and waste management systems capacities and infrastructures must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to emerging issues of concern.
- There are several Sustainable Development Goals-2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 are goals where clear connections can be made and where measurable objectives and milestones and supplementary indicators could be developed in support of the 2030 Agenda.
- At the global, regional and national level, the scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to: prevention policies; new emerging issues; climate change; a broadened health agenda; institutional strengthening; the life cycle approach; the potential contribution of green chemistry and sustainable chemistry; sustainability; as well as Human Rights, gender and vulnerable populations, especially indigenous peoples, women, children, and through them future generations.
- Collaborative actions should be fostered on new and emerging issues, particularly issues not currently covered under existing policy frameworks and agreements.
- The Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach of doing what? (setting indicators?).
- Work should be based on relevant scientific data and information and consider key elements of chemicals management systems.
- At this meeting, there was no discussion regarding what type of waste issues are being considered in the scope of the beyond 2020 context.

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### **How could the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 be realized?**

This section describes how a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste could be realized. This section is connected to governance, new and emerging issues, science-policy interface, financing, sustainable and green chemistry as well as national implementation.

The how will be informed by the independent evaluation of SAICM and should focus on the gaps in reaching the 2020 goal.

Drawing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, linkages should be made to other agendas such as biodiversity, oceans and climate change, food and agriculture, health, gender and labour.

In considering the how, the following elements should be taken into account:

#### **Governance**

- The voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, that has been integral to the nature of SAICM, should continue. Voluntary Agreed standards, common

objectives of protection and codes of practice, to which relevant stakeholders may **voluntarily** commit for some issues, should also be considered.

- Some participants advocated to explore more elements, as well as potential elements, that would be legally binding. Potential legally binding elements could also be explored.
- Functionally, the design should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sector participation at all levels (national, regional and global) along with a targeted approach, as an essential means to promote **impact**, involvement, ownership and **impact and commitment**.
- There is a need to increase industry engagement, by for example promoting partnership approaches in the future platform and by including the waste and downstream sectors.
- Partnerships should focus on public **interest** needs and be in line with agreed principles and values. They should be **based on** transparency ~~+~~ and accountability; ensure multi-stakeholder involvement; **and** provide an added value; ~~and complement rather than substitute commitments made by governments.~~
- The future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill the gaps and coordinate with decision-making bodies of the Participating Organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), other relevant agencies and organizations. This could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the ICCM (i.e. governments, NGOs and IGOs) to one where the sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) can play a more formal role. There are opportunities to link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Measuring progress, including objectives and milestones, and supplementary indicators, in addition to the SDG targets and indicators, as well as a related plan of action including at the national level. The 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance are a useful starting point.
- Measurable objectives, as noted in paragraph 10 of ICCM Resolution IV/4, should be considered, including on means of implementation in order to ensure effectiveness.
- Clear milestones would support the capacity to evaluate progress and would ensure transparency.

#### **New and emerging issues / Issues of concern**

- Ensure an information and knowledge base on chemicals and waste, including early warning systems that can inform work on new and emerging issues.
- Focus on scientific and technical capacity building facing new and emerging issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account different needs at the regional level.
- The basics of chemicals management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to the issues of concern.
- Build on existing efforts by stakeholders and sectors and focus on prevention and minimization.
- Develop a concept for a process of nomination, prioritization and evaluation that is robust and relevant. Future activities on emerging issues should be focused on where there is added value.
- Monitoring of already identified emerging issues.

- There should be reflection on and consideration of the implementation of a lifecycle approach.
- Give priority to the identification of hazardous chemicals in products and throughout their lifecycle.
- Actions should be categorized to facilitate work planning, for example:
  - Areas where scientific information exists and there is a need to increase the knowledge basis.
  - New emerging issues where we need to promote understanding and awareness.
  - Development of national or regional chemicals and waste management systems, including refinement of existing systems.
  - Issues which need global or coordinated action.

### **Science-policy interface**

- Explore how to strengthen the link between science, public health and policy in global chemicals and waste governance.
- Recognize the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice on chemicals and waste by intergovernmental and international bodies such as UNEP, WHO and the chemicals and wastes conventions secretariats.
- Consideration of the social interface and the full range of scientific and public health disciplines.
- Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy-making and action, including existing mechanisms, in other clusters, such as climate change and biodiversity.
- There were also come comments regarding the need to focus on scientific capacity building and caution about diverting resources from implementation.

### **Financing**

- A specific financial mechanism is needed for SAICM implementation with sufficient, predictable funds that can be accessed by relevant SAICM stakeholders
- The integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste is composed of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing (UNEP/GC 27/12 and UNEA 1/5). The implementation of the integrated approach is essential for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term.
- Providing sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long term with emphasis on the ~~role~~ needs of developed countries and transition countries.
- The Special Programme should be supplemented to enable access by all relevant SAICM stakeholders.
- A broader range of contributions should be considered that are predictable, sustainable and adequate.
- Costs internalization by industry and Mainstreaming in national budgets and sectoral policies.
- Provide effective capacity building in relevant areas and also focus on the importance of building and strengthening institutional capacity and the need to engage industry in solutions.

