



Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

Third meeting

Montevideo, 2–4 April 2019

Draft 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 Conference.
4. Opening statements were delivered by Ms. Enedia 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 chemical 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 the 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 chemical 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 Global Chemicals Outlook II report showed that the world was attentive, more than ever before, to how 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: [to be completed]
13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: [to be completed]
14. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: [to be completed]
15. The following other entities were also represented: *[to be completed]*

2. Officers

16. 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.

17. 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)

18. Mr. Domagalski served also as rapporteur.

19. 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

20. 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 annex XX to the present report.

21. 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

22. 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

23. 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.

24. 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 the principles 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.

25. 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 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.

26. The representative of the Russian Federation, speaking on behalf of the Central and Eastern European States, said that the present meeting was a historical 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 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

27. 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. He 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, he said that IOMC was fully committed to the Strategic Approach and to the post-2020 process.

28. 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 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

29. 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. Noting that the results of a recent monitoring programme by PAN-AP in seven countries in Asia 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 on highly hazardous pesticides would be taken. 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.

30. 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 chemical-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.

31. A representative of industry said that he valued the multi-stakeholder and multisectoral character of 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.

32. 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.

33. 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

34. 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 there had been a detailed discussion on those results by the intersessional process at its second meeting.

35. 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.

36. 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.
37. 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.
38. 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, as well as industry, had been observed.
39. 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.
40. 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.
41. 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.
42. 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.
43. *[to be completed]*

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. Carvalho (Brazil), as agreed by the Bureau.

45. Mr. Morin introduced the paper and the annotations on behalf of the co-chairs. Comprising eight parts and an annex, 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 chemical and waste beyond 2020 and the process for establishing it, building on existing elements.

48. In the ensuing discussion, the co-chairs’ paper was generally welcomed as 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 modification of the model was needed, however, to ensure more effective implementation of measures related to the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and to enable 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. 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 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 during the intersessional process, the co-chairs' paper on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, 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-chaired by Mr. Jorge Pedro-Aznar (European Union) and Ms. Torres (Uruguay), to facilitate 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. *[to be completed]*

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

58. *[to be completed]*

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

A. Progress report for the period 2014–2016

59. 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).

60. 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 (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.

61. 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.

62. 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.

63. 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 capacities in the long-term.

64. 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.

65. 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.

66. 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 Chemical 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.

67. 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.

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

69. 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.

70. 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

71. 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/22).

72. 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.

73. 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.

74. 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.

75. The representative of UNITAR said that the Globally Harmonized System for the 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.

76. 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.

77. 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

78. 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 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.

79. 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); 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).

80. 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.

81. 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.

82. 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 Conference 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).

83. 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.

84. 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 the Environment Assembly resolution 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.

85. 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.

86. 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

87. 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.

88. 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.

89. 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.

90. 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.

91. 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

92. *[to be completed]*

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

93. *[to be completed]*

4. Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

94. *[to be completed]*

5. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals

95. *[to be completed]*

6. Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants

96. *[to be completed]*

7. Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives

97. *[to be completed]*

8. Highly hazardous pesticides

98. *[to be completed]*

D. Implementation of the health sector strategy

99. *[to be completed]*

E. Financing of the Strategic Approach

100. *[to be completed]*

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

101. *[to be completed]*

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

102. *[to be completed]*

VIII. Other matters

103. *[to be completed]*

IX. Adoption of the report of the meeting

104. *[to be completed]*

X. Closure of the meeting

105. *[to be completed]*
