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**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference  
on Chemicals Management  
Third meeting  
Montevideo, 2–4 April 2019**

## **Report on the work of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third meeting**

### **I. Introduction**

1. By its resolution II/6, the International Conference on Chemicals Management established the Open-ended Working Group as its subsidiary body. The Working Group was to meet in the year before each session of the Conference to carry out the groundwork for the session with the aim of ensuring its comprehensiveness and effectiveness. The first and second meetings of the Working Group were held in Belgrade in November 2011 and in Geneva in December 2014, respectively. By its resolution IV/5, the Conference decided to hold a third meeting of the Working Group in advance of the fifth session of the Conference, to be held in 2018 or early 2019.
2. Accordingly, the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group was held at the Antel Arena in Montevideo from 2 to 4 April 2019.

### **II. Opening of the meeting**

3. The meeting was opened at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 April 2019, by Ms. Gertrud Sahler (Germany), President of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
4. Opening statements were delivered by Ms. Eneida de León, Minister of Housing, Land Planning and Environment, Uruguay; Mr. Jorge Basso, Minister of Public Health, Uruguay; Mr. Ariel Bergamino, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay; Ms. Sahler, Head of the Directorate-General for Environment and Health, Emission Control, Safety of Installations and Transport and Chemical Safety, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany; Mr. Laurentiu Adrian Neculaescu, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Romania; and Mr. Tim Kasten, Deputy Director, Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
5. In her remarks, Ms. de León drew attention to Uruguay's commitments and sustained efforts to advance the international chemicals safety agenda and the sound management of chemicals and waste at the national, regional and international levels, stressing that, as a country reliant on fisheries and agriculture, Uruguay was facing an increased use of agrochemicals that demanded additional efforts to protect biodiversity and the health of human beings and ecosystems. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management had provided a framework for the engagement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders and had made significant progress towards the goal of sound chemicals management by 2020, but much work remained to be done, and the global growth of chemicals production presented new challenges for their sound management and the evaluation of the risks they posed, in particular in developing countries. International cooperation was critical to build on the progress achieved and to fill existing knowledge gaps. The current meeting offered an opportunity to keep advancing towards consolidating the visibility and highlighting the importance of the sustainable management of chemicals and waste and to move forward the chemical safety agenda beyond 2020. In

closing, she wished the Working Group success in its deliberations with the aim of ensuring a successful fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and a better and healthier future for all.

6. In his statement, Mr. Basso highlighted the need for a multisectoral approach to tackle the challenge of sound chemicals management. In 2017, the World Health Assembly had adopted a road map for enhancing health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach towards the 2020 goal and beyond. The road map, which called for action in the areas of risk reduction, knowledge and evidence, institutional capacity and leadership and coordination, helped ministries of health to plan and prioritize, provided them with support for capacity-building and awareness-raising, and allowed them to take informed decisions on known chemicals. The precautionary approach should be adopted with regard to chemicals for which uncertainty remained. Overall, countries had a shared responsibility to generate knowledge on the risks to human development and humans throughout the life cycle of chemicals and to make that knowledge available to decision makers. Cooperation was needed among many sectors, including health, environment, industry, transport, trade and agriculture, as well as with academia, and labour and civil society organizations, to establish safer, more sustainable chemicals management practices.

7. Mr. Ariel Bergamino focused his remarks on the importance of the Strategic Approach and the Open-ended Working Group to international efforts for sound chemicals management. The Working Group in particular had made it possible to promote capacity-building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and strengthen the dialogue with the private sector and others on the sustainable management and use of chemicals. Its continuity was fundamental to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provided the most legitimate, robust and bold development agenda currently available to humankind. The Working Group was essential in addressing chemicals not yet covered by international agreements, and providing a means of strengthening and promoting dialogue with industry actors and the private sector. A proper financial mechanism for the post-2020 instrument, the exchange of knowledge and technology, and capacity-building were also vital.

8. Ms. Sahler began by noting that the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 had laid the foundation for productive negotiations to take place at the current meeting. The vision, scope, principles and strategic objectives of the future framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste had been discussed intensively, and it was to be hoped that those elements could be significantly advanced or even finalized and submitted to the International Conference on Chemicals Management for possible adoption at its fifth session. The additional elements of institutional arrangements, mechanisms to support implementation and financial considerations could be discussed at the third meeting of the intersessional process. She drew attention to two particularly important items on the agenda for the current meeting. First, item 3, on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, for which the paper developed by the co-chairs of the intersessional process provided an excellent basis for discussion; second, item 4, on progress towards the achievement of the 2020 overall objective of the sound management of chemicals. While some progress had certainly been achieved, the Strategic Approach, as a voluntary, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder platform, had proved unable to fulfil all the promises associated with its launch in 2006. The 2020 goal would not be achieved, and coherence and synergies between the organizations that should contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste had not been sufficiently strengthened. Much work thus remained to be done. The recently launched Global Chemicals Outlook II report, entitled *From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, called for a comprehensive global framework to foster the commitment and engagement of all relevant actors. She invited representatives to discuss the possible architecture of such a framework.

9. Mr. Neculaescu, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the co-chairs' paper provided an excellent basis for the development of concrete recommendations on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The European Union and its member States had conducted work along similar lines that would be presented at the current meeting. Taking place at a crucial moment, on the heels of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the launch of the High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste, both of which had demonstrated political awareness of the importance of sound chemicals and waste management, the current meeting provided an opportunity to truly make a difference. The Global Chemicals Outlook II report, with its message that the 2020 goal would not be achieved, indicated that business as usual was not a viable option. Policymakers had to intensify their efforts in order to achieve the goal by 2030 at the latest. Urgent action by all stakeholders was required to enhance and prioritize efforts on the sound management of chemicals and waste, including the

adoption of an improved enabling framework to effectively implement the chemicals and waste dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. In closing, he welcomed using the recommended targets described in the co-chairs' paper as the basis for further intersessional work and developing indicators in parallel to enable the review of progress.

10. In his remarks, Mr. Kasten said that the current meeting came at a pivotal time, when the world was facing multiple environmental challenges, such as biodiversity loss, antimicrobial resistance, climate change and pollution, all of which were directly linked to the unsound management of chemicals and waste. Together with the multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and waste, the Strategic Approach sought to achieve sound chemicals and waste management, which was essential to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the vision of a healthy planet for healthy people. Several of the outcomes of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly were relevant to the current meeting, including the ministerial declaration on innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production, in which the Environment Assembly had stressed the need for concerted efforts towards achieving the 2020 goal and an enabling framework for beyond 2020, and resolutions on the sound management of chemicals and waste, on marine plastic litter and microplastics and on single-use plastic products. Also at the fourth session of the Environment Assembly, the second Global Chemicals Outlook report had been launched, showing that progress had been uneven and that the world was not on track to achieve the 2020 goal. The positive feedback on and public interest in the report showed that the world was attentive, more than ever before, to the ways in which chemicals were affecting human health and the environment. He encouraged representatives to strive for system-wide change and high ambition for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and to keep in mind that solutions existed, but more ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders was urgently needed.

### III. Organizational matters

#### A. Adoption of the agenda

11. The Working Group adopted the agenda set out below on the basis of the provisional agenda (SAICM/OEWG.3/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (b) Organization of work.
3. The Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020:
  - (a) Independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2006–2015;
  - (b) Considerations for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020:
    - (i) Preparation of recommendations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
    - (ii) Timetable for the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
4. Progress towards the achievement of the 2020 overall objective of the sound management of chemicals:
  - (a) Progress report for the period 2014–2016;
  - (b) Overall orientation and guidance towards the 2020 goal;
  - (c) Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern;
  - (d) Implementation of the health sector strategy;
  - (e) Financing of the Strategic Approach.
5. Planned activities and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2019–2020.

6. Preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the meeting.
9. Closure of the meeting.

## **B. Organization of work**

### **1. Attendance**

12. The following governmental participants were represented: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe.

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Africa Institute, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Centre, European Chemicals Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Labour Organization, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, secretariat of the Basel Convention on the 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, secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, World Health Organization, World Bank.

14. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Académie de l'eau, Adelphi Research, AGENDA for Environment and Responsible Development, Asian Centre for Environmental Health, Association de l'Éducation Environnementale pour les Futures Générations, Association Welfare, Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region in Trinidad and Tobago; Basel Convention Coordinating Centre/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean in Uruguay, Casa CEM – Vias Verdes A.C., CENN, Centre for International Environmental Law, Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development, Centre de Recherche et d'Éducation pour le Développement, Centre for Environment, Justice and Development, European Environmental Bureau, Friends of the Earth Germany, Greenpeace International, Health Care Without Harm, Health and Environment Justice Support, Institute of Science, Technology and Policy (ETH Zurich)/International Panel on Chemical Pollution, Interface Development Interventions, International Chrysotile Association, International Community Corrections Association, International POPS Elimination Network, International Society of Doctors for the Environment, Lok Kalyan Seva Kendra, Multistakeholder Processes for Sustainable Development (MSP) Institute, Pesticide Action Network, Pesticide Action Nexus Association (PAN-Ethiopia), RAPAL Uruguay, Red de Acción sobre Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas de América Latina, Summit Outcomes Group, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Toxics Link, Toxisphera Environmental Health Association, United States Council for International Business, University of Cape Town, University of Liverpool/International Trade Union Confederation, University of the Republic (Uruguay), Young Volunteers for Environment Cameroon.

15. The following private sector entities were also represented: Brazilian Chemical Association, Centre de Formation en Poids Lourds (CFPL Haiti), CropLife International, International Chemical Trade Association, International Council of Chemical Associations, Milieu Consulting, Swedish Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry.

16. The following other entities were also represented: ADAPTA Ingeniería Ambiental, EX Research Institute Ltd., International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3).

## 2. Officers

17. The rules of procedure of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as provided in rule 23 of those rules, apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group. In accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 14, the officers elected at the fourth session of the Conference were to serve as the Bureau during the current meeting. Since the fourth session, however, a number of the officers elected by the Conference were replaced in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure.

18. Accordingly, the Bureau was constituted as follows at the time of the current meeting:

President:	Ms. Gertrud Sahler (Germany)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Ritesh Kumar Singh (India)
	Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Poland)
	Ms. Valentina Sierra (Uruguay)
	Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia)

19. Mr. Domagalski served also as rapporteur.

20. The President noted that Mr. Brian Kohler had resigned as the trade union stakeholders' representative on the Bureau and the trade union sector group had selected Mr. Rory O'Neill to replace him. In addition, Mr. David Morin (Canada) would continue to serve as one of the co-chairs of the intersessional process, but another co-chair would need to be appointed to replace Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho who had ceased her duties with the Government of Brazil, and therefore also with the Strategic Approach, during the intersessional period. The Working Group agreed to take up the appointment of the new co-chair under agenda item 3 (b) (i).

## 3. Organization of work

21. In carrying out its work at the current meeting, the Working Group had before it working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the meeting agenda. Those documents are listed, according to the agenda items to which they pertain, in document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/38.

22. The Working Group agreed to work in accordance with the proposal set out in a scenario note prepared by the President (SAICM/OEWG.3/2). It thus agreed, *inter alia*, to work in plenary session each day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustment as necessary, and to establish such small groups as it considered necessary, on the understanding that not more than one such group would work concurrently with plenary and that no more than two would meet at the same time.

## 4. Statements on the objectives of the meeting

23. A number of representatives, including several speaking on behalf of groups of countries, made general statements on the issues to be discussed during the meeting. Statements on behalf of regional groups of countries were made first, followed by statements by representatives of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry and trade unions.

### (a) Regional groups

24. The representative of Zambia, speaking on behalf of the group of African States, noted that Africa was a net importer of chemicals and faced serious challenges in managing chemicals and waste in an environmentally sound manner. It was to be hoped that the future framework for sound chemicals management would build on the successes of the Strategic Approach while compensating for its failure to achieve the 2020 goal. The elements of the Strategic Approach that had led to past achievements should be strengthened and carried forward. While the framework should not be constrained by a time frame, it should have specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound goals and objectives. It should be multisectoral in nature, with a high level of political commitment to raise the profile of the chemicals and waste agenda and a more direct link to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It should foster industry use of green chemistry and sustainable chemistry. The adequacy, predictability and sustainability of financial resources were critical for implementation, as indicated by the evaluation of the Strategic Approach and by the Global Chemicals Outlook II report, and should be provided for in the new framework. Strengthening the science-policy interface would facilitate the nomination of emerging policy issues of global concern and protect countries from intimidation during the nomination process. Lastly, the goals of a future framework should be anchored to the Sustainable Development Goals.

25. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran spoke on behalf of the group of Asia-Pacific States, saying that while the time had come for a new era in the sound management of chemicals and waste, the existing challenges to achieving the goal of sound chemicals management by 2020 should not be overshadowed by new, ambitious goals for the period beyond 2020. Ongoing activities should be strengthened further, with due attention paid to various principles, including of common but differentiated responsibilities and increased regional collaboration. The Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, with its 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas, and the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach were helpful tools for assessing and improving implementation towards 2020. Various documents had revealed significant gaps between developed and developing countries in sound chemicals management; growth in the international trade of chemicals and widening of previous gaps; the need for technical assistance, financial support and technology transfer; the importance of specific, sustainable, adequate and accessible financial resources in achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste; the need to uphold the continued contributions of IOMC participating organizations along with adequate resources and more responsibilities; and the need for extended producer responsibility over the entire life cycle of chemicals. Thorough, inclusive and transparent deliberations would be required to achieve a comprehensive, attractive approach and structure for the post-2020 framework, and the needs of countries in the Asia-Pacific region would have to be addressed.

26. Speaking on behalf of the group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the representative of Argentina concurred that a broad, comprehensive framework was required for the sound management of chemicals and related wastes. The framework should address the need to develop, implement and apply basic management laws and policies, include and integrate all international instruments in force and aim for synergies and coherence. It should be ambitious, timeless and inclusive, yet simple, clear and concise. Its scope should cover the sound management of chemicals and any form of waste associated with chemicals to take into account the life cycle approach embodied in the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Its approach should be multisectoral, with the essential participation of the health sector and a focus on human rights. It should strengthen the capacity of developing countries for integrated management and promote the transfer of cleaner, safer technology to those countries. It should also support a robust interface between policy and science. Its objectives should include the mobilization of adequate financial and non-financial resources for implementation, given that long-term, sustainable, timely, predictable, adequate and accessible financing accompanied by appropriate technical assistance was crucial to the rational management of chemicals and their associated wastes. To ensure adequate financial resources, the contributions of the private sector entities along the value chain should be increased. Furthermore, existing mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and donations should be supplemented by the establishment of a specific fund offering Governments, the private sector and civil society a range of financial instruments aimed at developing capabilities and attracting investment.

27. The representative of the Russian Federation, speaking on behalf of the Central and Eastern European States, said that the present meeting was a historic moment, providing an opportunity to look back at the progress achieved and to consider why the 2020 goal would not be achieved. The Global Chemicals Outlook II report and the interim report on progress in the implementation of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal showed that with the production, consumption and global trade of chemicals increasing and global production having moved to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, it was important for all countries to be well prepared to face the emerging challenges in chemicals management. In terms of the future framework for sound chemicals management, political support was crucial, but as seen with climate change and plastic waste, was mainly gained through public awareness. Sound chemicals management could achieve similar recognition by strengthening synergies among the chemicals and waste conventions and with other policy concepts and initiatives, such as the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The future framework should cover the entire life cycle from production and consumption to waste management. The science-policy interface should be strengthened at the international level, as requested by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session, taking into account existing mechanisms to maximize cost-effectiveness, make the best use of new technologies, track progress and improve the implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements at the national level. The future framework should reaffirm core documents of the Strategic Approach, such as the Dubai Declaration, and complement the 2030 Agenda, showing how sound chemicals management would support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It should encompass all sectors, including those not traditionally involved, and explore linkages with issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss. In that regard, the adoption of the World Health Organization (WHO) chemicals road map by the World Health Assembly was notable.

**(b) Intergovernmental organizations**

28. The representative of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) said that the IOMC participating organizations had been working hard to implement a wide range of activities that supported the implementation of the Strategic Approach, which were described in an information note prepared by IOMC for the current meeting (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/6). The multisectoral and multi-stakeholder character of the Strategic Approach was one of its strengths and unique features but, because in practice the participation of different sectors and stakeholders in the Strategic Approach had been uneven, IOMC would suggest ways to ensure the stronger engagement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders in the post-2020 framework. She expressed the view that the purpose of the post-2020 framework should be to improve the health of people and ecosystems, taking into account national and regional priorities and the 2030 Agenda. In closing, she said that IOMC was fully committed to the Strategic Approach and to the post-2020 process.

29. The representative of the Africa Institute emphasized the importance of examining the major building blocks of the beyond-2020 framework, including its vision, principles, governance, financial mechanism and institutional framework, as well as the principal actors in the framework and their respective roles, stressing that industry should be more responsive to and engaged in the framework. International cooperation, capacity-building, technology transfer and broader and more robust partnerships were all key to success. Noting that no progress could be achieved without adequate financial resources, he expressed the hope that the Working Group would discuss a financial mechanism for the future at the current meeting.

**(c) Non-governmental organizations**

30. The representative of a non-governmental organization expressed deep concern about the failure of the Strategic Approach to address the issue of highly hazardous pesticides, noting that despite the attempts by the International Conference on Chemicals Management to tackle the issue at its third and fourth sessions by calling for, respectively, a global phase-out of such pesticides and the establishment of a global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides, such efforts had been frustrated by a few representatives. Highlighting the results of a recent monitoring programme by the Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN-AP) in seven countries in Asia, which had found that 70 per cent of farmers were suffering from acute pesticide poisoning, she urged representatives to consider whether that situation was acceptable to them and, if the answer was no, to reflect on how a “Strategic Approach 2.0” could be improved so that action would be taken on highly hazardous pesticides. She also suggested that, in the discussion on a broader platform for the post-2020 period, it would be important to consider how an issue of concern that the Strategic Approach had been unable to resolve could be recommended for a certain protocol.

31. The representative of a non-governmental organization said that a new global agreement on chemical safety was needed and should entail an upgraded version of the Strategic Approach, also known as “SAICM 2.0”, and an enabling framework to address the growing challenge of dealing with the health, economic and environmental impacts of the production, use and disposal of chemicals and waste. Both the approach and the framework should be timeless but include measurable, time-bound milestones; include prevention and precaution as priorities; act to protect human health and the environment; and cover the entire life cycle of chemicals and waste. The enabling framework should serve as an umbrella for all chemicals-related agreements, should be adopted at the highest level, including by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and should be open, inclusive and transparent, embracing a multi-stakeholder, multisectoral approach. It was critical that a financial mechanism be established with new and additional, adequate, sustainable and predictable financing accessible to all relevant stakeholders for addressing chemicals and waste issues. The internalization of the costs to society of chemicals with relevant industries was also seen as critical in that regard.

32. A representative of industry said that he valued the multi-stakeholder and multisectoral nature of the Strategic Approach and favoured the inclusion of concrete actions by key stakeholders linked to the objectives and targets set out in the paper by the co-chairs of the intersessional process (SAICM/OEWG.3/4). His organization was committed to the goal of achieving the sustainable management of chemicals and waste and the Sustainable Development Goals through its responsible care programme, capacity-building initiatives, and the promotion of knowledge management and information sharing. He encouraged participants to review an information document submitted by the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and UNEP on knowledge management and information sharing for the sound management of industrial chemicals (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/28). Information sharing, he said, should be a key element of “SAICM 2.0”, and a global repository of publicly available information on chemicals should be created.

33. The representative of trade unions urged the Working Group to consider the issues facing workers and the role that workers and their unions could play in preventing unacceptable mortality and morbidity rates due to exposures to chemicals at work, which were more frequent and damaging than environmental releases but were a form of officially sanctioned collateral damage associated with chemical use. In order for the Strategic Approach to be successful, it must promote a human rights agenda that should include the fundamental rights at work of the International Labour Organization (ILO); promote a high-level of buy-in from all levels of government, including from trade and finance departments, whose policies often undermined environmental policies and encouraged the transfer of risk to developing countries and the growth of an increasingly precarious global workforce in all countries; and promote transparency, so that neither workers nor the general public could ever be denied access to information on what was poisoning or killing them.

34. The representative of the health sector of civil society expressed support for “SAICM 2.0”, noting that it must build on the successes and learn from the mistakes of the Strategic Approach in order to ensure primary prevention through the integration of precaution, green and sustainable chemistry and the occupational health concept of hierarchy of control into comprehensive national implementation plans incorporating all the relevant instruments and agencies that needed to work together to protect human health and the environment from chemicals and waste throughout their life cycles. The co-chairs paper provided a good basis for building “SAICM 2.0” and there was a need to become more effective in addressing the threats to health from hazardous chemicals and chemicals in products through transparency, prevention and precaution, and to bear in mind that the Strategic Approach had not delivered on its promise due to a lack of coordinated governance mechanisms and inadequate financing.

## **IV. The Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

### **A. Independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2006–2015**

35. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that, in its resolution IV/4, the International Conference on Chemicals Management had set out terms of reference to conduct an independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2006–2015, and the Conference had directed the Working Group to consider the conclusions of the independent evaluation and to submit them for its consideration at its fifth session. She expressed regret that there had been a significant delay in the finalization of the evaluation, the full version of which was not yet available. An advance version of the executive summary of the evaluation had, however, been made available to the Working Group the previous day (SAICM/OEWG.3/3), and the independent evaluator had assured the secretariat that the final evaluation report and the final version of the executive summary would be available by the end of April 2019. Furthermore, the evaluator had provided an overview of the evaluation process and provisional results at previous meetings, and the intersessional process had held an in-depth discussion on those results at its second meeting.

36. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to the first page of the advance version of the executive summary and read the message from the independent evaluator contained therein.

37. The Working Group then watched a video presentation of the evaluation prepared by the independent evaluator, in which he outlined the background, methodology and main findings of the evaluation as described in document SAICM/OEWG.3/3.

38. In the ensuing discussion, representatives expressed their appreciation to the independent evaluator for his work, presentation and executive summary, but lamented the very late submission of the latter document, which had made it impossible to consider it in detail, and the fact that the full evaluation report, on which they had made comments, had not been submitted for consideration by the Working Group at the current meeting.

39. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the Strategic Approach had been an extremely useful instrument under which relevant stakeholders from different sectors had been able to address constructively the sound management of chemicals and waste, including on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, and its work had contributed to improving the management of chemicals and waste in various countries. However, the Strategic Approach would not reach its goal by the year 2020, in large part due to the fact that it had not attracted the necessary political and public attention to the sound management of chemicals and waste. Furthermore, a progressive disengagement of relevant organizations and a lack of participation of certain sectors, including industry, had been observed.

40. Another representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the executive summary provided a good reflection of what was happening on the ground and he aligned himself with the conclusions set out in the document, in particular those related, for the period beyond 2020, to the need to maintain the ambitious and inclusive nature of the Strategic Approach, ensure sufficient levels of financing and ensure greater capacity and increased representation of the health, agriculture, finance and industrial sectors; the need for national Governments to have the political will to legislate and enforce legislation for sound chemicals management; and the measures needed to reduce inequalities between and within countries.

41. One representative suggested that a number of the findings in the evaluation report supported the view that the Strategic Approach beyond 2020 should focus on the implementation of the core management of chemicals at the national level.

42. Another representative said that some of the key conclusions in the executive summary should drive the work of Strategic Approach stakeholders beyond 2020, including that the multisectoral and multi-stakeholder nature of the Strategic Approach was one of its strengths and must be further strengthened; that its success ultimately rested in the will of national Governments to legislate and enforce legislation on the sound management of chemicals; and that progress had been made but there was a need to build institutional capacities in many countries and to monitor progress. She expressed the hope that the full report would be considered at the third meeting of the intersessional process.

43. The representative of a non-governmental organization voiced her dismay that the executive summary did not include an evaluation of highly hazardous pesticides as an issue of concern under the Strategic Approach. She expressed the hope, nevertheless, that it would be considered in the final evaluation report. She also expressed support for the independent evaluator's conclusions on financing.

## **B. Considerations for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

### **1. Preparation of recommendations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management**

44. Introducing the sub-item, the President noted that, at the end of the second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, drawing attention to the need to make further progress, all the regions and sectors had requested the co-chairs of the intersessional process to develop a paper for submission to the Open-ended Working Group, at its third meeting, to be used as a basis for discussion on beyond 2020. The co-chairs had developed such a paper in consultation with the Bureau and with the support of the secretariat on the basis of the outcomes of the first and second meetings of the intersessional process and taking into account stakeholder submissions as well as the outcomes of the regional meetings. The representative of the secretariat introduced that paper (SAICM/OEWG.3/4), along with a number of supporting documents, including one which contained annotations to the paper prepared by the co-chairs (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/2). Lastly, the President recalled that, as noted under item 2, on organizational matters, Mr. Morin (Canada) would continue to serve as one of the co-chairs of the intersessional process, while Ms. Judith Torres (Uruguay) would take over from Ms. Reis de Carvalho (Brazil), as agreed by the Bureau.

