

## MEETING REPORT

### THIRD MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT (ICCM5) FOR ITS 5<sup>th</sup> SESSION

16 - 17 May 2017, Berlin, Germany

#### Attendees:

Bureau members: Ms. Leticia Reis De Carvalho (Brazil, ICCM5 Bureau Member Latin America and the Caribbean), Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Poland, ICCM5 Bureau Member Central and Eastern Europe), Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia, ICCM5 Bureau Member Africa), Ms. Gertrud Sahler (Germany, ICCM5 Bureau Member Western Europe and Others).

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

Representatives of non-governmental participants and the IOMC: Ms. Susan Wilburn (health), Mr. Joe Di Gangi (public interest groups), Mr. Brian Kohler (trade union), Mr. Greg Skelton (industry) and Mr. Jorge Ocana (IOMC).

SAICM secretariat: Mr. Jacob Duer, Ms. Brenda Koekkoek and Muhammed Omotola.

Observers: Ms. Jutta Emig (Germany) and Vassilios Karavezyris (Germany).

Regrets: Mr. Bishwanath Sinha (India, ICCM5 Bureau Member Asia-Pacific).

#### 1) Opening of the meeting.

The President, Ms. Gertrud Sahler, welcomed participants. She thanked the Bureau for their work and active participation in the first meeting of the intersessional process held in Brasilia, Brazil, from 7 to 9 February 2017. She reiterated her government's commitment to the implementation of SAICM. She wished participants fruitful deliberations and a pleasant stay in Berlin.

The Principal Co-ordinator, SAICM secretariat, Mr. Jacob Duer, welcomed participants to the meeting. He thanked the Bureau for their work at the first meeting of the intersessional process. He noted the importance of this year for sound management of chemicals, which began with the first meeting of the intersessional process, followed by the Conference of the Parties of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the 70<sup>th</sup> meeting of the World Health Assembly, the upcoming first meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention on mercury and the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the United Nations of the Environmental Assembly (UNEA3) in December. He thanks the Government of Germany for hosting the meeting and the financial support provided for its organization.

Participants were then invited by the President to introduce themselves through a tour de table.

#### 2) Adoption of the agenda.

The agenda for the meeting was adopted as set out in meeting document SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.3/1.

#### 3) Update from Bureau members, regional focal points and non-governmental sectoral participants and IOMC on activities undertaken since the second meeting of the Bureau and on any follow on work.

The President opened the agenda item. She invited participants to provide an update on activities that have taken place in their constituencies since the second meeting of the Bureau.

The regional focal point for the WEOG region provided an update on progress. Beginning with a national perspective, she said the Government of Canada has developed draft environmental quality guidelines on bisphenol A, hexavalent chromium and triclosan. Guidelines were also prepared on hydrozoan, cobalt and PBDEs. The Canadian Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency is in the process of finalizing a guidance document on cumulative assessment. The Government also marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of national bio-

monitoring initiative. Reduction in mercury in northern Canada and product testing on Bisphenol A in baby bottles. She mentioned participating in a side-event on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals at the Conference of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS COPs) held in Geneva in April. The President, as the Bureau member from the WEOG region in her update highlighted the two side-events organized during the BRS COPs in Geneva namely, the event on shaping the future of SAICM beyond 2020 and the other on sustainable chemistry. The events she said were used to demonstrate the connection between chemicals safety and the health sector. She also mentioned the launch of the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborating Centre (ISC3) and the informal meeting on Beyond 2020 taking place later in the week. She also informed the meeting of Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health taking place in Ostrava, Czech Republic, to be held from 13 to 15 June 2017.

The regional focal point for Asia-Pacific indicated that the main activities in the region has primarily been communicating the outcome of first meeting of the intersessional process to stakeholders in his region including collection of information on the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach. He reported some difficulties with the e-mail distribution list and challenges with respect to e-mail communication in the region for which he rarely receives feedback. He noted that the Asia-Pacific region is vast and communication is challenging. While acknowledging progress with bilateral meetings held during the triple COPs, he seeks further assistance and support from the secretariat with the mailing list. He discussed the current challenges to implementing SAICM by most of the regional countries and highlighted the need of these countries to have adequate and predictable financial support, technical assistance and technology transfer.

