



**First meeting of the Bureau of the
International Conference on Chemicals Management for its fourth session**
Geneva, Switzerland,
9 - 10 July 2013

Report of the first intersessional face-to-face meeting of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

Background

1. At its second session held in Geneva from 11 to 15 May 2009, the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted, by resolution II/1 rules of procedure covering the operations of the Bureau of the Conference. The Bureau comprises a President and four Vice-Presidents elected by and from among the representatives of the governmental participants in sessions of the Conference. The role of the Bureau is to advise the President and the secretariat on the conduct of the business of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies. The third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management established the Bureau for the fourth session and elected the members and representatives.

2. In light of the multi-stakeholder character of the Strategic Approach, the Conference agreed that four representatives of non-governmental participants (from health, industry, trade union, and public interest groups) and one representative of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) would also participate in meetings of the Bureau for the purpose of advising and responding to the Bureau. In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, providing for the President to invite other participants in consultation with other members of the Bureau, the Bureau subsequently decided, during a teleconference on 22 June 2010, to also include Strategic Approach regional focal points in its meetings.

I. Opening of the meeting

3. The first intersessional face-to-face meeting of the Bureau for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was held at the International Environment House, Geneva, Switzerland commencing on 9 July, 2013 at 9.00 a.m. Bureau members and other participants were welcomed by the President of the Conference, Mr. Ali Daud Mohammed (Kenya), and by Ms. Leonor Alvarado, Coordinator of the SAICM secretariat.

4. Mr. Mohammed encouraged Bureau members to hold fruitful discussions and provide guidance to the secretariat on the tasks that it has been assigned. The SAICM coordinator congratulated Bureau members on their nomination and the expanded mandate of the Bureau in the lead up to the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4).

II. Organizational matters

5. The Bureau adopted the agenda set out below on the basis of the provisional agenda which had been circulated as document SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.1/1 with the addition of Highly Hazardous Pesticides, specifically placed as item 4c.

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;

- (b) Organization of work.
3. Adoption of the report of the second teleconference of the ICCM4 Bureau.
4. Updates by the secretariat:
 - (a) Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern;
 - (b) Other updates.
 - (c) Highly Hazardous Pesticides.
5. Preparations and planning for SAICM regional meetings, OEWG2 and ICCM4.
6. Health sector strategy.
7. Overall Orientation and Guidance.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report
10. Next meeting.
11. Closure of the meeting.

6. The meeting was attended by the following Bureau members: Mr. Ali Daud Mohammed (Kenya) as President, Mr. Nassereddin Heidari (Iran), Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russia), Mr. Marcus Richards (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and Ms. Gabi Eigenmann (Switzerland).

7. The following representatives to the Bureau of non-governmental organizations participated in the meeting: Jonathan Krueger (The United Nations Institute for Training and Research, UNITAR, representing IOMC), Ms. Lilian Corra (International Society of Doctors for the Environment, ISDE, representing Mr. Peter Orris, World Federation of Public Health Associations), Mr. Brian Doll (representing Mr. Greg Skelton, International Council of Chemical Associations - ICCA), Mr. Joe DiGangi (representing Mr. Emmanuel Maria C. Calonzo, International POPs Elimination Network, IPEN), and Mr. Yahya Khamis Msangi (International Trade Union Confederation, ITUC).

8. The following regional focal points participated in the meeting: Mr. Jamidu Katima (Regional Focal Point for Africa), Mr. Luay Almukhtar (Regional Focal Point for Asia-Pacific), Ms. Vilma Morales Quillama (Regional Focal Point for Latin America and Caribbean), and Dr. Elizabeth Williams (Regional Focal Point for Western Europe and Others).

9. Mr. Tim Kasten (United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP) participated in the meeting on behalf of UNEP. Ms. Carolyn Vickers (World Health Organisation, WHO) joined the meeting in the afternoon of 9 July to present on progress in the implementation of the SAICM Health Sector Strategy.

III. Adoption of the report of the second teleconference of the ICCM4 Bureau

10. The representative of the secretariat introduced document SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.1/2 which is the provisional report of the Bureau's second teleconference. The second teleconference of the Bureau of the fourth session of the Conference was held on 18 March 2013.