- Broadening the donor base for sound management of chemicals and waste, including exploring untapped resources linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Building on existing funding structures at all levels, including lessons learned from existing funding mechanisms.
- Promote enhanced funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the GEF Trust Fund, Green Climate Fund and others with access for all eligible countries and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with applicable rules.
- Promote the inclusion of chemicals and waste management component in projects to be approved by the GEF under other GEF focal areas (climate change, biodiversity, land degradation)

### **Sustainable and Green Chemistry**

- There was some debate concerning the definition of sustainable versus green chemistry. However, there was agreement that there were useful aspects of these concepts that should be followed up at the next intersessional process meeting.

### **National Implementation**

- National Action Plans were mentioned as a possible tool to address the sound management of chemicals and waste, focusing in particular on building in-country capacity for basic chemicals and waste management with the support of international cooperation.
  - Additional elements such as institutional strengthening and information sharing were highlighted for making progress at the national level.
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Others

## CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>

*As an output of the first meeting in the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, the co-chairs of the meeting prepared this summary, which sets out their views of the contributions of the participants. This summary also incorporates input received from participants during the initial comment period following the first meeting in the intersessional process, reflecting factual additions and clarifications to the document.*

*Based on the co-chairs' summary a further elaborated document will be prepared throughout 2017 to support the preparations for and discussions at the second meeting in the intersessional process. All SAICM stakeholders will have opportunities, on multiple occasions, to provide input to this document through an open, transparent and online consultative process.*

*The co-chairs', with the support of the SAICM secretariat, will consolidate the input received as part of the process for the development of the document.*

### **Call for input:**

All SAICM stakeholders are invited and encouraged to submit input and suggestions on areas and issues that they feel are not already covered or sufficiently addressed in the co-chairs' summary.

The deadline for input is 7 July 2017. Input should be sent directly to the Strategic Approach secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@unep.org).

### **Introduction**

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), through Conference resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process to provide recommendations for consideration at ICCM5 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

ICCM resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term".

The present summary sets out the co-chairs' views of the contributions of the participants in the first meeting of the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 held in Brasilia, Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017. This summary should be read in conjunction with the official report of the meeting.

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<sup>9</sup> Document to be formally edited.

While the Co-Chairs' summary is not intended to present a consensus view, in some areas there was a common understanding. The document is solely that of the Co-Chairs and is non-negotiated.

It is important to note that the discussions at the first meeting of the intersessional process and the Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting are not intended to limit any additional ideas and views to be considered in further discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The present Co-Chairs' summary will be submitted to all SAICM stakeholders for further input and comments in order for it to further inform the discussions during the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

### **Why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?**

This section describes why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is being considered. This section is further linked to the vision for such a future platform.

#### **Vision**

- It should be built on the vision set out in UNEA I/5 and referenced in ICCM resolution IV/4, namely "To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development."<sup>2</sup>
- It is essential to enhance political **and public** awareness and commitment, at the highest levels, in order to meet this vision.

Furthermore, the following elements may be considered:

- It should take into account the SAICM Overall Policy Strategy, the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, including the 11 basic elements.
- All stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure the 11 basic elements of sound management of chemicals and waste, as set out in SAICM's Overall Orientation and Guidance, exist in all countries.
- The vision **would preferably may** be timeless (not limited to 2030) and aspirational, and linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements.
- It should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and particular goals 3, 6 and 12 recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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<sup>2</sup>United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste – Annex I, paragraph 7: Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term.

- Consider efforts, in particular, where we have the largest opportunity to foster change and to have the greatest impact.
- It should be complementary to and foster coordination with the work of, other environmental multilateral agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap and to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels.
- Momentum should build upon strengthening the linkages of chemicals to policy areas of high priority like climate change and gender, amongst others.

### **What could a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 cover?**

This section describes what a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 could cover. This section is further linked to the scope for such a future platform. Making progress on the scope of the future platform is a priority for the second meeting of the intersessional process.

In considering the *scope*, the following elements may be considered:

#### **Scope**

- 8 Scope should consider the 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, as well as the WHO health sector roadmap, as a practical way to reflect on the scope beyond 2020. A roadmap for chemicals and waste could be considered.
- 9 It should include and address the elements on ‘Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long-term’ as incorporated in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste.
- 10 The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including waste. The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including the consideration of sectors, prevention and waste. Some special emphases should be put in place for newly emerging chemicals and waste including nanowaste, and emerging controversial species of pesticides.
- 11 The basics of chemicals and waste management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to emerging issues of concern.
- 12 There are several Sustainable Development Goals where clear connections can be made and where measurable objectives and milestones and supplementary indicators could be developed in support of the 2030 Agenda.
- 13 At the global, regional and national level, the scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to: prevention policies; new emerging issues; climate change; a broadened health agenda; institutional strengthening; the life cycle approach; the potential contribution of sustainable chemistry; sustainability; as well as gender and vulnerable populations, especially indigenous peoples, women, children, and through them future generations.
- 14 Collaborative actions should be fostered on new and emerging issues, particularly issues not currently covered under existing policy frameworks and agreements.
- 15 The Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach.
- 16 Work should be based on relevant scientific data and information and consider key elements of chemicals management systems.