The regional focal point from Central and Eastern Europe indicated that there was little to report at this stage. He indicated that the region had an opportunity to consult on SAICM in the margins of a regional preparatory meeting held in Riga, Latvia, for the BRS COPs at which participants were briefed on the outcomes of the intersessional process meeting. He said there are plans for another consultation in the region at a regional meeting of the Minamata Convention to held in Brno, Czech Republic, in July 2017. The Bureau member from the region further indicated that member countries of the CEE region have since the second Bureau meeting focused on preparations for the first meeting of Intersessional Process and the BRS COP, in addition, the health sector representatives were focused on the World Health Assembly meeting preparations and the entire region on the Minamata Convention ratification process.

The regional focal point (a.i) for Latin America and the Caribbean stated that the engagement of the health sector and the World Health Organization in the process is important for her region. The WHO road map under development will be an essential tool in supporting SAICM implementation for GRULAC countries. She said that equally important for GRULAC is the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Also, they would like some information on the remaining work going on under the Quick Start Programme. The Bureau member from the region added that the LAC region was building an intergovernmental network on chemicals and waste. This is not exclusive to SAICM but aimed towards addressing all the agenda of chemicals and waste. A lot of coordination is coming through the network and they have undertaken 2 webinars to date: one on regulatory experiences in the region where Brazil and Chile presented cases of what they are doing and the second webinar focused on the second round of application for the Special Programme highlighting the Argentina project. Both webinars were well attended with large participation in the region. A survey on key priority issues on chemicals and waste management for LAC region was also undertaken. The outcome of the survey is not yet available but this would be shared in due course to inform the intersessional process.

The Africa regional focal point highlighted the challenge of the African region particularly with respect to the role of the Regional Focal Point and communication of responsibilities at the national level. Also there need to be active participation from the national focal points in the region including responding to his e-mail communications. The ECOWAS region plans to validate their efforts in sound chemicals management and invites strong partnership from Stakeholders in the region. He indicated that SAICM will be profiled in the African Ministers Conference on the Environment in Libreville, Gabon, in June 2017. He added that a number of relevant workshops have been organized in the region since the second meeting of the Bureau. Among them are:

- Southern Africa Pesticide Regulatory Forum – He thought this was an interesting model that could be further elaborated in Africa and in other regions
- Organized a side-event at the BRS COP to share national experiences and lesson learnt in order to build a regional strategy.
- CropLife International Africa – Orientation workshop in Accra to engage Africa on pesticide management towards mitigation of risk from pesticide use.
- Meeting in Beijing, China, 22-24 March 2017 to address African countries involved in studies on lead in paint and to identify activities for its elimination.

The Bureau member for the region added that work on Highly Hazardous Pesticides is evolving in the sub-region with the support of FAO. The Government of South Africa is making giant strides in the area of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, and he recommended organizing a regional workshop on EDCs in 2018. He agreed that communication remains a problem in the region. He invites the secretariat to request countries to update the contact details of their national focal points.

The representative of the IOMC acknowledged he is new to the group and very pleased to be representing the IOMC. He gave an account of progress with work on SAICM emerging policy issues and other issues of concern under the responsibility of IOMC participating organizations and some of the work that took place at the BRS COPs.

The industry representative said ICCA continues efforts to build capacity within industry in cooperation with Governments. He was of the opinion that a step wise approach is needed to work with governments in building capacity for countries with low level regulatory frameworks, noting the importance of the implementation of Globally Harmonized System for Classification of Substance.

The health sector civil society representative indicated that the main effort was focusing on the WHO Roadmap on chemicals and waste. She noted that continued coordination efforts to work with other health sector groups who are not members of the SAICM NGO network will be required. She noted that the WHO has not been an implementing agency for the GEF and it would be helpful if they did.

The representative of public interest groups drew the attention of participants to a number of resources. He mentioned a Pacific Island workshop on HHP organized by IPEN, FAO and Pesticides Action Network with an interesting report on pesticides in Palestine. He expressed appreciation for the QSP project in Costa Rica on HHPs and alternatives for crops such as pineapples and coffee. On a project on mercury in women of child bearing age carried out by IPEN and UN environment, he said high mercury level were recorded due to high fish consumption. He added that they organized a side-event at BRS COPs looking at children's toy from plastics and flame retardants.

In closing the agenda item, the President acknowledged the importance of regional and sectoral efforts in the implementation of SAICM and encouraged all Bureau members to continue to engage their constituencies in obtaining their inputs on SAICM implementation and for the Beyond 2020 intersessional process. She invited Bureau members with difficulties to contact the secretariat or herself for assistance.