11. The report was approved by the Bureau, with two minor editorial changes.

IV. Updates by the secretariat

A. Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

12. The representative of the secretariat introduced document SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.1/4/Rev.1, and provided a summary presentation with information on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern: lead in paint, chemicals in products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electronics and electrical products as well as perfluorinated chemicals. The issues were taken up one-by-one.

13. Regarding lead in paint, the representative from ICCA indicated that a letter was sent from the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC) to the SAICM secretariat outlining concerns with the work plan of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint (GAELP), particularly with relation to objectives and targets.

14. A discussion ensued on the selection process of the nine countries involved in the "NGO sampling and testing of lead content of decorative paints on the market", with questions about whether

these countries had regulations already in place restricting content of lead in household paint. It was mentioned that results from countries with no regulations in place would certainly yield significant lead in paint results. One participant stated that focusing analysis on countries that do have regulations in place and verifying the adherence to these may be more useful and proposed that countries that wish to participate in such studies should have regulations in place as part of the eligibility criteria. However, others commented that the point of the study was precisely to assess disparities between countries with varying regulation, where the same companies produce products with differing lead levels.

15. Bureau members encouraged the achievement of removal of lead in paint as a possible target achievement of SAICM. One Bureau member suggested possible next steps would be to hold in-depth discussions at regional meetings on how we can quickly move to elimination of lead in paint. It was further suggested that ministerial fora may be a place to bring the lead in paint issue to a higher level.

16. A concern was raised that only two countries have signed up to the website supporting the awareness campaign set up to mark an International Day of Awareness for lead toxicity, which this year will be focused on elimination of lead in paint. Regional focal points were encouraged to engage their regions to increase awareness of the campaign.

17. GAELP (Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paints) has wide stakeholder engagement, though little government involvement. It was suggested that bureau members could be more involved, by encouraging countries in the region that lack regulations to join the Alliance.

18. There was a suggestion to consider the success elements of the efforts to phase-out lead in gasoline. In this regard, the Dakar Declaration to phase out leaded gasoline was proposed as a successful example of how multi stakeholder initiatives can work successfully on chemicals issues, with possible lessons to be learnt, such as involvement of governments and industry, as well as funding.

19. One participant commented that much work has been done on health associated with lead. This focus though has been on lead from e-waste, car batteries and other waste items, so there is an opportunity to engage with WHO to develop a report on the impact on children of lead in paint.

20. Regarding chemicals in products, many comments focused on stakeholder engagement, with suggestions to engage with a broader group of companies, include NGO participation in the GEF project, and increase linkage with sustainable consumption initiatives.

21. Awareness-raising was mentioned several times in the discussion; many citizens work with chemicals all day, with little information, and it was suggested that the GEF project, under early development, should include an awareness-raising component.

22. While the risks of some chemicals in products is known, the importance of examining if alternatives are available and that they are also assessed on health and safety grounds was noted. Support for the case-studies in the four sectors (textiles, electronics, toys and construction materials) was highlighted and also mentioned as possible way forward for establishing and creating greater awareness regarding best practices in Chemical in Products.

23. Regarding nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, the representative from UNITAR confirmed that “Nano-safety” is a central issue to their work, with their pilot projects helping to formulate a nano-safety policy for future projects. The SAICM secretariat noted the importance of the priority activities and indicated it could assist by asking regional meeting participants what the priorities are in this area and seeing if there has been any follow up on work activities proposed in the Global Plan of Action.

24. It was agreed that most regions suffer from a lack of awareness from governments of the extent to which nanomaterials are being produced in their countries, in spite of efforts to raise this awareness. It was highlighted how important it is to have relevant stakeholders working in the regions on sharing information and awareness-raising.

25. Regarding hazardous substances in the life cycle of electronics and electrical products, the President mentioned that projects are underway in some East African countries, representing an important issue for the African region, with particular concern for the escalation of waste.