45. Mr. Morin introduced the paper and the annotations on behalf of the co-chairs. The paper first dealt with the substantive elements of ensuring the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020: the vision, scope and principles and approaches. Mr. Morin then presented 5 strategic objectives and 20 related targets that were felt to be applicable both to the continuation of the Strategic Approach beyond 2020, the so-called "SAICM 2.0", and to an enhanced enabling framework. Subsequent parts of the paper addressed the implementation of the stated ambitions, in terms of the institutional arrangements, mechanisms to support the implementation and financial considerations. The paper and the annotations highlighted the areas in which there had been the most discussion, those that required greater consideration, those where there was tentative consensus and those where opinions differed. In response to a question, he highlighted the need to maximize the use of existing resources of various kinds and avoid duplication.

46. Following the presentation, the President recalled that the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session, which had taken place in Nairobi in March 2019, had invited the Open-end Working Group to prepare the ground for relevant resolutions of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management regarding a cross-cutting and holistic approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term. She noted that a number of information documents had been submitted in relation to a possible enabling framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste, including one by the German Environment Agency on global governance of chemicals and waste (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/27).

47. The representative of Germany introduced the paper commissioned by the German Environment Agency, stating that, while the Strategic Approach had made a lot of progress, some of the persistent challenges that it faced stemmed from institutional fragmentation. The paper made the case for a broader governance platform for the strategic management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and the process for establishing it, building on existing elements.

48. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives suggested that the co-chairs' paper effectively represented the range of views expressed in the process so far, and formed a sound basis for further discussion. There was consensus on the need for a continuation of the multi-stakeholder, multisectoral modalities adopted by the Strategic Approach. Integrated, coordinated action was required involving all actors at the international, regional and national levels. Some representatives also expressed support for the continuation of the voluntary aspect of the Strategic Approach. Several representatives said that the extended, improved "Strategic Approach 2.0" was capable of addressing the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020 and enabling greater alignment with the 2030 Agenda. Several representatives supported the development of a broader, global strategy or framework that encompassed both voluntary and legally binding institutional arrangements. A number said that milestones were needed to track progress against a range of indicators, with additional, stronger measures introduced where progress was lagging.

49. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that discussions under the present item could be guided by the resolution on the sound management of chemicals and waste adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session. Several representatives expressed interest in the proposal set out in that resolution to create an improved enabling framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term. Further discussion was needed, however, on the scope of such a framework, with some representatives asserting that all waste should be considered within a holistic approach, given that chemical-related wastes were often included in unsegregated waste materials and to avoid protracted deliberations on waste definitions.

50. Several representatives underscored the value of a life cycle approach to chemicals and waste management, supported by innovative approaches, in line with the principle of circularity. A number of representatives stressed the need to ensure that industry displayed its commitment and took all appropriate measures to prevent harm from chemicals throughout their life cycle and dealt with associated costs and impacts, in line with extended producer responsibility and the polluter pays approach.

51. Considerable importance was attached to means of implementation, including ensuring the mobilization of adequate, sustainable and predictable financing to enable the achievement of the internationally agreed goals for the sound management of chemicals and waste. The value of expert input was recognized, including through strengthening the science-policy interface in international chemicals and waste governance, and supporting technology transfer. Some representatives said that the secretariat required additional financial support to enable it to fulfil its role. One representative said that assistance should be provided to countries with developing or transitional economies in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

52. A number of representatives said that human health should be a primary focus of sound management, requiring the full engagement of the health sector. Other representatives drew attention to the human rights dimension of chemicals and waste management, including the rights of workers who dealt with potentially hazardous materials. Transparency was essential to ensure that the public had full knowledge of the possible threats posed by various chemicals and products, including those purchased online.

53. Some representatives said that, in developing international agreements for implementation at the national level, it was important not to lose sight of the value of regional mechanisms to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste among countries at similar stages of development and facing comparable challenges. One representative highlighted the role that the regional centres could play in assisting capacity-building efforts.

54. With regard to the need for high-level political engagement, several representatives supported the suggestion of a ministerial conference and declaration in 2020, adopted at a high-level segment of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management or at a high-level conference held back-to-back with that session.

55. Following the discussion, the Working Group agreed to establish a contact group co-chaired by Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana) and Ms. Silvija Kalnins (Latvia). Based on the considerations raised during the intersessional process, the co-chairs' paper on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (SAICM/OEWG.3/4), the discussions during the present meeting and the recommendations set out in a conference room paper introduced by the representative of the European Union, the contact group was mandated to develop recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session.

56. With regard to the discussion on an enabling framework on chemicals and waste beyond 2020, the Working Group accepted the President's proposal to establish a group of friends of the President, co-facilitated by Mr. Jorge Peydro Aznar (European Union) and Ms. Torres (Uruguay), to coordinate informal consultations on the matter. The group would be open-ended and could include representatives of the different stakeholder groups. The group was mandated to facilitate informal consultations and the exchange of views on whether there was a need for a cross-cutting and holistic enabling framework for the international sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and, if so, the gaps it could address.

57. Subsequently, the co-chair of the contact group presented the group's recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The recommendations are set out in annex I to the present report, without formal editing. Noting that some recommendations requested action by the secretariat, the President asked stakeholders to provide relevant inputs to the secretariat by 15 May 2019 to enable the secretariat to prepare the requested documentation. The outcomes of the contact group would be submitted to the intersessional process at its third meeting for its consideration. At that meeting, the focus would be on those areas of the framework that were yet to be finalized, while at the fourth meeting of the intersessional process the document would be finalized for submission to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session for consideration and possible adoption.

58. The co-facilitator of the group of friends of the President presented the outcomes of the informal discussions on the need for a cross-cutting and holistic enabling framework for the international sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and the gaps it could address. He said that the group had first discussed gaps in the existing framework, then considered the need for a new enabling framework, and finally exchanged ideas on possible institutional arrangements and processes that might be followed. He also stated that the reported outcomes represented the understanding of the co-facilitators of the main points of the discussion, and had not been negotiated or formally agreed by the participants of the group.

59. In the first exchange of views, some representatives had suggested that the Strategic Approach could be broadened to accommodate possible gaps, while others underlined the failure to meet the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and waste and expressed their interest in possible processes and additional institutional arrangements to improve the current international framework. Issues raised during the discussions included insufficient public awareness, political commitment and visibility of the sound management of chemicals and waste agenda; fragmentation of action for the sound management of chemicals and waste and internal barriers to inter-agency cooperation, including financial barriers; lack of common objectives, shared strategic planning, reporting and monitoring of progress; lack of or insufficient action to effectively address certain issues, such as life cycle approaches, including with regard to waste and highly hazardous pesticides; disengagement and lack of ownership of various organizations and stakeholders; insufficient mobilization of resources at all levels and failure to ensure sufficient private sector participation throughout the value chain, or in the financing of sound management of chemicals and waste; and the failure of planning to keep pace with the growth and complexity of the chemicals and waste sectors.

60. On the question of whether there was a need for a cross-cutting and holistic enabling framework for the international sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, views differed on whether the Strategic Approach had the capacity to effectively address all the gaps on its own. Some representatives suggested that an improved enabling framework could be based on the work of existing instruments and organizations, while respecting the mandates and autonomy of those entities.

61. On the matters that could be addressed by an improved enabling framework, the following were suggested: enhanced high-level awareness of and commitment to the sound management of chemicals and waste in order to foster action at the multilateral, regional and national levels; a shared vision and strategic objectives for the sound management of chemicals and waste aligned with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda; avoidance of duplication and fostering complementarity and coherence of policies and actions, strategic planning and mutually agreed distribution of tasks, in accordance with respective mandates, in order to promote better use of the resources and expertise of each organization; addressing current internal barriers to cooperation and coordination with other organizations and the development of milestones for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the mandate of each relevant IOMC participating organization; effectively addressing issues of global concern, including for vulnerable groups, and strengthened use of science to inform policy actions; mobilization of sufficient resources at all levels for the sound management of chemicals and waste through the full implementation of the integrated approach to financing; consideration of the necessity for legally binding instruments as well as the possible development of standards and codes of conduct; fostering private sector engagement, including the application of the polluter pays principle and extended producer responsibility measures; promotion of the development and sharing of knowledge, data and best practices; facilitation of overarching and cross-cutting reporting and monitoring of progress on the sound management of chemicals and waste; and addressing the lack of accountability through effective measures.

62. In addition, some representatives expressed an interest in considering a high-level multilateral resolution for consideration by the United Nations General Assembly, possibly developed consequent to a high-level declaration on the sound management of chemicals and waste as an outcome of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management or an ad hoc multisectoral ministerial conference; a multilateral governmental space for implementation of the sound management and chemicals and waste; and an encompassing platform or committee to foster complementarity of action by multilateral organizations, which could be a component of the Strategic Approach.

63. Following the presentation, the President said that the outcomes of the group of friends of the President could augment the outcomes of the contact group in informing the work of the third meeting of the intersessional process. It was important to keep all options open moving forward, and to be creative and innovative in filling the gaps identified and developing solution-oriented proposals.

## **2. Timetable for the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

64. The Open-ended Working Group had before it a note by the secretariat on preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/14). The President recalled that the third meeting of the intersessional process was scheduled to be held in Bangkok from 30 September to 4 October 2019, unless a host country came forward to offer an alternative venue, and that, in accordance with resolution IV/4 of the Conference, the Working Group had to consider whether there was a need to call for a fourth meeting of the intersessional process to be held prior to the fifth session of the Conference.

65. As recommended by the contact group mandated under agenda item 3 (b) (i) to develop recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and by the Bureau of the Conference at its fifth session, the President proposed and the Working Group agreed that a fourth meeting of the intersessional process take place at the end of the first quarter or the beginning of the second quarter of 2020. She requested the Bureau, in consultation with the secretariat, to identify a suitable date for that meeting.

66. On behalf of her Government, the representative of Romania offered to host the fourth meeting of the intersessional process in Bucharest in early 2020.

## **V. Progress towards the achievement of the 2020 overall objective of the sound management of chemicals**

### **A. Progress report for the period 2014–2016**

67. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that its purpose was to provide participants with information on the status of implementation of the Strategic Approach. Noting that one of the functions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was to evaluate the implementation of the Strategic Approach and report on progress to stakeholders, the representative of

the secretariat introduced a number of documents pertinent to the item, including a summary report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2014–2016 and an analysis of the 20 indicators of progress (SAICM/OEWG.3/5), the full implementation report (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/4) and an update report by IOMC on activities undertaken in support of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/6).

68. On the basis of the information set out in the update report, representatives of the following IOMC participating organizations made brief presentations on the activities of their organizations in support of the objectives of the Strategic Approach: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); ILO; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); UNEP; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); WHO and the World Bank.

69. Noting that the development of progress reports was a time-consuming and resource-intensive activity, the President highlighted that the number of submissions received from Governments and stakeholders had been very limited. She proposed that, instead of a progress report for the period 2017–2019, participants might want to consider an alternative, more effective approach for reporting on progress.

70. In the ensuing discussion, representatives thanked the secretariat for the progress report (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/4) and all those who had contributed to the report and to improving its quality, in particular the IOMC participating organizations.

71. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern about the low rate of reporting, especially by Governments, with one further suggesting that it was hard to see trends or to assess progress over time when different countries reported over different periods. Several representatives suggested that there was a need to reconsider the current reporting system in order to better assess progress made and identify gaps in implementation, which was crucial to secure political support and sufficient capacity in the long term.

72. With regard to the progress report for the period 2017–2019, several representatives suggested that a different kind of report be produced, given the low response rate for previous reporting periods. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the secretariat could be asked to produce a report on the basis of information and data originating from the IOMC participating organizations, which could be used as a baseline to measure progress in the future without prejudging future reporting arrangements. Another representative suggested that the Working Group could request the secretariat to develop a survey for consideration by the Bureau to obtain a smaller set of more useful data, taking into account the IOMC indicators, for the production of a simpler report.

73. Another representative expressed support for the development of a progress report for the period 2017–2019, and for streamlined reporting based on a questionnaire and on additional sources of data, including from IOMC. She encouraged stakeholders to report on the successful strategies and results achieved under the Strategic Approach.

74. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries highlighted some of the general conclusions set out in the progress report, including that the overall gap between countries in different development categories was widening rather than narrowing, which was worrying considering that the global production and use of chemicals was projected to increase mainly in developing countries. Another representative, drawing attention to the conclusion of the Global Chemicals Outlook II report that the 2020 goal would not be achieved, said that, in the post-2020 framework, there was a need to design better targets and indicators and to consider other tools, such as peer reviews, in order to enable an assessment of and improvement in the sound management of chemicals and waste. He also suggested that there was a need to strengthen the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management chemicals and waste, commending the decision adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the sound management of chemicals and waste, in which it had requested the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare, by 30 April 2020, an assessment of options for strengthening such an interface.