#### **4) Update by the secretariat on activities undertaken since the second meeting of the Bureau.**

The representative of the secretariat through a PowerPoint presentation provided an update on activities undertaken since the second meeting of the Bureau.

He stated that following the first meeting of the Beyond 2020 intersessional process, the secretariat has issued the meeting report and the associated Co-chairs' summary on the SAICM website. The Co-chairs' summary is open for inputs by 7 July 2017 with the aim of obtaining further reflections on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and views as widely as possible from stakeholders, including those not present at the meeting.

The secretariat finalized the survey tool for the 2014-2016 SAICM progress report as requested by the ICCM at its fourth session. It will be released for stakeholder input in June. The report on progress will be prepared for OEWG3.

The International Council of Chemicals Association (ICCA) has provided a grant to the SAICM Secretariat till 2020, some of which will be used to support pilot projects in Argentina and Kenya.

The secretariat actively participated in the BRS COPs by making interventions in plenary on specific agenda items, issuing an information paper on the Beyond 2020 process, hosting a side-event titled "Shaping the future for sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020", participation in side-events on Science to Action, addressing HHPs in Southern Africa Development Community and participation in other side-events, and hosted an informal meeting on HHPs.

With regards to the Quick Start Programme, 6 new projects have been initiated for Djibouti, Mongolia, Honduras/Nicaragua, Sri-Lanka, Republic of Guinea and Ukraine. The secretariat continues to support 49 ongoing/completed projects including finalizing the reports and closure of 114 projects that have successfully achieved their objectives and are considered complete.

Furthermore the secretariat also launched the new SAICM web-site in February 2017 and has been supporting the SAICM Independent Evaluator to undertake his evaluation as required.

In the ensuing discussion, the regional focal point from Africa shared some information about the GEF committee for Africa in preparation for the AMCEN meeting. One other participant indicated that GEF 7 impact programmes are being put together for better use of scarce resources and ensuring greater impact on the ground the countries and noted the relevance of this for SAICM.

The representative of secretariat said they will scan the submissions to the Intersessional Process regarding financing and the GEF. Relevant information linked to GEF and financing will be submitted to the GEF as part of the SAICM secretariat input to the GEF7 replenishment discussions.

In closing the discussion the President thanked the secretariat for work undertaken. She was optimistic that the SAICM project will be approved by the GEF. She offered the assistance of her Government for any future work the secretariat may need support to undertake.

## **5) Enhancing implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal: Update by the secretariat on activities undertaken since ICCM4**

### **(a) Implementation of the Overall Orientation and Guidance**

The President opened the agenda item calling for legislation on chemicals and waste management in all countries. She recognized that this is a major gap. She noted that institutional strengthening is essential and countries should translate the chemicals agenda into national laws and development strategies. She also highlighted that illegal traffic of chemicals across borders remains a concern.

In the ensuing discussion, one participants stated that a survey was recently circulated in her region to undertake a needs assessment of areas for which capacity building should be directed. She said there is a need to overcome the lack of regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste in countries. She encouraged identification of priorities related to knowledge information and monitoring of SAICM related issues including creating poison control centres. Chemicals emergency response coordination at the regional level, role of the health sector in order to prevent chemical exposure, GHS, etc.

### **(b) Cooperative action on Emerging Policy Issues and other issues of concern**

The secretariat provided an update on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. She informed the meeting that the secretariat is working on a Global Environment Facility project supporting action on SAICM emerging Policy Issues and other issues of concern including the knowledge management aspect of SAICM. The SAICM GEF project is included in the GEF Work Programme at the GEF Council with a budget of 9 million USD. The SAICM Secretariat is the Executing Agency and a further 2 million USD Medium Size Project (MSP) is to be developed with a focus on the other Emerging Policy Issues including HHPs.

The representative of the health sector with respect to Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPP) invited the secretariat to share the workplan on EPPP. The secretariat was also invited to follow-up with Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on the mailing list for their webinars on PFOS to see if they are open to all stakeholders.

On endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC), one participant invited the Bureau to support the UN Environment EDC Advisory Group by nominating regional experts in follow-up to the meeting. In order to facilitate the nomination process, the secretariat will issue a follow-up call via e-mail.

### **(c) Other**

In light of the incidents of illegal traffic of chemicals and waste to Africa, the regional focal point requested the secretariat to collect more information related to illegal traffic. In response, the Secretariat indicated that it is important for stakeholders to provide information to the 2014-2016 progress report as it is the key information gathering opportunity of the Secretariat. The secretariat indicated that UNEP Grid Arendal will be developing a proposal for consideration on illegal traffic.