26. It was also noted that the WHO declaration on e-waste and children’s health will be available soon, and that meetings on children’s environmental health are planned in the USA (September 2013) and Thailand (2015).

27. The Bureau recalled the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has previously hosted a meeting of 32 governments, intergovernmental organizations, companies, and public interest NGOs, with the whole lifecycle of e-products represented and noted the consensus key messages

and recommendations that resulted from the meeting. One key message highlighted was that solutions to hazards from toxic chemicals in the production and waste parts of the lifecycle are most efficiently and effectively accomplished through the improved design of electronics.

28. Regarding endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), UNEP presented the draft workplan on EDCs as prepared by UNEP, WHO and OECD. The representative of UNEP introduced the current state of the workplan, emphasising its dynamic nature, seeking input from the Bureau on the proposed activities and scope of the workplan. UNEP confirmed that involvement in the workplan development was offered to all IOMC members, with OECD, UNEP and WHO most interested. A suggestion was made to integrate FAO further in the development of the workplan, given the importance of pesticides and fertilisers that contain endocrine-disrupting chemicals. A request was made to explore whether external (non-IOMC) stakeholders can be more involved in the workplan.

29. Although the publication of the State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals - 2012 report published by UNEP in collaboration with WHO was well received by most stakeholders, a concern was raised by one participant that the report may not represent a balanced view of the current existing science, and cautioned on the recommendation to pursue work based on the UNEP / WHO report, particularly since the stated (developed) countries have not yet settled on the science.

30. Bureau members and other meeting participants welcomed the UNEP/ WHO report and see it as an opportunity to commence dialogue with stakeholders and other sectors, which has not been the case previously. It was also commented that the conclusions explicitly mention the need for further work in this area, rather than stating a final overall view on scientific evidence. One member reminded the Bureau that the concluding remarks of the report provide an accurate picture of where the world is on EDCs understanding, and highlights some future actions that provide a good starting point for the work ahead.

31. The President confirmed that the Bureau should work cooperatively with IOMC members on the workplan for endocrine-disrupting chemicals, while reminding the Bureau that it had not been given a mandate to comment on the science of the report.

32. One participant highlighted the importance of the EDCs report regarding the focus on health and it could be used as a communication tool to approach the health sector on EDCs.

33. One participant outlined some suggestions for what could be added to the workplan: a) a report on developing and transition countries to raise awareness of specific chemicals of concern; b) build on case studies of chemicals in products, including developing further case studies for pesticides and food respectively; c) general awareness-raising, with a “global watch list” for what endocrine-disrupting chemicals need to be focused upon.

34. UNEP recommended that given the workplan has been agreed with IOMC members, it is now before the Bureau for comment, and once comments are received and worked on, it can be published. It was agreed that comments are to be sent to the SAICM secretariat within two weeks, deadline 24 July.

35. It was confirmed that Denmark has offered funding for endocrine-disrupting chemicals activities, serving as a “champion” of the issue.

B. Other updates

36. The secretariat introduced SAICM/ICCM.4./Bureau.1/5, updating members on activities of the SAICM secretariat as well as ongoing activities related to financial and technical resources for SAICM implementation, and an update on the Quick Start Programme (QSP).

37. Given the continued shortfall in QSP funding, the President recalled the focus on the extension of the QSP at ICCM3 and reiterated the call for donors to continue to provide financial resources for the adequate replenishment of the trust fund.

38. One member commented that the QSP has been a beneficial programme, with the positive impact for developing countries highlighted, but the development of SAICM needs to help countries go beyond enabling activities. The SAICM representative indicated that the QSP Executive Board had suggested that lessons-learned from the QSP should be used as guidance for the development of a longer-term financing tool. The SAICM secretariat will be attending the country-led meeting to discuss the terms of reference of the special programme to complement GEF funding to be held in Bangkok on 27-30 August 2013. One member commented that as SAICM develops beyond the QSP, it will be necessary for the SAICM secretariat to be fully staffed as it engages in more activities.