- At this meeting, there was no discussion regarding what type of waste issues are being considered in the scope of the beyond 2020 context.

### **How could the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 be realized?**

This section describes how a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste could be realized. This section is connected to governance, new and emerging issues, science-policy interface, financing, sustainable and green chemistry as well as national implementation.

The how will be informed by the independent evaluation of SAICM and should focus on the gaps in reaching the 2020 goal.

Drawing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, linkages should be made to other agendas such as biodiversity, oceans and climate change, food and agriculture, health, gender and labour.

In considering the how, the following elements should be taken into account:

#### **Governance**

- The voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, that has been integral to the nature of SAICM, should continue. Voluntary standards, common objectives of protection and codes of practice, to which relevant stakeholders may voluntarily commit for some issues, should also be considered.
- Some participants advocated to explore more elements, as well as potential elements, that would be legally binding. Potential legally binding elements could also be explored.
- Functionally, the design should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sector participation at all levels (national, regional and global) along with a targeted approach, as an essential means to promote impact, involvement, ownership and commitment.
- There is a need to increase industry engagement, by for example promoting partnership approaches in the future platform and by including the waste and downstream sectors.
- Partnerships should focus on public needs and be in line with agreed principles and values. They should be transparent and accountable; ensure multi-stakeholder involvement; provide an added value; and complement rather than substitute commitments made by governments.
- The future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill the gaps and coordinate with decision-making bodies of the Participating Organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), other relevant agencies and organizations. This could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the ICCM (i.e. governments, NGOs and IGOs) to one where the sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) can play a more formal role. There are opportunities to link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Measuring progress, including objectives and milestones, and supplementary indicators, in addition to the SDG targets and indicators, as well as a related plan of action including at the national level. The 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance are a useful starting point.
- Measurable objectives, as noted in paragraph 10 of ICCM Resolution IV/4, should be considered, including on means of implementation in order to ensure effectiveness.

- Clear milestones would support the capacity to evaluate progress and would ensure transparency.
- Some coordination with other multinational initiatives of relevance include Green Industry Platform ( UNIDO) need to be established

### **New and emerging issues / Issues of concern**

- Ensure an information and knowledge base on chemicals and waste, including early warning systems that can inform work on new and emerging issues.
- Focus on scientific and technical capacity building facing new and emerging issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account different needs at the regional level.
- The basics of chemicals management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to the issues of concern.
- Build on existing efforts by stakeholders and sectors and focus on prevention and minimization.
- Develop a concept for a process of nomination, prioritization and evaluation that is robust and relevant. Future activities on emerging issues should be focused on where there is added value.
- Monitoring of already identified emerging issues.
- There should be reflection on and consideration of the implementation of a lifecycle approach.
- Give priority to the identification of hazardous chemicals in products and throughout their lifecycle.
- Actions should be categorized to facilitate work planning, for example:
  - Areas where scientific information exists and there is a need to increase the knowledge basis.
  - New emerging issues where we need to promote understanding and awareness.
  - Development of national or regional chemicals and waste management systems, including refinement of existing systems.
  - Issues which need global or coordinated action.

### **Science-policy interface**

- Explore how to strengthen the link between science, public health and policy in global chemicals and waste governance.
- Recognize the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice on chemicals and waste by intergovernmental and international bodies such UNEP, WHO and the chemicals and wastes conventions secretariats.
- Consideration of the social interface and the full range of scientific and public health disciplines.
- Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy-making and action, including existing mechanisms, in other clusters, such as climate change and biodiversity.
- There were also come comments regarding the need to focus on scientific capacity building and caution about diverting resources from implementation.

## **Financing**

- The integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste is composed of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing (UNEP/GC 27/12 and UNEA 1/5). The implementation of the integrated approach is essential for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term.
- Providing sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long term with emphasis on the role of developed countries.
- A broader range of contributions should be considered that are predictable, sustainable and adequate.
- Mainstreaming in national budgets and sectoral policies.
- Provide effective capacity building in relevant areas and also focus on the importance of building and strengthening institutional capacity and the need to engage industry in solutions.
- Broadening the donor base for sound management of chemicals and waste, including exploring untapped resources linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Building on existing funding structures at all levels, including lessons learned from existing funding mechanisms.
- Promote enhanced funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the GEF Trust Fund, Green Climate Fund and others with access for all eligible countries and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with applicable rules.

## **Sustainable and Green Chemistry**

- There was some debate concerning the definition of sustainable versus green chemistry. However, there was agreement that there were useful aspects of these concepts that should be followed up at the next intersessional process meeting, provided this new paradigm of chemistry should embrace risk assessments and life cycle analysis as elemental components.