75. The representative of a non-governmental organization suggested that a progress report for 2017–2019 was not needed, bearing in mind that a robust independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach had just been undertaken. She suggested that all efforts be dedicated to implementing the Strategic Approach and discussing the post-2020 period prior to the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

76. The representative of another non-governmental organization urged consideration of the fact that, despite the progress achieved towards the 2020 goal, workers continued to be exposed to toxic substances throughout the life cycles of those substances and many workers lacked access to health

centres, adequate treatment and information on the chemicals to which they were exposed. He suggested that the Strategic Approach could only be considered to have achieved its goals when national plans were developed and implemented with the participation of all relevant actors and when human rights had been fulfilled.

77. Following the discussion, at the suggestion of the President, the Working Group agreed to request the secretariat to develop a simple report for the period 2017–2019 that, using existing data, provided an overview of Strategic Approach activities, accomplishments and challenges for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session.

78. The Working Group further agreed to request the secretariat to produce a paper setting out detailed options for modalities to assess progress beyond 2020, building on lessons learned and effective models from other areas, for consideration at the third meeting of the intersessional process, which could then develop recommendations on the report for consideration by the Conference at its fifth session.

## **B. Overall orientation and guidance towards the 2020 goal**

79. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to information documents, entitled, respectively, “Interim report on progress in the implementation of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals” (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/5) and “SAICM Knowledge Management Strategy” (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/32).

80. The Working Group was being invited to take note of the progress achieved under the overall orientation and guidance; provide guidance to stakeholders in the next period in reaching the 2020 goal; and provide guidance to the secretariat in preparing its final report on progress in implementing the overall orientation and guidance for consideration by the Conference at its fifth session, both in context of celebrating the achievements of the Strategic Approach in 2020 and in setting out any baseline information for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Stakeholders were invited to submit written comments on the interim report by 31 May 2019 and to provide feedback on the strategy by 26 April 2019, and to notify the secretariat of any areas where they would like to contribute information or databases for sharing and dissemination.

81. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the secretariat for the interim report and stressed the importance of the elements identified in the overall orientation and guidance as crucial for achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste at the national and regional levels. Urgent action was needed by all stakeholders to enhance and prioritize such management, including through an improved enabling framework to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda with respect to chemicals and waste.

82. The representative of OECD said that there was no indicator under the Strategic Approach to measure progress in setting up a management system for industrial and consumer chemicals. He drew attention to a proposed new indicator that would serve that purpose, as proposed in document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/18. He said that, should the Working Group so wish, OECD could develop a baseline report for such an indicator by the fifth session of the Conference.

83. The representative of UNITAR said that the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals was one of the building blocks of sound chemicals and waste management and was recognized as such in the overall orientation and guidance. He outlined UNITAR activities to support the Globally Harmonized System and said that UNITAR was working with partners to develop a plan to promote its implementation beyond 2020.

84. The representative of a non-governmental organization drew attention to its work, in collaboration with UNEP, on gender and chemicals, and said that there was a need for more information on chemicals throughout the value chain and improved resources to implement the Strategic Approach and the six core areas of the overall orientation and guidance, including through enhanced industry involvement.

85. At the suggestion of the President, the Working Group took note of progress made under the overall orientation and guidance. She also thanked the secretariat for the development of the knowledge management strategy set out in document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/32, encouraging all stakeholders to get involved in the knowledge management efforts.

## C. Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

86. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that, at its fourth session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management had requested the lead agencies of IOMC, Governments and other stakeholders to report through the secretariat on progress in the implementation of resolutions on emerging policy issues at the current meeting and at the fifth session of the Conference. The emerging policy issues process had been an important element of the work of the Strategic Approach, which, owing its non-binding nature, had offered a forum to promptly consider the risks of such issues and possible responses thereto. Nevertheless, there had been challenges in tracking progress on emerging policy issues, and concerns had been raised that they were not time bound. The co-chairs' paper (SAICM/OEWG.3/4) had included emerging policy issues as a key element for the post-2020 period, under draft strategic objective C, on issues of concern that warranted global action. It was therefore important to reflect on experiences to date with regard to emerging policy issues and other issues of concern in order to support decision-making for the post-2020 period.

87. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to the note by the secretariat on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (SAICM/OEWG.3/6), as well as four information documents on, respectively, emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, presented by IOMC (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/9); United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions on marine plastic litter and microplastics and their relevance to the Strategic Approach, submitted by UNEP (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/16/Rev.1); the promotion of lead paint laws and enhanced actions towards 2020, submitted by UNEP and WHO (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/20); and modalities for considering emerging policy issues (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/24).

88. In the ensuing discussion, representatives began by reflecting on progress made – and how to make further progress by 2020 on emerging policy issues and issues of concern – and on lessons learned on such issues that could inform the post-2020 process. They then discussed each of the emerging policy issues and issues of concern.

89. In the general discussion, representatives thanked the secretariat for the note by the secretariat on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (SAICM/OEWG.3/6) and all the organizations, countries and stakeholders that had contributed to addressing such issues under the Strategic Approach. Many representatives said that the identification of emerging policy issues and issues of concern and of action to be taken to address them had been one of the key strengths of the Strategic Approach and they emphasized the importance of continuing to address such issues in the post-2020 framework.

90. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that greater progress was needed on emerging policy issues, for instance with regard to information sharing regarding chemicals in products. She encouraged all organizations, participating countries and stakeholders to intensify their efforts to implement the decisions on emerging policy issues adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session. With regard to the post-2020 period, she said that there was a need to develop clear and detailed criteria for the identification and prioritization of issues of global concern and ways of addressing them, as suggested in the co-chairs' paper (SAICM/OEWG.3/4).

91. Another representative identified as key, for dealing with emerging policy issues and issues of global concern, the need for a more systemic way of identifying current and emerging challenges related to chemicals and waste and the importance of regular updates on the evolution of possible issues of global concern, as provided by the Global Chemicals Outlook reports, through a strengthened science-policy interface.

92. Two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that a report on emerging issues of concern to be produced by the Executive Director of UNEP, by 30 April 2020, pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/8 on the sound management of chemicals and waste, would serve as a useful reference for future work, including in the design of specific work plans and indicators for issues of global concern.

93. Another representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the Strategic Approach had helped to characterize and take action on issues that had wide health and environmental implications and he anticipated the post-2020 approach to have a similar mechanism to allow for broad discussion on the science and level of impact of such issues, and remedial action required to tackle them, in the context of strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management chemicals and waste.

94. One representative said that the activities carried out by IOMC participating organizations were executed in line with the availability and schedule of each organization and their respective

resources. He suggested, therefore, that the Strategic Approach secretariat should more actively grasp the status of each area of work and disseminate such information. Active efforts by the Strategic Approach secretariat would lead to the improvement of Strategic Approach visibility and strengthening of the post-2020 framework.

## 1. Lead in paint

95. The representative of IOMC said that significant progress had been achieved in dealing with lead in paint, thanks to the leadership of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, facilitated by UNEP and WHO. The Alliance, which included 95 partners from Governments, civil society, academia and industry, recognized that the best way to reduce exposure to lead in paint was to establish lead paint laws, and it had actively developed tools to assist countries in developing such laws. As of March 2019, 72 countries, or 38 per cent of all countries, had confirmed that they had enacted legally binding controls on lead in paint.

96. Efforts to assist countries to adopt lead paint laws would be further enhanced through a GEF-funded Strategic Approach project that would promote action by Governments and industry to phase out lead in paint. The expected outcome of the project was the development and implementation of lead paint legislation in at least 40 countries, and for the phase-out of lead in the production processes of at least 35 small and medium-sized paint manufacturing enterprises in 7 countries. Representatives were encouraged to state their intentions at the current meeting with regard to enacting lead in paint legislation, and to share their relevant experiences at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

97. In the ensuing discussion, representatives thanked IOMC for the information provided and the Global Alliance for its work and the progress achieved on the issue of lead in paint.

98. Two representatives said that they were encouraged by the adoption of lead paint laws, but one of them expressed concern that fewer than 40 per cent of countries had legislation or regulations on lead paint limits, including for household paints and paints used in consumer products, stressing that much more work remained to be done to achieve the 2020 goal and the targets of the 2030 Agenda, including the elimination of lead paint. She expressed the view that work must continue beyond 2020, either under the Strategic Approach or a similar forum.

99. The representative of a non-governmental organization drew attention to the work of her organization in raising awareness, working with paint manufacturers, encouraging legislators to adopt lead paint laws, and testing products to confirm that existing legislation was being implemented. She said that despite progress achieved to date, only one third of the legally binding controls in existence had been adopted since 2009, when lead in paint had become an emerging policy issue under the Strategic Approach, and several of those controls were not being enforced. Furthermore, 122 countries had no regulations on lead in paint, so urgent action was still needed in the lead-up to the fifth session of the Conference in 2020 to achieve further progress.

## 2. Chemicals in products

100. The representative of IOMC outlined the activities of UNEP under its chemicals in products programme and its implementation of a successful GEF-funded project to identify and demonstrate best practices in facilitating access to information on chemicals contained in textile products, which had been executed jointly with the Government of China and leading textile manufacturers. Another recently launched GEF-funded project had a component under the Strategic Approach on the theme “Life cycle management of chemicals present in products”, and involved action by Governments and value chain actors in the building, electronics and toys sectors to track and manage chemicals of concern in their products. Through its “Better Work Programme” and various country projects, ILO had been actively promoting chemical safety and proper waste management in the garments and textile industry across the supply chain, and the World Bank had established a multi-donor trust fund called PROBLUE, which had a dedicated window for marine litter management and plastics and provided grants and co-financing of investments for detoxifying plastic products and promoting their recycling. In addition, the World Bank was establishing a new trust fund on the circular economy that would promote the minimization of toxic waste production, as well as recycling and reuse of all sorts of products.

101. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives welcomed the progress achieved on chemicals in products and thanked those who had contributed to the chemicals in products programme, including through awareness-raising, capacity-building and information-sharing, with one stressing that information exchange on this topic could be extremely beneficial for stakeholders and should continue.

102. One representative said that the responsible management of chemicals in products was linked to the global push for a circular economy and waste reduction, which could not be achieved without better knowledge of the chemical composition of products. Data on product ingredients in global commodity markets was necessary for risk assessment and management, to support innovations in safer products and chemistry, and to improve public access to credible information. It was important, therefore, to promote transparency in global supply chains of chemicals and products.

103. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that a circular economy could only be sustainable if the circulation of hazardous chemicals was prevented, and she encouraged lead organizations, countries and stakeholders to enhance their efforts in that area. She drew attention to a new database on chemicals in articles that would soon be publicly available.

104. Several representatives outlined their countries' efforts to deal with toxic and hazardous materials in products, including through legislative and regulatory efforts, innovation and information exchange.

105. Three representatives of three non-governmental organizations emphasized the need to ensure the full disclosure of health and safety information and the identification of all chemical ingredients in products throughout the life cycles of individual products, prioritizing chemicals in line with the Strategic Approach criteria, premised on hazard and risk reduction. One of the representatives said that this could be achieved through a harmonization of rules on chemicals in products, stressing that the largest obstacle to achieving the goals of the chemicals in products programme had been that the private sector did not publicly disclose information on chemicals of concern in products, including in personal care and children's products, and it did not provide information on all chemical ingredients found in products or on their possible health effects or ways of reducing exposure to them.

### **3. Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products**

106. A representative of ILO introduced the sub-item on behalf of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which led the work on the emerging policy issue in collaboration with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the International Environmental Technology Centre of UNEP. She outlined the relevant activities undertaken by UNIDO under its workplan for the period 2016–2020. Although financing for many activities under the plan had failed to materialize, further work was leading up to 2020 on promoting green purchasing, design for environment and the tracking of substances within the manufacturing process along the product life cycle. At the same time, other Strategic Approach stakeholders, such as WHO, the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP and ILO, were also addressing hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products in various aspects of their work.

107. In the ensuing discussion, one representative supported the IOMC workplan because it focused on what she described as the potential areas of added value of the Strategic Approach: management activities in the upstream life cycle stages, such as design, manufacture and purchasing of electrical and electronic products, and capacity-building for the sound management of electronic products other than waste. Thus, it did not duplicate efforts under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. A representative of a non-governmental organization also called for an approach that emphasized upstream management, in order to minimize downstream and end-of-life hazards, with extended producer responsibility used to address downstream issues.

108. Another representative stressed the need for strong government commitment and the transposition of signed conventions into a national legal framework for the management of electrical and electronic waste. In his region, it was also essential to regulate the informal sector that often managed such waste and to create decent, "green" jobs.