## **6) Independent Evaluation of SAICM**

### **(a) Update on the independent evaluation**

The President invited the Independent Evaluator Mr. Robert Nurick to provide an update on the work carried out in the evaluation of SAICM since the first meeting of the intersessional process. The Independent Evaluator reported on activities he has undertaken from November 2016 to April 2017. He stated that he has developed an online- survey to obtain input from stakeholders, prepared an interim draft report, initiated a number of focus groups discussions, put together plans for an online discussion forum and prepared a workplan for next steps till October 2017.

From the online survey he said he was able to collect 207 responses. 159 of which were submitted in English; 23 in French and 25 submission in Spanish. The most recent response he received on 9 May 2017. Of the response 69% were from governments, 9% from international organization and 22% from non-governmental organizations.

Furthermore, since the last meeting, he has hosted 13 focus group sessions with SAICM stakeholders including having bilateral meetings in the margins of the BRS COPs in Geneva. He said he is still planning to do a focus group with Health Ministries and also considering how to get engagement from Labour Ministries.

In terms of next steps, he plans on facilitating online discussion, follow up on interviews with stakeholders and produce a draft report by 15 October 2017 for availability at regional meetings.

In the ensuing discussion, a number of participants noted that they felt that the preliminary report was very satisfactory and there is benefit from stakeholders working collaboratively. The president in closing the agenda item, thanked the Independent Evaluator for his work and indicated that she looks forwards to additional information in due course.

(b) Focus group with the ICCM5 Bureau

The Independent Evaluator held a closed session focus group with the Bureau in order to obtain their views on SAICM.

## **7. Intersessional process for considering SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.**

(a) Reflections on the first meeting of the intersessional process

The President opened the agenda item and the floor for discussion. David Morin, Health Canada and co-chair of the intersessional process, joined this part of the meeting via teleconference.

The President invited participants to share reflections on the first meeting of the intersessional process and their impression of the meeting. Providing her views, she was of the opinion that the meeting provided everyone with the opportunity to be heard. She appreciated the leadership of the co-chairs and commended them for their efforts. She welcomed the opportunities to meet with the regions and for the regional meetings to look at the issues properly. She also encouraged everyone to reach out to their constituency to engage in the process.

Several participants were of the view that the meeting went very well and there was general agreement that the three day meeting format worked well. Largely there was a feeling that more time was needed to prepare the regions for the meeting. It was also thought that it would be useful to focus on the actual work at the meeting and the lunch times might be needed for delegates to discuss and elaborate. One participant invited the Bureau to think about how the time allotted to regional meetings can be well used and in a productive and focused manner to prepare for the Beyond 2020 process.

Some participants noted appreciation for the organization of the Informal Dialogues and the value added it brought to the meeting. The co- chairs noted appreciation for the support of the secretariat at the meeting.

The President, in closing this item, highlighted that the presence of UN Environment Executive Director and the Brazilian ministers of Environment and Health were a big value to have at the high-level panel. She said it would be nice for this high level of participation to continue in some way.

(b) Overall strategic planning for the intersessional process

The representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that the co-chairs summary is available on the SAICM website and all stakeholders are invited to submit inputs to the secretariat. The purpose is to build on the existing work and collect as much views as possible on co-chairs summary. The submission deadline is set

for 7 July 2017. Following the submission deadline, the co-chairs will further prepare for the second intersessional meeting, considering the comments received.

(c) Preparations for the second meeting:

(i) Planning / logistics

The representative of the secretariat reported that planning for the second meeting of the intersessional process is underway. He said venues have been tentatively booked in Bangkok and the United Nations Office in Nairobi from 12 to 16 March 2018. At the same time, he indicated that the secretariat is still open to receiving offers of potential hosts for the meeting.

The representative of the secretariat indicated that a two day consultation meeting on the Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO II) is likely to take place back to back with the second meeting of the intersessional process. The tentative plan: ½ day of regional meetings; 3 days for the second meeting of the intersessional process with one hour of regional meeting every morning; and 2 days for GCO II discussions.

(ii) Intersessional work requested by the first meeting

The representative of the secretariat presented the requests for documents received from the meeting of intersessional process. She proposed to group the work along 4 areas namely Governance, Finance, Sustainable Development Goals and Gender. She noted that due to resource issues and time for the secretariat, having the papers condensed will allow the secretariat to fulfil the request and will respond to all requests of the intersessional process. There was general agreement from the Bureau to follow this approach.