## **National Implementation**

- National Action Plans were mentioned as a possible tool to address the sound management of chemicals and waste, focusing in particular on building in-country capacity for basic chemicals and waste management with the support of international cooperation.
- Additional elements such as institutional strengthening and information sharing were highlighted for making progress at the national level.

### **Next steps following this stakeholder comment period:**

- From July to September 2017, the co-chairs will further develop the work, incorporating the input received.
- The next document would be posted on the Strategic Approach website for further stakeholder comments during October and November 2017.
- The co-chairs would produce a final document in December 2017 that would be made

available for discussion during regional meetings held in January and February 2018 in preparation for the second meeting in the intersessional process scheduled for March 2018.

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ADVANCE

## Comment for co-chair summary

### Vision

We fully agree that it should be complementary to and foster coordination with the work of, other environmental multilateral agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development. However in order to implement sound management of waste, it should be most critical to raise awareness at consumer level. Hence clear definition of role of citizens should be developed to get more participation from them on global basis.

### Scope

It should be addressed that chemical management should be thoroughly based upon sound scientific data and information. For sound management of chemical and waste, more attentions have to be paid in risk-based management – particularly reduction of exposure from misuse and/or inappropriate management of chemical products. In addition, for further risk management, “Hazard Information” should be fully disclosed and available for public access. Clearer definition of roles for tier companies, end user and waste management parties should be developed for more engagement from them. Target should be focused on “Execution of proper use of chemicals together with multiple stakeholders as including of “women, children, and through them future generations” to prevention policies seems too broad.

### Governance

Besides multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, approach to SME and developing countries is essential to achieve the goal.

### New and emerging issues / Issues of concern

Deeply consider industry initiative such as LRI (Long Range Research Initiatives) driven by ICCA in conjunction with academia to handle those issues. For current and future issues/concerns, stakeholders have to discuss based upon scientific evidences at the time of finding the issue. Continuation of deeper discussion should be done from scientific perspective. Cross regional issues such as waste management (especially micro-plastic) and CiP should be addressed.

### Financing

In order for further promotion of chemical management in developing countries, more focus is required on Capacity Building such as being done by the efforts from ICCA. As a matter of fact, effective use of funding should be available by institutionalizing & integrating existing capacity building activities run by different parties.

### National Implementation

Need to verify what sort of (concrete) description is expected as “National Action Plans” as a possible tool with the support of international cooperation in terms of the sound management of chemicals and waste.

## CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>

*As an output of the first meeting in the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, the co-chairs of the meeting prepared this summary, which sets out their views of the contributions of the participants. This summary also incorporates input received from participants during the initial comment period following the first meeting in the intersessional process, reflecting factual additions and clarifications to the document.*

*Based on the co-chairs' summary a further elaborated document will be prepared throughout 2017 to support the preparations for and discussions at the second meeting in the intersessional process. All SAICM stakeholders will have opportunities, on multiple occasions, to provide input to this document through an open, transparent and online consultative process.*

*The co-chairs', with the support of the SAICM secretariat, will consolidate the input received as part of the process for the development of the document.*

### **Call for input:**

All SAICM stakeholders are invited and encouraged to submit input and suggestions on areas and issues that they feel are not already covered or sufficiently addressed in the co-chairs' summary.

The deadline for input is 7 July 2017. Input should be sent directly to the Strategic Approach secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@unep.org).

### **Introduction**

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), through Conference resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process to provide recommendations for consideration at ICCM5 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

ICCM resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term".

The present summary sets out the co-chairs' views of the contributions of the participants in the first meeting of the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 held in Brasilia, Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017. This summary should be read in conjunction with the official report of the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Document to be formally edited.

While the Co-Chairs' summary is not intended to present a consensus view, in some areas there was a common understanding. The document is solely that of the Co-Chairs and is non-negotiated.

It is important to note that the discussions at the first meeting of the intersessional process and the Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting are not intended to limit any additional ideas and views to be considered in further discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The present Co-Chairs' summary will be submitted to all SAICM stakeholders for further input and comments in order for it to further inform the discussions during the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

### **Why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?**

This section describes why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is being considered. This section is further linked to the vision for such a future platform.

#### **Vision**

- υ It should be built on the vision set out in UNEA I/5 and referenced in ICCM resolution IV/4, namely "To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development."<sup>2</sup>
- ϖ It is essential to enhance political awareness and commitment, at the highest levels, in order to meet this vision.

Furthermore, the following elements may be considered:

- τ It should take into account the SAICM Overall Policy Strategy, the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, including the 11 basic elements.
- υ All stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure the 11 basic elements of sound management of chemicals and waste, as set out in SAICM's Overall Orientation and Guidance, exist in all countries.
- ϖ The vision may be timeless (not limited to 2030) and aspirational, and linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements.
- ω It should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and particular goals 3, 6 and 12 recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ξ Consider efforts, in particular, where we have the largest opportunity to foster change and to have the greatest impact [to achieve transformation towards a more sustainable chemistry](#).