### **4. Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials**

109. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of UNITAR, also speaking on behalf of OECD, provided an overview of activities carried out by the two entities and their partners in relation to nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, as more fully described in document SAICM/OEWG.3/6. Good progress had been made to date, but much remained to be done. For UNITAR, future work included the organization of additional regional workshops to share further information on nanosafety and continue networking among regional experts and stakeholders, while OECD would focus on the development of additional test guidelines and methodologies for assessing consumer and environmental exposure. Both entities remained committed to working on what they considered a significant emerging policy issue into 2020 and beyond.

## **5. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals**

110. The representative of OECD introduced the sub-item, which was covered in more detail in document SAICM/OEWG.3/6. Noting that UNEP, WHO and OECD led the activities related to the emerging policy issue of endocrine-disrupting chemicals, he highlighted recent achievements, including three reports by UNEP on the identification of endocrine-disrupting chemicals and existing national, regional and global regulatory frameworks to address them, of OECD flagship guidance on identifying endocrine-disrupting chemicals using standardized test methods and of a WHO road map for prioritizing action by the health sector. Action on endocrine-disrupting chemicals was also a focus of the GEF medium-sized project on global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues and issues of concern under the Strategic Approach.

111. In the ensuing discussion, two representatives, one of whom spoke on behalf of a non-governmental organization, welcomed the UNEP reports and stressed the importance of the work done by OECD. One of them emphasized the importance of continuing awareness-raising efforts and suggested that the inclusion of criteria in the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals for endocrine-disrupting chemicals would lead to the identification of such chemicals at a global scale, with the system's labelling requirement acting as an effective tool in hazard communication. The representative speaking on behalf of a non-governmental organization noted that the Strategic Approach was the only international forum addressing the issue of endocrine-disrupting chemicals from the perspective of human health and the environment, adding that the OECD work should be rolled out to non-OECD member countries.

112. A third representative said that continued work on endocrine-disrupting chemicals after 2020 would require governance by all IOMC bodies with expertise in the science involved, meaning at least OECD, UNEP and WHO.

## **6. Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants**

113. A representative of WHO introduced the sub-item on behalf of IOMC. Noting that resistance to antibiotics was recognized at the highest political levels as one of the most serious health and development challenges, affecting all countries regardless of their stage of development, she summarized the information more fully described in document SAICM/OEWG.3/6. She also reminded delegates that a side event on policy options for reducing the release of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants would take place during the current meeting.

114. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries described a project using a life cycle approach to pharmaceutical pollutants and its key elements, which included identifying actions to be taken or investigations to address potential risk from pharmaceutical residues in the environment; encouraging innovation to address risk and promote a circular economy by facilitating the recycling of resources; identifying knowledge gaps and possible ways to bridge them; and ensuring that actions taken to address risk did not jeopardize access to key pharmaceuticals for humans and animals.

115. Three representatives speaking on behalf of non-governmental organizations also spoke on the issue. One said that her organization was preparing a paper on the issue for presentation to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session, while another drew attention to a new group of chemical pollutants, neurotoxins, which could have an effect on the brain and required the attention of experts. The third recommended that the Conference at its fifth session consider the development of a road map that matched the compiled prevention management and control resources with the sectors responsible, so that parties would have a better understanding of what agencies within and outside of the Strategic Approach were doing, and tools and activities that included policy options across the life cycle to effectively address the issue of pharmaceutical pollutants.

## **7. Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives**

116. A representative of OECD introduced the sub-item, providing an overview of some of the activities carried out by the Global Perfluorinated Chemicals Group for the management of perfluorinated chemicals, as more fully described in document SAICM/OEWG.3/6. In particular, the Group had published an updated list of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances; given the high number of over 4,000 such substances in that family, perfluorinated chemicals must be addressed as a class rather than individually. Work on those substances was clearly of interest and would continue beyond 2020. The Global PFC Group also encouraged stakeholders that were not yet members to join.

117. One representative expressed appreciation for the work of the Global Perfluorinated Chemicals Group and called for increased efforts to make the transition to safer alternatives in the light of evidence of bioaccumulation, high mobility in water and long-range transport of the substances and high remediation costs of contaminated sites.

118. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a non-governmental organization, echoed the need to address perfluorinated chemicals as a class rather than individually, noting that despite efforts to list some of those compounds under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, their number was high and growing fast. The post-2020 framework should therefore set time-bound goals and targets to eliminate all non-essential uses and provide a way forward towards a legally-binding instrument for the substances.

## **8. Highly hazardous pesticides**

119. The representative of FAO introduced the sub-item. Noting that the FAO strategy focused on regional and national programmes to reduce the risks of highly hazardous pesticides for human health and the environment and promote sustainable agriculture while contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, she described the work done by the organization in collaboration with its partners and other stakeholders, particularly in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, as more fully described in document SAICM/OEWG.3/6. Possible future action on the issue included the development of a knowledge hub on highly hazardous pesticides and the organization of an international meeting by FAO together with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach.

120. Following the introduction, one representative stressed the importance that his Government attached to highly hazardous pesticides and spoke briefly about national measures being taken in that regard, including the adoption of legislation on the quality and safety of agricultural products.

121. Four representatives of non-governmental organizations spoke on the issue. One reiterated an earlier concern regarding the lack of a clear road map for action on industrial organic chemicals. In the case of highly hazardous pesticides, there was widespread agreement regarding the associated risks yet no specific goals or recommendations for action, demonstrating the inherent weakness of the Strategic Approach process. Another representative speaking on behalf of a non-governmental organization said that the pervasive use of highly hazardous pesticides in homes, gardens and schools in his region, including products that were banned in developed countries, showed that there was a double standard at play.

122. A third representative speaking on behalf of a non-governmental organization said that although stakeholders clearly intended to solve the problems associated with chemicals, good intentions were insufficient. Radical action was needed to ensure that future generations could enjoy good food, good health and a toxin-free environment. Transparent information on chemicals needed to be included in school curricula and children's interests should be considered when legislation was being drafted.

123. A fourth representative speaking on behalf of a non-governmental organization spoke about the high use of pesticides in his country, including highly hazardous pesticides, and the importance of awareness-raising and the promotion of agroecology in communities.

124. Following the discussion, the President noted that two side events had taken place on the issue during the week, led by CropLife and the Pesticides Action Network, and that regional meetings in Côte d'Ivoire and Thailand in 2018 had indicated the need for deeper action and the promotion of national legislation on highly hazardous pesticides and support for the transition to agroecological alternatives. She encouraged stakeholders to deepen their coordination on highly hazardous pesticides in order to protect communities, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

## **D. Implementation of the health sector strategy**

125. Introducing the sub-item, the President drew attention to a report by the World Health Organization on the WHO "Road map to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond" and the global chemicals and health network (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/10). The WHO chemicals road map had been approved by the World Health Assembly at its seventieth session, in May 2017, and had proved a useful tool in supporting implementation of the health sector strategy.

126. The representative of WHO delivered a statement on the WHO chemicals road map and the WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network.

127. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed the road map and the support given by WHO to the implementation of the health sector strategy, and encouraged the further development and implementation of the strategy. Several representatives stressed the important role played by the health sector in the sound management of chemicals and waste, and protecting human health from the possible harmful effects of chemicals. Relevant roles of the health sector included gathering evidence, undertaking chemicals risk assessment, informing the public, and preventing and managing chemicals emergencies. One representative said that the WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network had the potential to facilitate collaboration in chemicals and waste management, while the road map was a useful tool in assisting countries in the development of their own implementation plans for the sound management of chemicals. One representative highlighted the value of building capacity in the sector and raising awareness of chemical hazards in the workplace to ensure that health workers were healthy and productive, and had the knowledge to deal with patients affected by chemical exposure. Some representatives alluded to areas of the health sector strategy that offered scope for improvement. While considerable progress had been made, more needed to be done to ensure health sector engagement, especially in developing countries.

128. Regarding the role of WHO, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, recalled paragraph 21 of resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in which the Assembly had invited the Director-General of the World Health Organization to assume a leading role in the Strategic Approach and to provide appropriate staff and other resources to its secretariat. There was potential for WHO to expand that role, for example by focusing available resources on activities that assisted developing countries in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, and ensuring that the implementation of the chemicals road map received appropriate budgetary allocation in the WHO programme of work for the period 2020–2021, to be agreed at the seventy-second session of the World Health Assembly in May 2019. In response, the representative of WHO said that the WHO Executive Board, at its 144th session in January 2019, had recommended the inclusion of Sustainable Development Goal 3, target 3.9, on hazardous chemicals, in the programmatic targets of the WHO programme budget for 2021.

129. Following the discussion, the President said that it would be useful to similarly raise the profile of chemicals and waste management in other sectors, such as labour and agriculture, supported by government or agency champions, as had proved effective in the health sector.

130. The Working Group took note of the report of WHO on the implementation of the health sector strategy.

## **E. Financing of the Strategic Approach**

131. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to a report by the secretariat on the Quick Start Programme and its Trust Fund (SAICM/OEWG.3/7), a report of the Executive Director on evaluation of the implementation of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/11), a report on the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/12), and a report of the Global Environment Facility (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/13).

132. The President first thanked all donors who had generously contributed to the Quick Start Programme over the years. At her invitation, the representative of UNEP and the representative of GEF introduced their respective organizations' reports.

133. She then invited comments on the Quick Start Programme and on financing of the Strategic Approach more generally.

134. General support was expressed for use of the integrated approach as the basis for the discussion on financing beyond 2020.

135. The representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the group of African States, the group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Oman, Thailand and Tuvalu, introduced a conference room paper on financial considerations, which was intended as an input to the financing-related deliberations of the contact group mandated, under agenda item 3 (b) (i), to develop recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session. She said that it was vital to establish a mechanism that would provide, in the long term, financing that was sustainable, timely, predictable,

sufficient and accessible to all interested stakeholders and that was accompanied by appropriate technical assistance for developing countries.

136. Several representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, highlighted the particular importance of two of the three components of the integrated approach: those relating to mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste into development planning and to industry involvement. Another representative expressed concern that, according to the report of the Executive Director (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/11), there was insufficient information to evaluate those components; he proposed that the intersessional process consider recommended action 2 of that report on preparing updated guidance on the integrated approach in recognition of it being an evolving idea, and recommended action 8 on the review of reporting requirements and strengthening of existing monitoring, evaluation and learning strategies and approaches. The President drew attention to recommended action 7 on assessment of the possibility of the Strategic Approach secretariat being a key broker in the integrated approach. She expressed the view, however, that the Strategic Approach was underfinanced and that greater efforts should be made to prioritize the limited financial resources available. Two representatives, one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, agreed that the issue of sufficient funding for the secretariat needed to be addressed in the discussions about the future, with the one speaking on behalf of a group of countries mentioning not only GEF and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as possible sources, but also other potential opportunities such as the fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V).

137. A number of other proposals were made during the discussion about areas of focus in terms of financing. These included devising innovative financing or a resource mobilization strategy; enhancing the involvement of regional financial institutions such as regional development banks; generating financing by imposing levies on the chemical industry; the issuing of a study by UNEP on cost internalization; a formal request to donors to fund chemicals and waste management and its importance, thereby enabling donors to make the issue a priority; finding ways, in the interests of multisectoralism, to ensure that access to funding mechanisms was not generally limited to the environment sector; exploring ways of ensuring that civil society organizations could access funding as they were currently excluded from the Special Programme; enhancing the role of the private sector in providing capacity-building, and developing an indicator on the number of countries and organizations providing resources for technical cooperation in that regard.

138. One representative stressed the importance of technical assistance, financial support and technology transfer as well as the importance of ensuring that cooperation with GEF was based on technical criteria without being tainted by political considerations.

139. Following the discussion, the Working Group referred the matter to the contact group mandated under agenda item 3 (b) (i) to develop recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session. The President requested the contact group to take into consideration the conference room paper presented and the comments made during the plenary.

140. Subsequently, the co-chair of the contact group presented the group's recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The recommendations are set out in annex I to the present report, without formal editing.

## **VI. Planned activities and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2019–2020**

141. Introducing the item, the President drew attention to a report by the secretariat on activities, staffing and budget of the secretariat for 2019–2020 (SAICM/OEWG.3/8). She recalled that the International Conference on Chemicals Management, at its fourth session, had directed the Working Group to consider possible changes in budget priorities and, if necessary, to increase the size of the budget until 2020, and had also requested the secretariat to report to its fifth session on secretariat activities, staffing and budget. The secretariat had had to take on considerable additional work to meet the demands arising from the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, as well as the preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

142. The representative of the secretariat said that, in view of the increased workload of the secretariat, the draft budget included provision for a temporary associate programme officer at the P-2 level to the end of 2020, and a possible fourth meeting in 2020 of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

143. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, asked, in the context of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution on the sound management of chemicals and waste, in which the Assembly had requested the Executive Director of UNEP to strengthen the secretariat of the Strategic Approach, whether WHO could take action to support the reinstatement of the position, discontinued in 2012, in the secretariat in line with its obligation under the Overarching Policy Strategy.