39. In support of the financing of the secretariat, ICCA offered to second one staff member to support the SAICM secretariat for two years. Representatives from the Trade Union, Public Interest and Health expressed their objection on the offer as it could compromise the integrity of the secretariat and suggested that if ICCA was interested in assisting the secretariat, it should offer assistance through financial contribution and not through placing their staff in the secretariat. The representative from ICCA indicated that the ICCA Board had only approved a secondment, not a direct financial contribution to the secretariat, in keeping with ICCA policy that financial support for SAICM should come from governments. The representative from the secretariat and the representative from UNEP, while noting the concerns expressed by some participants, thanked ICCA for the kind offer and reiterated that further internal consultations within UNEP would have to follow before a decision can be made regarding this offer.

C. Highly Hazardous Pesticides

40. The SAICM secretariat confirmed that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is carrying out some work on this important issue, and that FAO would be developing a fact sheet introducing the topic for the regional meetings. The Bureau encouraged the initiative by the FAO in this important area.

41. The Bureau suggested the creation of an indicative list of highly hazardous pesticides by the FAO, to provide to governments as a guide for understanding work and as a source for extra information. This could work outside of the other conventions, consistent with the FAO code of conduct.

V. Preparations and planning for SAICM regional meetings, OEWG2 and ICCM4

42. The secretariat introduced documents SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.1/INF/2 and SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.1/INF/3 containing an update on preparations and a calendar of events for the SAICM regional meetings, second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

43. Current meetings are arranged for the Latin American and Caribbean region in Mexico on 19-23 August 2013, the Central and Eastern European region in Macedonia on 23-27 September 2013, and possibly the Africa region in South Africa in November 2013.

44. The secretariat commented that one of the purposes of the regional meetings is to share knowledge and lessons learned from other countries in the region. This includes learning from QSP projects, sharing tools that are available, encouraging dialogue and, where relevant, helping to develop regional workplans, and organising gaps and priorities.

45. While tentative plans have been made to host the Open-Ended Working Group meeting (Dec 2014) and two years in advance of ICCM4 (Sept 2015), the secretariat is still seeking hosts for each of these meetings. Offers will be accepted up to one year in advance for the OEWG2 and two years in advance of ICCM4.

46. The secretariat brought the attention of the Bureau to the timing of ICCM4, given that 2015 will be a very busy year, with Conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and a proposed pivotal United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties and encouraged donors to plan their contributions early. A fundraising letter will be prepared for this purpose.

47. The Bureau deliberated on the matter, suggesting that Regional Representatives could consider using the Regional meetings to discuss unique issues/challenges which could later contribute to the agenda of OEWG2 and ICCM4. Regional Representatives were invited to sensitize regions on offers for hosting, and possibility of bringing the chemicals agenda to regional political forums e.g AMCEN for Africa, CARICOM for the Caribbean and MERCOSUR for South America.

VI. Health sector strategy

48. The SAICM secretariat introduced the item and invited the representative from WHO to provide updates on its implementation and inform of the strategy for consultations at the regional meetings. She indicated that at the May 2013 World Health Assembly, a new six-year strategy was agreed, with environmental health and chemical safety still a focus activity. She also informed that, in line with WHO's commitment to implement the SAICM Health Sector Strategy, WHO had held two regional workshops on chemical safety, one for the European region and another more recently for the South-East Asian region, at which SAICM national focal points were invited. WHO continues to encourage the designation of SAICM health contact points to assist national focal points in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

49. In addition, WHO announced the recent launch of the Chemical Health Network, which has raised strong interest from Member States to participate in the network. Regarding the preparation for SAICM regional meetings, WHO regional offices have offered to hold discussions with SAICM focal points in advance of the SAICM regional meetings, in addition to members of the WHO regional offices attending the meetings. The Bureau welcomed this support from WHO regional offices and encouraged the discussions between SAICM and WHO regional focal points.

The President re-iterated the request from ICCM3 to see a return of the WHO contribution to the SAICM secretariat, consistent with text of the agreement and the original partnership that formed SAICM.