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly resolution I/5 on chemicals and waste – Annex I, paragraph 7: Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term.

- θ It should be complementary to and foster coordination with the work of, other environmental multilateral agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap and to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels.
- ρ Momentum should build upon strengthening the linkages of chemicals to policy areas of high priority like climate change and gender, amongst others [also by demonstrating the high solution capacity of the chemical sector for those other policy areas](#).

### **What could a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 cover?**

This section describes what a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 could cover. This section is further linked to the scope for such a future platform. Making progress on the scope of the future platform is a priority for the second meeting of the intersessional process.

In considering the *scope*, the following elements may be considered:

#### **Scope**

- Scope should consider the 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, as well as the WHO health sector roadmap, as a practical way to reflect on the scope beyond 2020. A roadmap for chemicals and waste could be considered.
- It should include and address the elements on ‘Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long-term’ as incorporated in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste.
- The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including waste. The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including the consideration of sectors, prevention, [innovation](#) and waste.
- The basics of chemicals and waste management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to emerging issues of concern.
- There are several Sustainable Development Goals [which can only be achieved with innovations from sustainable chemistry and](#) where clear connections can be made and where measurable objectives and milestones and supplementary indicators could be developed in support of the 2030 Agenda.
- At the global, regional and national level, the scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to: prevention policies; new emerging issues; climate change; a broadened health agenda; institutional strengthening; the life cycle approach; the potential contribution of sustainable chemistry; sustainability; as well as gender and vulnerable populations, especially indigenous peoples, women, children, and through them future generations.
- Collaborative actions should be fostered on new and emerging issues, particularly issues not currently covered under existing policy frameworks and agreements [and on issues that require actions and innovations from the chemical sector to achieve the SDG’s](#).
- The Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach.
- Work should be based on relevant scientific data and information and consider key elements of chemicals management systems.

- At this meeting, there was no discussion regarding what type of waste issues are being considered in the scope of the beyond 2020 context.

### **How could the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 be realized?**

This section describes how a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste could be realized. This section is connected to governance, new and emerging issues, science-policy interface, financing, sustainable and green chemistry as well as national implementation.

The how will be informed by the independent evaluation of SAICM and should focus on the gaps in reaching the 2020 goal.

Drawing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, linkages should be made to other agendas such as biodiversity, oceans and climate change, food and agriculture, health, gender and labour.

In considering the how, the following elements should be taken into account:

#### **Governance**

- The voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, that has been integral to the nature of SAICM, should continue. Voluntary standards, common objectives of protection and codes of practice, to which relevant stakeholders may voluntarily commit for some issues, should also be considered.
- Some participants advocated to explore more elements, as well as potential elements, that would be legally binding. Potential legally binding elements could also be explored.
- Functionally, the design should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sector participation at all levels (national, regional and global) along with a targeted approach, as an essential means to promote impact, involvement, ownership and commitment.
- There is a need to increase industry engagement, by for example promoting partnership approaches in the future platform and by including the waste and downstream sectors.
- Partnerships should focus on public needs and be in line with agreed principles and values. They should be transparent and accountable; ensure multi-stakeholder involvement; provide an added value; and complement rather than substitute commitments made by governments.
- The future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill the gaps and coordinate with decision-making bodies of the Participating Organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), other relevant agencies and organizations. This could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the ICCM (i.e. governments, NGOs and IGOs) to one where the sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) can play a more formal role. There are opportunities to link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Measuring progress, including objectives and milestones, and supplementary indicators, in addition to the SDG targets and indicators, as well as a related plan of action including at the national level. The 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance are a useful starting point.
- Measurable objectives, as noted in paragraph 10 of ICCM Resolution IV/4, should be considered, including on means of implementation in order to ensure effectiveness.

- Clear milestones would support the capacity to evaluate progress and would ensure transparency.

### **New and emerging issues / Issues of concern**

- Ensure an information and knowledge base on chemicals and waste, including early warning systems that can inform work on new and emerging issues.
- Focus on scientific and technical capacity building facing new and emerging issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account different needs at the regional level.
- The basics of chemicals management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to the issues of concern.
- Build on existing efforts by stakeholders and sectors and focus on prevention and minimization.
- Develop a concept for a process of nomination, prioritization and evaluation that is robust and relevant. Future activities on emerging issues should be focused on where there is added value.
- Monitoring of already identified emerging issues.
- There should be reflection on and consideration of the implementation of a lifecycle approach [which is transformative towards sustainable chemistry and contributes to the implementation of circular economy approaches](#).
- Give priority to the identification of hazardous chemicals in products and throughout their lifecycle.
- Actions should be categorized to facilitate work planning, for example:
  - Areas where scientific information exists and there is a need to increase the knowledge basis.
  - L. New emerging issues where we need to promote understanding and awareness.
    - (d) Development of national or regional chemicals and waste management systems, including refinement of existing systems.
    - (i) Issues which need global or coordinated action.