144. One representative, in supporting the secretariat staffing proposals, encouraged all stakeholders to make further voluntary contributions to support the work of the Strategic Approach, and said that funding of a fourth meeting of the intersessional process should aim to provide a text for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session.

145. The Working Group agreed to approve the revised budget for 2019–2020, subject to the availability of resources. The budget is set out in annex II to the present report.

## **VII. Preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management**

146. Introducing the item, the President recalled that the Government of Germany had offered to host the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Bonn, Germany, from 5 to 9 October 2020.

147. At that session, key decisions would be taken on the Strategic Approach and the way forward for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The session would also enable stakeholders to celebrate the achievements of the Strategic Approach since its inception in 2006.

148. The representative of Germany introduced a video message by Ms. Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany.

149. In her statement, Ms. Schulze said that the 2030 Agenda provided a unique opportunity to address the cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder nature of the chemicals and waste sectors. At its fourth session, the United Nations Environment Assembly had seized that opportunity and paved the way forward by drawing on lessons learned in the context of the Strategic Approach and from the second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook to emphasize, among other things, the need for better links between science and policy, an enabling governance structure and more sustainable chemistry. Given the importance that it attached to the sound management of chemicals and waste, the Government of Germany had offered to host the upcoming fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, during which it would do its utmost to bring about a new phase in the sound management of chemicals and waste.

150. With the fifth session less than 18 months away, it was essential that representatives continue to seek agreement on ambitious, concrete and practical operational arrangements for the sound management of chemicals and waste in the post-2020 period that would make it possible to close the remaining gaps in such management and to attain target 4 of Sustainable Development Goal 12, namely, by 2020, to 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.

151. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to a note by the secretariat on preparations for the fifth session of the Conference (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/14) and invited stakeholders to share their expectations for the session in order to assist the secretariat in preparing for it.

152. In the ensuing discussion, representatives expressed appreciation to the Government of Germany for its offer to host the fifth session of the Conference, stressing that they looked forward to participating in the session to celebrate the successes of the Strategic Approach and to put in place a framework for the sustainable management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

153. The representative of the United Kingdom said that, as a contribution to the fifth session of the Conference, her Government would like to hold a technical expert meeting to support further work on targets prior to the third meeting of the intersessional process in Bangkok. She pledged to ensure that the meeting would enjoy balanced representation, reflecting the multi-stakeholder and multisectoral

nature of the Strategic Approach, and to consult with the secretariat on the preparations for the meeting.

154. With regard to stakeholder expectations for the fifth session, the representative of a non-governmental organization said that the note by the secretariat (SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/14) did not specify the form of the expected outcome of the high-level segment of the session. She suggested that, in line with the repeated calls at the current meeting and elsewhere for a high-level commitment on the sound management of chemicals and waste, the adoption of a ministerial declaration during the high-level segment would be the best way to make such a commitment. If such a declaration were to be considered for adoption, it would be necessary to start planning for its preparation in the lead-up to the session. She also expressed the hope that, whatever the outcome of the fifth session regarding the post-2020 period, it would address the urgent need for the sustainable management of chemicals and waste to attain the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

155. In closing, the President invited representatives to offer to host regional meetings, which were expected to take place in August and September 2020 and would serve as preparatory meetings for the fifth session of the Conference.

## **VIII. Other matters**

156. No other matters were considered.

## **IX. Adoption of the report of the meeting**

157. The Working Group adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report that had been circulated, on the understanding that the Rapporteur, in consultation with the secretariat, would be entrusted with its finalization.

## **X. Closure of the meeting**

158. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, 4 April 2019.

## Annex I

### Outcomes of the contact group on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020<sup>1</sup>

#### A. Recommendations for consideration of ICCM5 regarding the Strategic Approach and the Sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

##### i). [Main general recommendations

1. Governments, international organisations, industry and the private sector, civil society, the scientific and academic community and all other relevant stakeholders should intensify and prioritise efforts on the sound management of chemicals and waste, towards the achievement of target 12.4 of the 2030 Agenda and thereby contribute also to numerous other SDGs;

2. Urgent and resolute action at all levels is needed to implement the 2030 Agenda in relation to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through an improved enabling framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term, as emphasized by the UN Environment Assembly. Such an improved framework should particularly address lifecycle approaches and the chemicals-product-waste interface; as well as materials, such as plastics, and the minimisation and where feasible prevention of hazardous substances in material cycles;]

##### Vision

3. [Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term requires a] [the] vision shared by all stakeholders:

(i) To protect human health and the environment from the [harmful] [adverse] effects of chemicals and [their] [associated] waste<sup>2</sup>, [towards] [to enable] [promote] [for] [to ensure] healthy lives and a sustainable, safe planet for all.

ALT (i) Healthy lives and a sustainable, safe planet for all by protecting human health and the environment from the [harmful] [adverse] effects of chemicals and [their] waste.

##### Scope

4. The scope encompasses [the environmental, economic, social, health, agricultural and labour [all] aspects of managing chemicals and [their] [all] waste[s], in order to enhance sustainable development [and [non toxic] circularity [environmental integrity] [and the protection of human rights] [and resource efficiency]]. The instrument takes due account of the instruments and processes that have been developed to date and is flexible enough to take account of new ones without duplicating efforts.

5. The involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders across the life cycle at the local, national, regional and global levels is critical to the sound management of chemicals and waste. Stakeholders include [but are not limited to] Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, industries, businesses, the financial sector, development banks, academia, workers, retailers and individuals. Sectors are understood to include, but not be limited to, agriculture, environment, health, education, finance, development, construction and labour.

<sup>1</sup> The present document has not been formally edited.

<sup>2</sup> These brackets apply to 'waste' across the entire paper.

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**Note: ‘Principles and approaches’ were not covered in detail at OEWG3.**

**Strategic objectives and targets for the sound management of chemicals and waste**

6. The following strategic objectives will guide stakeholders in their efforts at all levels to address the sound management of chemicals and waste:

Strategic objective A: [Measures are identified, implemented and enforced in order to prevent or, where not feasible, minimize harm from chemicals throughout their life cycle [and waste];]

Strategic objective B: Comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data and information are generated, available and accessible to all to enable informed decisions and actions;

Strategic objective C: Issues of concern [that warrant [global] [and] [joint] action] are identified, prioritized and addressed;

Strategic objective D: Benefits to human health and the environment are maximized and risks are prevented or, where not feasible, minimized through safer alternatives, innovative and sustainable solutions and forward thinking;

Strategic objective E: [The importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste as an essential element to achieving sustainable development is recognized by all[; adequate financial and non-financial resources are [identified and] mobilized; actions are accelerated; and necessary [transparent and accountable] partnerships are established to foster cooperation among stakeholders].]

7. Targets to support the attainment of each objective are described in the appendix<sup>3</sup>.

8. [Recommended targets that could be used as a basis for further intersessional work, alongside indicator development, to support the attainment of each strategic objective, are described in the appendix. In addition, relevant milestones to follow up progress on the sound management of chemicals and waste, notably at the national level, may also be developed in parallel. [There will also need to be a process developed for measuring our progress]. The milestones could also be kept up to date regularly as part of the future programme of work of SAICM and conveyed to all relevant organisations and stakeholders for consideration within their own mandates, as appropriate.]

9. [The Overall Orientation and Guidance, including its eleven basic elements and six activity areas, continue to be relevant in assisting countries in their efforts to ensure the sound management of chemicals and waste and should therefore continue to be implemented.]

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<sup>3</sup> Targets not fully reviewed by the contact group.

ii) **Text insertions received on Institutional arrangements and Mechanisms to Support Implementation**

**Institutional arrangements**

[In relation to SAICM, the current governance and institutional structures should continue beyond 2020. No governance, institutional or procedural overhaul appears necessary, without prejudice to any specific adjustments that may be found appropriate and so decided by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including ICCM meetings on a regular basis;

In addition, there is a need for an improved enabling framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which enhances coherence and complementarity of multilateral policies and actions by all relevant international organisations in this area, including through information of and consideration by UN bodies related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, such as the High Level Political Forum and the UN General Assembly, as appropriate.]

**International conference [on Chemicals Management]**

The international conference will [meet every second year and] undertake periodic reviews of the instrument. The functions of the international conference will be:

- [(i). To oversee implementation of the agreement;]
  - (i) To promote the implementation of existing international instruments and programmes on chemicals and waste and, [as appropriate] to promote coherence [cooperation and synergies] among them [and to identify gaps];
  - (ii) To promote the strengthening of national chemicals and waste management capacities;
  - (iii) To promote, enhance and support participation by and interaction among stakeholders and sectors in the international conference and in the programme of work;
  - (iv) To promote awareness [scientifically based information] of new developments and trends and identify links to sustainable development;
  - (v) To move the strategy forward and set priorities for the programme of work;
  - (vi) To [anticipate and] determine processes to guide appropriate action on issues of global concern [before and] as they arise and to facilitate and forge consensus on and provide an avenue to focus attention on priorities for cooperative action;
  - (vii) To provide guidance to the secretariat and to stakeholders on implementation;
  - (viii) To establish and task technical, policy and/or science subsidiary and/or ad hoc expert bodies as appropriate;
  - (ix) To facilitate the mobilization of financial and technical resources for the operation and implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste;
  - (x) To receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress in implementation and to disseminate information as appropriate;
  - (xi) To evaluate and report on the implementation of programmes that are fulfilling the vision with a view to reviewing progress against the objectives, targets and milestones and updating the programme of work as necessary.

The international conference [may] [will] have a high-level segment, [that is] multisectoral and multi-stakeholder. The function of that segment will be:

- (i) To engage the commitment at the highest possible level of officials and representatives of all stakeholder groups to address the sound management of chemicals and waste;
- (ii) To provide a high-level international forum for multi-stakeholder and multisectoral discussion and exchange of experience on chemicals and waste issues, in line with the 2030 Agenda, with the participation of non-governmental stakeholders in accordance with the applicable rules of procedure;
- (iii) To promote the inclusion of sound management policies for chemicals and waste in national sustainable development plans and in relevant sectoral plans and budgets;

- (iv) To strengthen national coordination arrangements and mechanisms for chemicals and waste [linkages and partnerships and] at the national, regional and international levels;
- (v) To strengthen linkages, partnerships [synergies] and coordination arrangements and mechanisms [with][for] other relevant aspects and sectors, including biodiversity and climate change, [and strengthen linkages and partnerships] with other stakeholders of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and international levels.

### **Bureau of the international conference**

The international conference should have a Bureau with functions in accordance with the rules of procedure of the international conference. The Bureau should adequately represent the regions of the world as well as the multi-stakeholder and multisectoral nature of the beyond 2020 instrument.

### **Secretariat**

The functions to be performed by the secretariat will be:

- (i) To promote the establishment and maintenance of a network of stakeholders at the national, regional and, in the case of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international levels;
- (ii) To promote and facilitate the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste, including capacity-building and technical assistance, under the guidance of the international conference;
- (iii) To continue to strengthen working relationships with participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and their networks, other United Nations bodies and the secretariats of relevant international agreements in order to draw upon their sectoral expertise;
- (iv) To facilitate and promote the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information, including the development and dissemination of guidance materials [at the request of the International Conference] to support stakeholder implementation, as well as provide information clearinghouse services;
- (v) To facilitate the meetings and intersessional work of the international conference as well as regional meetings, and to disseminate the reports and recommendations of the international conference, including to relevant global and regional organizations and institutions;
- (vi) To support the functioning of technical, policy and scientific subsidiary and ad hoc expert bodies established by the international conference;
- (vii) To promote, enhance and support the participation of all sectors and stakeholders in the international conference and the programme of work, including in meetings of the international conference and regional meetings;
- (viii) To report to the international conference on implementation by all stakeholders [and progress on [against] objectives and targets].

## **Mechanisms to support implementation**

### **1. Rules of procedure**

[Regarding the adoption of decisions, the Governments shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance and procedure by consensus.]

### **2. National implementation**

- (i) To sustain an integrated approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste, each Government should establish arrangements such as national plans of action for implementation on an interministerial or inter-institutional basis, in consultation with stakeholders, so that concerned national department and stakeholder interests are represented and all relevant substantive areas are addressed.
- (ii) To facilitate communication, nationally and internationally, each Government should [designate or develop a network of] [a political and a technical national focal point] [to communicate on the SAICM matters and develop a network at the national level of coordinators] that represent the

multi-stakeholder and multisectoral nature of [SAICM] [the instrument to communicate on the sound management of chemicals and waste matters]. This would include invitations to participate in meetings and disseminate information. The national focal points should be representative of the country's interministerial or inter-institutional arrangements, where such arrangements exist.