One participant said it would be helpful to add gender to the issues being considered to the work on SDGs. This view was supported by several others. Another participant indicated that gender involves vulnerable population and there is the need to prioritize the work. Following the discussion, there was a decision to maintain the gender document separately.

The Bureau President in closing the agenda item said that focus should be on the future of SAICM Beyond 2020 without losing sight of implementation efforts towards the 2020 goal.

## **8. Planning for SAICM regional meetings and the third meeting of the SAICM Open-ended Working Group.**

The representative of the secretariat informed the meeting on preparations for regional meetings and the third meeting of the open ended working group (OEWG3). He said in accordance with the timeline for the intersessional process as decided in resolution IV/4 of the Conference, regional meetings are planned to take place in January and February 2018 to discuss SAICM implementation, and prepare for the second meeting of the intersessional process and OEWG3. The OEWG3 meeting itself would be held in October 2018.

For regional meetings, the following tentative dates were proposed:

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Proposed dates</b>
Asia-Pacific	23 to 26 January 2018
Latin America and the Caribbean	29 Jan to 1 Feb 2018
Africa	6 to 9 February 2018
EU-JUSSCANNZ	9 February 2018 (back-to-back with the OECD Chemicals committee)
Central and Eastern Europe	13 to 15 February 2018

The secretariat representative advised that the above dates would need to be agreed with the regional focal points. Offers are invited to host the regional meetings and the OEWG3 including contributions to the organization.

The regional focal point for Africa confirmed his Government's readiness to host the Africa regional meeting in Abidjan. He asked the secretariat to develop a terms of reference for the regional meeting for him to share with his authorities.

The representative from the CEE region confirmed that the Government of Poland is ready to host the CEE regional meeting in Lodz. He indicated their desire for to organize a nanotechnology workshop immediately after with UNITAR.

The representative of the IOMC of UNITAR expressed the desire of his organization to host a back-to-back meeting on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials also in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

The President, in closing the agenda item suggested that the next bureau meeting offer opportunities to discuss with regional focal points detailed preparations for the regional meetings. She proposed to invite the Regional Focal Points for an extra day to the next Bureau meeting to help the regions prepare.

## **9. Updates on other related developments under international bodies.**

The representative of the secretariat introduced the agenda item by providing an update on the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM for which its second round of application was open until 20 June 2017 for project proposals. He indicated that the Special Programme is fully operational and at its first round of applications, the Special Programme supported 7 projects of approximately USD 1,750,000. The special programme trust fund currently has received contributions of approximated USD 16,000,000.

He also added that the third meeting of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA3) with its theme “Towards a Pollution Free Planet” will convene on 4 to 6 December 2017, in Nairobi, Kenya. He said that the Executive Director of UN Environment will release a report on Pollution at the meeting and a Ministerial Declaration is currently being developed and considered by member states.

In the ensuing discussion, a participant who will attend UNEA3 meeting said that he will try to introduce chemicals agenda in the resolution from the UNEA3 while one representative indicated that it would be important for the Bureau to contribute to the Pollution agenda.

The regional focal point for WEOG from Canada provided an update on the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2017. She called for increased engagement of the health sector in SAICM towards and beyond in 2020. She said her Government would be supporting the adoption of the WHA road map and participate in the technical briefings and encouraged others to participate.

The President in closing the agenda item suggested a strong contribution as a Bureau to UNEA3. The Bureau was also encouraged to share information within their own Governments on the World Health Assembly and the chemicals and waste road map.

## **10. Next meeting of the Bureau.**

The Bureau discussed holding its fourth meeting back-to-back with the IOMC meeting in Rome, from 7-8 November. In doing so, a half day joint meeting with the IOMC is envisaged on 8 November to allow for the exchange of views between the Bureau and the IOMC.

A planning meeting for the regional meetings amongst the Regional Focal Points would also be planned on 6 November.

The secretariat will confirm the dates following further consultations with the Bureau.

One Bureau member requested the secretariat to make Bureau documents available on the web-site for ease of sharing.

## **11. Other matters.**

No other matters were raised.

## **12. Closure of the meeting.**

The President closed the meeting thanking the Bureau meeting participants for their active participation in the meeting. Some participants took turns to express gratitude to the German government for hosting and supporting the meeting.