### **Science-policy interface**

- 12 Explore how to strengthen the link between science, public health and policy in global chemicals and waste governance.
- 13 Recognize the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice on chemicals and waste by intergovernmental and international bodies such as UNEP, WHO and the chemicals and wastes conventions secretariats.
- 14 Consideration of the social interface and the full range of scientific and public health disciplines.
- 15 Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy-making and action, including existing mechanisms, in other clusters, such as climate change and biodiversity.
- 16 There were also come comments regarding the need to focus on scientific capacity building and caution about diverting resources from implementation.

- (ϕ) [Strengthen the science-policy interface to bring sustainable chemical innovations to achieve the SDG's faster to the markets and to implementation.](#)

### **Financing**

- (γ) The integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste is composed of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing (UNEP/GC 27/12 and UNEA 1/5). The implementation of the integrated approach is essential for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term.
- (η) Providing sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long term with emphasis on the role of developed countries.
- (ι) A broader range of contributions should be considered that are predictable, sustainable and adequate.
- (ϕ) Mainstreaming in national budgets and sectoral policies.
- (κ) Provide effective capacity building in relevant areas and also focus on the importance of building and strengthening institutional capacity and the need to engage industry in solutions.
- (λ) Broadening the donor base for sound management of chemicals and waste, including exploring untapped resources linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- (μ) Building on existing funding structures at all levels, including lessons learned from existing funding mechanisms [and to consider innovative finance instrument including from the private sector.](#)
- (ν) Promote enhanced funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the GEF Trust Fund, Green Climate Fund and others with access for all eligible countries and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with applicable rules.

### **Sustainable and Green Chemistry**

- ΠΠ. There was some debate concerning the definition of sustainable versus green chemistry. However, there was agreement that there were useful aspects of these concepts that should be followed up at the next intersessional process meeting.
- ΘΘ. [The follow-up discussion should consider that sustainable chemistry is an overarching approach to a transformative process for the chemical sector that builds on green chemistry solutions and provides sustainable solutions for the SDG implementation.](#)

### **National Implementation**

- (ϕ) National Action Plans were mentioned as a possible tool to address the sound management of chemicals and waste, focusing in particular on building in-country capacity for basic chemicals and waste management with the support of international cooperation.
- (γ) Additional elements such as institutional strengthening and information sharing were highlighted for making progress at the national level.

#### **Next steps following this stakeholder comment period:**

- (i) From July to September 2017, the co-chairs will further develop the work, incorporating the input received.

- (f) The next document would be posted on the Strategic Approach website for further stakeholder comments during October and November 2017.
- (g) The co-chairs would produce a final document in December 2017 that would be made available for discussion during regional meetings held in January and February 2018 in preparation for the second meeting in the intersessional process scheduled for March 2018.

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ADVANCE

## CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>

### Introduction

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), through Conference resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process to provide recommendations for consideration at ICCM5 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

ICCM resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term".

The present summary sets out the co-chairs' views of the contributions of the participants in the first meeting of the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 held in Brasilia, Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017. This summary should be read in conjunction with the official report of the meeting.

While the Co-Chairs' summary is not intended to present a consensus view, in some areas there was a common understanding. The document is solely that of the Co-Chairs and is non-negotiated.

It is important to note that the discussions at the first meeting of the intersessional process and the Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting are not intended to limit any additional ideas and views to be considered in further discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The present Co-Chairs' summary will be submitted to all SAICM stakeholders for further input and comments in order for it to further inform the discussions during the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

### Why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?

This section describes why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is being considered. This section is further linked to the vision for such a future platform.

### Vision

It should be built on the vision set out in UNEA I/5 and referenced in ICCM resolution IV/4, namely "To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant

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<sup>(r)</sup> Document to be formally edited.

adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development.”<sup>2</sup>

It is essential to enhance political awareness and commitment, at the highest levels, in order to meet this vision.

Furthermore, the following elements may be considered:

It should take into account the SAICM Overall Policy Strategy, and the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, including the 11 basic elements.

All stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure the 11 basic elements of sound management of chemicals and waste, as set out in SAICM's Overall Orientation and Guidance, exist in all countries.

The vision may be timeless (not limited to 2030) and aspirational, and linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements.

It should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and particular goals 3, 6 and 12 recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Consider efforts, in particular, where we have the largest opportunity to foster change and to have the greatest impact.

It should be complementary to and foster coordination with the work of, other environmental multilateral agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap and to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels.

Momentum should build upon strengthening the linkages of chemicals to policy areas of high priority like climate change, and gender, and economic development, amongst others.

**Commented [SG1]:** These bullets seem duplicative. Since the 11 basic element are cited in the second bullet, we suggest their deletion from the first one.

**Commented [SG2]:** Sound chemicals management is essential for economic development. Chemicals management will only be successfully mainstreamed when this is recognized by all.