- (iii) To support effective implementation, stronger efforts are required to ensure that national implementation involves the engagement of the appropriate range of stakeholders and sectors (e.g., the health, [environmental,] agriculture and labour sectors) to address national priorities.
- (iv) [Reporting back on National Plans]  
 [(iv.) All actors/all stakeholders should undertake actions to ensure progress on implementation of targets at the national and sub-national level.]

### 3. [International,] Regional and [sub regional] sectoral cooperation and coordination

- (i) Priorities and capacities for implementation vary among regions [and] subregions [and countries] according to their different economic and other circumstances.
- (ii) [International,] Regional, interregional and sectoral collaboration play integral roles in supporting the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels, including among trading partners and other regional organizations.
- (iii) [International and] Regional meetings and coordination mechanisms play an important role in enabling stakeholders in each region to exchange experience and identify priority needs in relation to implementation, as well as to develop regional positions on key issues.
- (iv) Regions and subregions [and countries] are encouraged, where appropriate:
  - a. To identify common priorities;
  - b. To develop regional implementation plans for the sound management of chemicals and waste, and to consider regional or subregional approaches and projects;
  - c. To appoint a regional focal point.
- (v) Regional focal points are to play a facilitative role within their regions, including undertaking activities determined at the regional level, such as chairing regional meetings, disseminating information of interest to focal points within their region, collecting views from national focal points on matters of interest to the region, identifying opportunities for regional cooperation, assisting in the flow of information and views from the region to its Bureau member, as appropriate, and reporting periodically on the outcomes of their regional meetings and other regional activities.

### 4. Engagement of intergovernmental bodies, international organizations, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and chemicals and waste-related conventions

[The involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders across the life cycle at the local, national, regional and global levels is critical to the sound management of chemicals and waste. Stakeholders include Governments, regional economic integration organizations, international organizations, civil society including consumers, industries, businesses, the financial sector, workers, retailers and academia at all levels;

At the national level, it is essential to have in place legislative and regulatory frameworks and effective institutional and enforcement structures to ensure multisectoral coherence as well as complementarity of action by all relevant stakeholders, including definition of respective responsibilities;

At the international level, relevant international organizations and bodies, in particular the IOMC organisations and the chemicals and waste-related conventions, should enhance the awareness of the crosscutting nature of the sound management of chemicals and waste as an essential element to achieve sustainable development; strengthen their engagement and ownership of policies and actions for the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term; and support national implementation.

Such international organizations, in particular the IOMC organisations and the chemicals and waste-related conventions, should coordinate relevant activities and programmes of work, in line with the 2030 Agenda and within their individual mandates. The result should be strengthened cooperation and avoidance of duplication of action undertaken *inter alia* by UNEP, WHO, FAO, ILO, UNDP,

UNITAR, UNIDO, OECD and the World Bank, under their own mandates, towards the achievement of target 12.4 and all other goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda impacted by the sound management of chemicals and waste, following a common, timeless vision to be adopted by ICCM-5 and endorsed by other relevant UN bodies related to the 2030 Agenda, such as UNGA.

Relevant regional conventions and programmes can also make a significant contribution to the sound management of chemicals and waste and should coordinate as relevant.

Regarding specifically SAICM, it should encompass in the future the environmental, economic, social, health, agricultural and labour aspects of managing chemicals and waste, in order to enhance sustainable development and circularity, taking due account of the instruments and processes that have been developed to date. It should be flexible enough to take account of new ones without duplicating efforts.

The involvement of industry and the private sector throughout the value chain needs to be significantly enhanced, both within a future SAICM and, more generally, for the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels. The roles and responsibilities of industry and the private sector throughout the value chain in implementing relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda offer a strong basis for enhanced involvement and action and should be clearly identified and developed, in particular in legislation at the national level.]

- (i) Relevant intergovernmental bodies, international organizations, IOMC and chemicals and waste-related conventions should strengthen their engagement and support national implementation.
- (ii) Intergovernmental bodies, international [and regional] organizations [including development banks], IOMC and chemicals and waste-related conventions should [as much as possible and in accordance with their individual mandates,] [improve their coordination on] [coordinate] relevant activities and programmes of work, in line with the 2030 Agenda. Regional conventions and programmes can also make a significant contribution to the sound management of chemicals and waste and should coordinate as relevant.

## 5. Engagement of non-government actors

- (i) Non-government actors should continue to actively contribute expertise, data and knowledge to the sound management of chemicals and waste as an inherent part of the 2030 Agenda.

### Civil society engagement

- (ii) The meaningful participation of public-interest, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations can make significant contributions to the implementation [and achievement] of the sound management of chemicals and waste. They can serve as effective chemical safety resources by generating data, raising public [and high level] awareness and contributing to the design and implementation of chemical safety policies and programmes[,and providing information on and awareness of alternatives as well as assist with their implementation]. [as well as by promoting and engaging in cooperation and partnerships with other sectors.]

### Industry and business engagement

- (i) Cooperative action, capacity-building and mentoring by industries and businesses on global [,regional and national] priorities can make significant contributions to the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste. This includes, among other things, voluntary industry initiatives, product stewardship, [research and innovation for safer alternatives], [implementing] green [and sustainable] chemistry [solutions] [in product design, making products non-toxic,durable, reusable and recycable, pollution remediation and compensation,] and information exchange [to make products that are non-toxic, durable, and reusable, providing comprehensive toxicity and use information on all chemicals including nanomaterial, achieving zero discharge of toxic chemicals and wastes in production; internalizing all costs of chemical production including wastes and recycling infrastructure, and complying with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.]
- (ii) All industry sectors should participate in the development of policies, projects and partnerships on the sound management of chemicals and waste, [except where there is conflict of interest, as well as their implementation] [as well as in implementation of legal requirements, except where there is a conflict of interest]. The stewardship of chemicals should include the full life cycle, including [research and innovation,] primary producers, the downstream manufacturing

sector, distributors and vendors, [recyclers, waste handlers, importers, exporters], building on existing initiatives where relevant. Both sector-specific and cross-sectoral strategies could be used to engage chemical producers and users.

[ALT 1. (iv). All industry sectors [including the SMEs] should participate in the development and implementation of

- a. legal requirements, policies,
- b. [norms, standards, and labels, including their harmonization, and mutual acceptance of data,]
- c. projects and partnerships on the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- d. The stewardship of chemicals should include the full life cycle, including primary producers, the downstream manufacturing sector, distributors and vendors, building on existing initiatives where relevant. Both sector-specific and cross-sectoral strategies could be used to engage chemical producers and users. ]

[(v) All industry sectors, including the SMEs and downstream manufacturing sector, should be involved and represented at the SAICM meetings, working groups, associations and partnerships.]

[(vi) All industry associations from all sectors should involve their associated in SAICM]

### Academia engagement

- (iii) Academia should [be enabled and support to] contribute to[capacity-building] and cooperate in the generation of relevant knowledge, data and information on the [hazards of, risk from, and] monitoring of chemicals and waste, including in respect [identifying] issues of concern that warrant [~~global~~] action. [and safer alternatives] [, and share their findings with policy makers.], as well as through putting forward research on safer alternatives and green and sustainable chemistry solutions.]

[Academia should participate in the development and implementation of legal requirements, policies, projects and partnerships on the sound management of chemicals and waste.]

[ 5.bis There is a need to avoid fragmentation and strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels to support and promote science-based local, national and global policies and actions on the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term; and the use of science in progress-monitoring, priority-setting and policy-making throughout the lifecycle of chemicals and waste, taking into account the gaps in scientific information, in particular in developing countries;

All stakeholders should enhance their involvement in strengthening, as relevant, the use of science for policies and actions on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Relevant science-policy interface platforms should be supported, including input from academia;

The Global Chemicals Outlooks and the Global Waste Management Outlooks, as well as regional waste management outlooks, offer a good starting point for a better integration of science in policy-making and action on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Their conclusions and recommendations should be considered and followed-up by all stakeholders.

Governments in particular should give due consideration to the assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste, which has been requested by the UN Environment Assembly to the UNEP Executive Director by 30 April 2020<sup>4</sup>, taking into account existing mechanisms, including those under UNEP, and relevant examples in other areas, in order to maximise cost-effectiveness, make best use of new technologies, track progress and improve implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements at the national level.]

[There is a need to follow the trends in the design, production, use and release of chemicals and the generation and management of waste in order to identify issues of concern in future Global Chemicals and Waste Management Outlooks and catalyse sound management policies and actions.

All stakeholders should address relevant issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment identified by SAICM, the Global Chemicals Outlook or as a result of the monitoring of trends in the design, production, use and release of chemicals and the generation and

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/EA.4/L.9

management of waste, with particular consideration of the report to be prepared by 30 April 2020 by the UNEP Executive Director on these issues.

Governments should in particular consider ways to follow-up on the requested analysis of existing regulatory and policy frameworks and their ability to address these issues towards the achievement of the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and waste, including lead and cadmium, as contained in the report mentioned under the previous recommendation.

Issues of global concern might encompass substances, groups of substances, mixtures, materials and products irrespective of their stage in the life cycle (from their design to waste stage). ICCM should adopt criteria for the identification of issues of global concern, building on the criteria established in ICCM resolution II/4 and taking into account the findings of the Global Chemicals and Waste Management Outlooks and relevant reports from the UNEP Executive Director on these matters. Criteria addressing how to respond to science recommendations may also be considered.]

## 6. Subsidiary and ad hoc expert bodies

The international conference should have the ability to establish subsidiary and ad hoc, time-limited groups to study and provide advice to the international conference on scientific, technical and/or policy issues not already [addressed in the framework of] [covered by] existing forums.

Such groups should be [open-ended] geographically balanced, transparent, flexible and academically credible [with strict conflict of interest policies in place and be implemented]; promote two-way dialogue between disciplines and between science and policy; promote awareness-raising activities; and incorporate strict standards of rigor, including peer review, to be approved by the international conference. The functions could include but are not limited to:

- (i) [Identifying, prioritizing and providing recommendations to address chemicals and waste issues of [global] concern];
- (ii) Facilitating implementation in developing countries through, for example, basic regulatory schemes;
- (iii) Assessing the scale, sources and health and environmental costs of chemicals and waste; analysing and developing response options;
- (iv) Facilitating innovation and making recommendations that maximize the benefits of sustainable and safer alternatives;
- (v) Developing indicators to support the effective review of the objectives, targets and milestones and the effective functioning of the instrument.

## 7. Other mechanisms to support implementation

### Financial considerations

#### 1. Integrated approach to financing

1. The implementation of the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste, which was designed and agreed as a long term contribution beyond 2020, continues to be essential [to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development].

2. All three components of the integrated approach to financing, i.e. mainstreaming, private sector involvement and dedicated external finance, are equally important and mutually reinforcing.

3. Stakeholders shall take steps to implement an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste, including, in particular, making tangible progress with respect to the following three components:

#### (a) Mainstreaming

4. Governments should implement actions to promote further mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in national development plans, domestic budgets and relevant sector policies. For developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the mainstreaming of their national chemicals and waste priorities into the development planning processes for funding as part of official development assistance [may] [will] [should] increase their access to [significant] funding for national priorities in relation to chemicals and waste.

**(b) Private-sector involvement**

5. [Private-sector entities throughout the [their investment and] value chain [and the financial sector] should increase their contributions to the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste [through a range of approaches and partnerships. The private sector should also undertake further work to extend producer responsibility and public–private partnerships.] [, in order to cover the costs of their impacts on the environment and on health. These contributions (eg. through agreed levies) should seek to finance, among others, the identification and communication of hazards, comprehensive risk assessment and the measures for its mitigation, strengthening of all stakeholder’s technical capacity, implementing PRTRs, prevention of exposure, the attention of exposed communities and contaminated sites remediation. In addition, private sector entities should increase their contributions through a range of approaches and partnerships. The private sector shall comply with extended producer responsibility.]]

Alt 1 [Governments should also implement actions to further encourage industry involvement in the integrated approach, including the development of legislation on the responsibilities of industry and national administration; the provision of incentives for the sound management of chemicals and waste; and the promotion of measures by industry to internalise costs [as per the polluter pays principle]. [Private-sector entities throughout their investment and [value chain] [supply chain] should increase their contributions to the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste through a range of approaches and partnerships. ]

Alt 2. [Financial resources for the chemicals and wastes agenda will be generated by the involvement of industry in an integrated approach when, inter alia, industry internalizes the costs of complying with chemicals and wastes regulations; economic instruments are used to recover and shift costs to the private from the public sector; industry transfer technology; industry pays taxes to Governments; and industry takes innovative steps to “green” chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycles.]

6. [The financial sector is asked to develop guidance for investing in companies that have chemicals management schemes in place, for example, the development of loan criteria for sustainable banking.]