### **What could a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 cover?**

This section describes what a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 could cover. This section is further linked to the scope for such a future platform. Making progress on the scope of the future platform is a priority for the second meeting of the intersessional process.

In considering the *scope*, the following elements may be considered:

#### **Scope**

Scope should consider the 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, as well as the WHO health sector roadmap, as a practical way to reflect on the scope beyond 2020. A roadmap for chemicals and waste could be considered.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste – Annex I, paragraph 7: Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term.

It should include and address the elements on ‘Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long-term’ as incorporated in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste.

~~The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including waste.~~ The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including the consideration of sectors, prevention and waste.

The basics of chemicals and waste management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to emerging issues of concern.

There are several Sustainable Development Goals where clear connections can be made and where measurable objectives and milestones and supplementary indicators could be developed in support of the 2030 Agenda.

At the global, regional and national level, the scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to: prevention policies; new emerging issues; climate change; a broadened health agenda; institutional strengthening; the life cycle approach; the potential contribution of sustainable chemistry; sustainability; as well as gender and vulnerable populations, especially indigenous peoples, women, children, and through them future generations.

Collaborative actions should be fostered on new and emerging issues, particularly issues not currently covered under existing policy frameworks and agreements.

The Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach.

Work should be based on relevant scientific data and information and consider key elements of chemicals management systems, in particular risk management.

At this meeting, there was no discussion regarding what type of waste issues are being considered in the scope of the beyond 2020 context.

### **How could the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 be realized?**

This section describes how a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste could be realized. This section is connected to governance, new and emerging issues, science-policy interface, financing, sustainable and green chemistry as well as national implementation.

The how will be informed by the independent evaluation of SAICM and should focus on the gaps in reaching the 2020 goal.

Drawing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, linkages should be made to other agendas such as biodiversity, oceans and climate change, food and agriculture, health, gender and labour.

In considering the how, the following elements should be taken into account:

#### **Governance**

The voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, that has been integral to the nature of SAICM, should continue. Voluntary standards, common objectives of protection and codes of practice, to which relevant stakeholders may voluntarily commit for some issues, should also be considered.

Some participants advocated to explore more elements, as well as potential elements, that would be legally binding. Potential legally binding elements could also be explored.

Functionally, the design should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sector participation at all levels (national, regional and global) along with a targeted approach, as an essential means to promote impact, involvement, ownership and commitment.

There is a need to increase industry engagement, **including for SMEs**, by for example promoting partnership approaches in the future platform and by including the waste and downstream sectors.

Partnerships should **focus on public needs and** be in line with agreed principles and values. They should be transparent and accountable; ensure multi-stakeholder involvement; provide an added value; and complement rather than substitute commitments made by governments.

The future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill the gaps and coordinate with decision-making bodies of the Participating Organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), other relevant agencies and organizations. **This could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the ICCM (i.e. governments, NGOs and IGOs) to one** where the sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) can play a more formal role. There are opportunities to link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Measuring progress, including objectives and milestones, and supplementary indicators, in addition to the SDG targets and indicators, as well as a related plan of action including at the national level. The 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance are a useful starting point.

Measurable objectives, as noted in paragraph 10 of ICCM Resolution IV/4, should be considered, including on means of implementation in order to ensure effectiveness.

Clear milestones would support the capacity to evaluate progress and would ensure transparency.

**Commented [SG3]:** This is potentially confusing. Who decides what public needs are? This sentence is clearer without this text.

**Commented [SG4]:** It is unclear what is meant by sectors here. Is this referring to engaging different government ministries? If so, including the Finance/Economic Development ministries is essential. Environment, health and labor NGOs already participate in SAICM. This language needs to be clarified so that it does not imply duplication.

**Commented [SG5]:** These three bullets are duplicative and could be combined into one.

### **New and emerging issues / Issues of concern**

Ensure ~~an~~ **the development and dissemination of scientific** information and knowledge ~~base~~ on chemicals and waste, including **identifying gaps in scientific knowledge, as well as** early warning systems that can inform work on new and emerging issues.

Focus on scientific and technical capacity building facing new and emerging issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account different needs at the regional level.

~~The basics of chemicals management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to the issues of concern.~~

Build on existing efforts by stakeholders and sectors and focus on prevention and minimization.

Develop a concept for a process of nomination, prioritization and evaluation that is robust and relevant. Future activities on emerging issues should be focused on where there is added value.

Monitoring of already identified emerging issues.

There should be reflection on and consideration of the implementation of a lifecycle approach.

**Commented [SG6]:** Already listed under scope above; can be deleted here to avoid duplication.

Give priority to ~~the identification~~ identifying any risks that may be associated with the use of hazardous chemicals in products and throughout their lifecycle.

Actions should be categorized to facilitate work planning, for example:

- (i) Areas where scientific information exists and there is a need to increase the knowledge basis.
- (n) New emerging issues where we need to promote understanding and awareness.
- 36 Development of national or regional chemicals and waste management systems, including refinement of existing systems.
- (d) Issues which need global or coordinated action.

**Commented [SG7]:** Risk reduction, one of the core SAICM objectives, depends on identifying risk in the first place. Presence does not necessarily equal risk, it also requires exposure. Your smartphone, for example, contains numerous hazardous chemicals whose risks need to be managed throughout the product lifecycle.

### **Science-policy interface**

Explore how to strengthen the link between science, public health and policy in global chemicals and waste governance.

Recognize the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice on chemicals and waste by intergovernmental and international bodies such as UNEP, WHO and the chemicals and wastes conventions secretariats.

Consideration of the social interface and the full range of scientific and public health disciplines.

Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy-making and action, including existing mechanisms, in other clusters, such as climate change and biodiversity.

There were also come comments regarding the need to focus on scientific capacity building and caution about diverting resources from implementation.

### **Financing**

The integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste is composed of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing (UNEP/GC 27/12 and UNEA 1/5). The implementation of the integrated approach is essential for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term.

Providing sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long term with emphasis on the role of developed countries.

A broader range of contributions should be considered that are predictable, sustainable and adequate.

Mainstreaming in national budgets and sectoral policies.

Provide effective capacity building in relevant areas, including taking account of capacity building activities conducted by SAICM stakeholders, and also focus on the importance of building and strengthening institutional capacity and the need to engage industry in solutions.

Broadening the donor base for sound management of chemicals and waste, including exploring untapped resources linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Building on existing funding structures at all levels, including lessons learned from existing funding mechanisms.

Promote enhanced funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the GEF Trust Fund, Green Climate Fund and others with access for all eligible countries and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with applicable rules.

**Sustainable and Green Chemistry**

There was some debate concerning the definition of sustainable versus green chemistry. However, there was agreement that there were useful aspects of these concepts that should be followed up at the next intersessional process meeting.

**National Implementation**

National Action Plans were mentioned as a possible tool to address the sound management of chemicals and waste, focusing in particular on building in-country capacity for basic chemicals and waste management with the support of international cooperation.

Additional elements such as institutional strengthening and information sharing were highlighted for making progress at the national level.

ADVANCE

To Co-chairs of  
Intersessional Process on SAICM  
and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

and

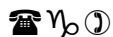
the SAICM secretariat

6 July 2017

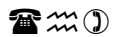
Dear Madame Co-chair, dear Mr. Co-chair, appreciated SAICM colleagues,

CropLife welcomes very much the opportunity to comment and build on the very well prepared co-chair's summary of the first intersessional meeting in Brasilia earlier this year.

Please find in the following our comments mainly relating to the topic of GOVERNANCE:



CropLife would encourage broader participation by other UN bodies such as the FAO particularly when topics relating to pesticide management and more generally 'agriculture' are being discussed. The WHO/FAO Joint Meeting of Pesticide Management is closely involved in the EPI Highly Hazardous Pesticides and its management. The JMPM is also currently discussing criteria for measuring progress on HHP management as well has provided the definition for what an HHP by the respective guideline finalized May 2016. Having FAO more closely involved in the SAICM processes would help to avoid duplication of efforts and increase transparency on the activities taken by other important stakeholders, many of which are actively supported by industry.



In this respect the recent meeting facilitated by the SAICM secretariat provided a beneficial platform for a first mutual information exchange on ongoing activities by key stakeholders. CropLife would appreciate to have such opportunities more often in the future as they could improve progress with the management of certain EPI's.



In addition, the updated SAICM webpage should provide the today missing platform for each stakeholder to document their efforts in relation to certain EPI's. This would ultimately lead to increased transparency and trust.



This transparency is necessary to achieve. It could help to avoid or at least mitigate the somewhat unproductive allegations by certain stakeholders against industry in plenary for not making progress in relation to EPI's, particularly Highly Hazardous Pesticides. This was obviously the case at the intersessional meeting in Brasilia where certain NGO's took the opportunity to portray HHPs as an issue that has made the least progress. A SAICM sponsored survey of governments and stakeholders found the opposite where HHPs ranked highest among all emerging policy issues in terms of success for integration into policy activities (see also the respective CropLife intervention).



In relation to Highly Hazardous Pesticides CropLife International would support broader industry participation at relevant SAICM events. CropLife represents the research based crop protection industry globally. The generic industry represented e.g. by the AgroCare association that often has a significant market share in low income countries or countries

with economies in transition to our current knowledge is not yet a stakeholder to the HHP policy issue under the frame of SAICM. Also, the WHO/FAO JMPM at its recent meeting in Delhi has raised this concern.



On a final note, CropLife International would like to reaffirm its commitment to the voluntary nature of SAICM. This process offers a flexible and effective framework for multi stakeholder and cross sectorial engagement for chemical management.

We trust you will find our comments useful and are looking forward working with you for the success of the SAICM initiative by 2020 and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Neumann', enclosed in a light blue rectangular border.

Dr. Christoph Neumann  
Director, International Regulatory Policy