**(c) Dedicated external financing**

7. [External financing complements the components of mainstreaming and industry involvement. Stakeholders should secure funds, including development assistance aid, from innovative donor sources, which can be facilitated by mainstreaming at the national level.]

ALT 7.

[It is recognized that gaps in the sound management of chemicals and wastes are growing exponentially between developed and developing countries, and that the need to continue taking concerted action is accentuated by the insufficient technical and financial support available.

The extent to which developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing states, and countries with economies in transition can make progress achieving the post-2020 goals depends, in part, on the availability of financial resources provided by the private and bilateral sectors, multilateral and global agencies or donors.

All stakeholders are encouraged to agree to the establishment of an International Fund to implement the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, which should be accessible to all stakeholders and should provide support to developing countries, in the form of grants, guarantees and loans.

The private sector [(eg. through agreed levies)], governments in a position to do so, development banks, philanthropic entities, venture capital, and all other stakeholders, [should] [are invited to] make financial and in-kind contributions to the International Fund for the Sound Management of Chemical and Waste.]

8. [Donors should provide dedicated external financing, including, for example, resources to support the Global Environment Facility and other multilateral, regional and bilateral sources of financing, and to support the effective implementation of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals and Waste Management.]

9. [A clearinghouse mechanism should be established under the secretariat of (the agreement) to publicly track development aid for the sound management of chemicals and waste]

Alt. to all paras above: [All countries, within their capabilities, should further strengthen the component of dedicated external finance, in particular through contributions to the Special Programme, the GEF and other relevant multilateral trust funds, as well as through bilateral and regional assistance for sound management of chemicals and waste.]

### 3. Establishment of and engagement in multisectoral partnerships

10. Stakeholders are encouraged to create and implement multisectoral [transparent and accountable] partnerships [linked to the 2030 Agenda] to effectively address specific chemicals and waste [issues of global concern]. Stakeholders are also encouraged to explore funding opportunities by engaging mechanisms in all sectors.

### 4. Financing the secretariat\*

11. Governments and other stakeholders are invited to provide resources to enable the Secretariat to fulfil the assigned functions and tasks set out in subsection G (3) above, including by:

- (i) Inviting UNEP to arrange for the adaptation and reinforcement of the existing voluntary trust fund to support those tasks;
- (ii) Inviting all countries and regional economic integration organizations to contribute;
- (iii) Inviting the private sector, including industry, foundations and other non-governmental organizations, to also contribute.

\*there was support for this but there will be better wording that will come at future meetings of the intersessional process

## Appendix Strategic objectives and targets <sup>5</sup>

Targets to support the attainment of each strategic objective are described below.

### Strategic objective A targets:

**Target A.1:** Countries adopt, implement and enforce legal frameworks that address risk prevention and the reduction of adverse impacts from chemicals throughout their life cycle and waste.<sup>6</sup>

**Target A.2:** Countries have sufficient capacity to address chemicals and waste issues nationally, including appropriate inter-agency coordination and stakeholder participation mechanisms, such as national action plans.

**Target A.3:** Countries are implementing the chemicals and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements, as well as health, labour and other relevant conventions, and voluntary mechanisms such as the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

**Target A.4:** Stakeholders have incorporated the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and waste into their planning, policies and practices, thereby supporting the development and implementation of chemicals management systems and other sector-appropriate mechanisms.

**Target A.5:** Governments and industry ensure that workers are protected from the risks associated with chemicals and waste and that workers have the means to protect themselves.

<sup>5</sup> The following targets were raised and / or reformulated in the contact group but not discussed:

**Target Under Strategic Objective A:** A Code of Conduct on chemicals and waste management incorporating the elements of the OOG, is developed and countries have incorporated its provision in their national legislation.

**Target Under Strategic Objective A:** Countries, industry, IOMC, and other stakeholders in a position to do so, collaborate with developing countries through providing technical and non-financial assistance to enable the necessary tools to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.

**Target Under Strategic Objective E:** Identify and mobilize the financial and non-financial resources needed to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste in all sectors, by and for all stakeholders.

**Target Under Strategic Objective E:** Gaps between developed and developing countries are narrowed in terms of the implementation of sound management of chemicals and waste.

<sup>6</sup> Stakeholders may wish to decide whether targets should be time bound. Dates have not been inserted in the present draft.

**Strategic objective B targets:**

**Target B.1:** Comprehensive data and information for chemicals on the market are available and accessible, including information and data on properties, health and environmental effects, uses, hazard- and risk-assessment results and risk-management measures, monitoring results and regulatory status throughout their life cycle.

**Target B.2:** All stakeholders, in particular industries and regulators, have and are using the most appropriate and standardized tools, guidelines and best practices for assessments and sound management, as well as for the prevention of harm, risk reduction, monitoring and enforcement.

**Target B.3:** Information and standardized methods are available and used to understand the impacts of chemicals and waste for improved burden-of-disease and cost-of-inaction estimates, to inform the advancement of chemical safety measures and to measure progress towards reducing those impacts.

**Target B.4:** Educational, training and public awareness programmes on chemical safety and sustainability have been developed and implemented, including for vulnerable populations, along with worker safety curricula and programmes at all levels.

**Target B.5:** Countries and stakeholders are implementing training on environmentally sound and safer alternatives, as well as on substitutions and the use of safer alternatives, such as agroecology.

**Strategic objective C targets:**

**Target C.1:** Programmes of work including timelines are established, adopted and implemented for identified issues of concern.

**Target C.2:** Information on the properties and risk management of chemicals across the supply chain and the chemical contents of products is available to all to enable informed decisions.

**Strategic objective D targets:**

**Target D.1:** Companies adopt corporate policies and practices that promote resource efficiency and that incorporate the development, production and use of sustainable and safer alternatives, including new technologies and non-chemical alternatives.

**Target D.2:** Governments implement policies that promote innovation to facilitate the recycling and re-use of products, the adoption of sustainable and safe alternatives, including new technologies and non-chemical alternatives (e.g., the prioritized licensing of reduced-risk alternatives, assessment frameworks, labelling schemes and purchasing policies).

**Target D.3:** Companies, including from the investment sector, incorporate strategies and policies to support the sound management of chemicals and waste in their investment approaches and business models and apply internationally-recognized reporting standards where relevant.

**Target D.4:** Companies apply sustainable production principles and life-cycle management in the design of chemicals, materials and products, taking reduced-risk, design-for-recycling and non-chemical solutions and processes into account.

**Target D.5:** Industry associations promote change towards sustainability and the safe management of waste and of chemicals and consumer products throughout their life cycles, including in sharing information and building the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises to reduce risks.

**Strategic objective E targets:**

**Target E.1:** The highest levels of stakeholder organizations, including government, industry, civil society and international organizations in all relevant sectors, formally recognize the importance of and commit to action on the sound management of chemicals and waste, and recognize its relevance to sustainable development.

**Target E.2:** Policies and processes for the management of chemicals and waste are integrated into national and regional development strategies.

**Target E.3:** Inter- and intra-sectoral partnerships, networks and collaborative mechanisms are established to mobilize resources, to share information, experiences and lessons learned, and to promote coordinated action at the regional and international levels.

**B. Other recommendations to support and/or inform the intersessional process**

1. We recommend with the support of the SAICM secretariat, subject to availability of resources and in consultation with the Bureau, the co-chairs of the intersessional process undertake further work on the following for input to the intersessional process:
  - (i) Other mechanisms to support implementation.
  - (ii) Additional measures to achieve multisectoral engagement.
  - (iii) Issues of concern.
  - (iv) Based on input of stakeholders review the ‘Principles and Approaches’ set out in document (SAICM/OEWG.3/4).
2. Call on the secretariat:
  - (a) To prepare a report in preparation of IP3 and IP4 of examples of successful mechanisms for cost recovery and implementation of polluters pay principle for the financing of risk management and risk reduction activities at national level, including consideration of the conclusions and recommendations of SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/11.
  - (b) To develop a proposal for a resource mobilization strategy to be presented at ICCM5 for its consideration.
3. The Executive Director evaluation of the implementation of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste is relevant to future intersessional work to develop target and indicators and should be considered in that context.
4. Elements discussed in the Friends of the Presidents Group during OEWG3 should be considered and further discussed as part of the Intersessional Process.
5. We invite UNEP to provide an assessment on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste management and options to coordinate and cooperate on areas of common interest.
6. We recommend a fourth meeting of the intersessional process in order to lay the groundwork for decisions at ICCM5, if necessary and subject to availability of resources.

## Annex II

## Budget for the Strategic Approach secretariat for the period 2019–2020

(United States dollars)

	2019	2020
<b>1100</b> 1102 Programme Officer P-5 (Strategic Approach general)	–	–
1103 Programme Officer P-4 (Strategic Approach general)	278 426	289 563
1104 Programme Officer P-3 (Knowledge management) <sup>a</sup>	229 526	238 707
1105 Programme Officer P-3 (Quick Start Programme)	229 526	–
1106 Programme Officer P-3 (Strategic Approach general)	229 526	238 707
1107 Associate Programme Officer P-2 (Junior Programme Officer, Strategic Approach general)	–	–
1108 Associate Programme Officer P-2 (Strategic Approach general)	93 728	196 368
<b>1199 Subtotal</b>	<b>1 060 732</b>	<b>963 345</b>
<b>1200 Consultants (description of activity or service)</b>		
1201 Consultants	50 000	50 000
<b>1299 Subtotal</b>	<b>50 000</b>	<b>50 000</b>
<b>1300 Administrative support (title and grade)</b>		
1301 Secretary (Strategic Approach) G-4 <sup>a</sup>	88 193	183 441
1302 Secretary (Strategic Approach) G-4	176 385	183 441
1320 Overtime or temporary assistance	–	10 000
<b>1399 Subtotal</b>	<b>264 578</b>	<b>376 882</b>
<b>1600 Travel on official business</b>		
1601 Staff travel on official business	70 000	60 000
<b>1699 Subtotal</b>	<b>70 000</b>	<b>60 000</b>
<b>1999 Component total</b>	<b>1 445 310</b>	<b>1 450 227</b>
<b>20 Subcontract component</b>		
<b>2100 Subcontracts for conference services and venue</b>		
2101 Quick Start Programme Executive Board	2 000	–
2102 Regional meetings	80 000	–
2103 Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group	–	–
2104 Bureau meetings	3 000	3 000
2105 Fifth session of the Conference	–	450 000
2106 Intersessional process beyond 2020	50 000	50 000
<b>2299 Subtotal</b>	<b>135 000</b>	<b>503 000</b>
<b>2999 Component total</b>	<b>135 000</b>	<b>503 000</b>
<b>3100 Meetings and conferences (title)</b>		
3101 Quick Start Programme Executive Board	13 000	–
3102 Regional meetings	290 000	–
3103 Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group	–	–

	2019	2020
3104 Bureau meetings	25 000	25 500
3105 Fifth session of the Conference	–	1 000 000
3106 Intersessional process beyond 2020	150 000	150 000
<b>3399 Subtotal</b>	<b>478 000</b>	<b>1 175 500</b>
<b>3999 Component total</b>	<b>478 000</b>	<b>1 175 500</b>
<b>40 Equipment and premises component</b>		
<b>4100 Expendable equipment (items under \$1,500)</b>		
4101 Office supplies	1 200	1 200
4102 Computer software	–	–
<b>4199 Subtotal</b>	<b>1 200</b>	<b>1 200</b>
<b>4200 Non-expendable equipment (see items listed on budget worksheet)</b>		–
4201 Computer hardware	–	–
<b>4299 Subtotal</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>4300 Premises (rent)</b>		
4301 Office rental and premises	18 500	19 000
<b>4399 Subtotal</b>	<b>18 500</b>	<b>19 000</b>
<b>4999 Component total</b>	<b>19 700</b>	<b>20 200</b>
<b>50 Miscellaneous component</b>		
<b>5200 Reporting costs</b>		
5201 Printing and translation costs	9 000	12 000
5202 Publication of Strategic Approach texts	–	–
<b>5299 Subtotal</b>	<b>9 000</b>	<b>12 000</b>
<b>5300 Sundry</b>		
5301 Communications	7 200	7 200
<b>5399 Subtotal</b>	<b>7 200</b>	<b>7 200</b>
<b>5400 Evaluation</b>		
5401 Final evaluation	–	30 000
<b>5499 Subtotal</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>30 000</b>
<b>5999 Component total</b>	<b>16 200</b>	<b>49 200</b>
<b>Direct project cost</b>	<b>2 094 210</b>	<b>3 198 127</b>
<b>Programme support costs (13 per cent)</b>	<b>272 247</b>	<b>415 757</b>
<b>99 Grand total</b>	<b>2 366 457</b>	<b>3 613 884</b>

<sup>a</sup> Position financed by the GEF project.