VII Overall Orientation and Guidance

50. The representative of the secretariat introduced documents SAICM/ICCM.4./Bureau.1/3/Rev.1 and SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.1/INF/4 containing the draft version of the consultation framework document and a summary of the comments received following the broader consultation with SAICM stakeholders, respectively. The secretariat recalled the mandate that ICCM3 gave the Bureau to work with the SAICM secretariat on the development of Overall Orientation and Guidance for the achievement of the 2020 goal as it presented the Overall Orientation Guidance document.

51. In the ensuing discussion, Bureau members commented on some of the elements of the revised document. The secretariat confirmed that a new section on the long-term (beyond 2020) was included in this document as it was suggested through the consultation process. The secretariat indicated that the underlying focus of "a guidance document" was in the hands of the Bureau, and that the information obtained in the reports on SAICM implementation, as well as consultations during the regional meetings will form the basis of establishing what SAICM has achieved. Bureau members were reminded that the secretariat was given a broad mandate and the opportunity to work with the Bureau to guide the document is welcomed. It is open to the Bureau to advise further on the scope of the document.

52. Some members cautioned that it was premature to place focus on post-2020 discussions and it could be counterproductive as it could deviate the attention to attain the current targets. Other Bureau members felt that it is relevant to consider the post-2020 timeframe even if the target was achieved, as sound chemicals management is an ever-growing issue that required collective actions for sound management. While the SAICM mandate may finish in 2020, the sound management of chemicals will continue to be an important part of the sustainable development agenda, whether the goal is achieved or not. It was argued that while it may be too early to establish a specific plan post-2020, it is important to generate some ideas and recommendations, ensuring sustainability of management of chemicals.

53. Following the initial general discussion on the Overall Orientation and Guidance, the Bureau then divided into three discussion groups to contemplate three topics related to the role of ICCM4 in the development and support of the final Overall Orientation and Guidance. These included high level engagement; information exchange, and possible themes for ICCM4 and media opportunities. The three groups reported back on their deliberations and further discussions were held with the entire Bureau in order to provide concrete guidance to the secretariat on how to proceed.

54. The group in charge of discussing the high level engagement provided a summary of their deliberations to the entire Bureau, with the following concluding remarks:

- a) ICCM is specified as a high-level international forum for engagement (SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, paragraph 25 (l)), for Governments, Industry and Civil Society. Therefore, it is clear that some form of high level engagement is required at ICCM4. At the same time, the ICCM serves many purposes related to sound management of chemicals, and should not be reduced to only a high level forum.

- b) Prioritized actions that emerge from the Overall Orientation and Guidance process, such as basic sound management of chemicals, should be the focus of ICCM4.
- c) The robustness of ICCM4 outcomes can be achieved through political endorsement of the Overall Orientation and Guidance. The Ministers can provide the Overall Orientation and Guidance as a key meeting result that would boost SAICM and take us forward. In order to achieve endorsement, political momentum should be built in advance by engaging different international and regional high-level for their endorsement of the Guidance prior to ICCM4.
- d) A limited number of Ministers attending the ICCMs to date was noted. At the same time, it is observed that regional meetings and other regional fora can play a significant role in moving priority actions forward on a political level and supporting momentum for management of chemicals. These fora could designate a champion that could communicate their endorsement to ICCM4.
- e) High level regional political statements can be collected for ICCM4 and reinforced to build global momentum and raise profile of issues. Regions can be strategic and select specific Ministers to represent a region.
- f) Bureau members are tasked with engaging their respective regional groups on issues of relevance to SAICM and identifying high level champions on issues. High level support may be reinforced through engagement of high level individuals from international organizations such as the World Bank etc. to help put the resources in place to move forward.
- g) Ideally, a concrete and priority set of Actions could be developed (at ICCM4) that would support the Overall Orientation and Guidance.
- h) ICCM4 could consider making a political commitment to discuss global chemicals actions beyond 2020 at the OEWG3 to be held between 2015 and 2020.

55. The Bureau cautioned that developing a new declaration may be contrary to the interests of some delegations and a burden on resources. Acceptance of the Overall Orientation and Guidance document, worked on beforehand, could be an efficient way to use resources while providing a concrete document that Ministers would be able to endorse at ICCM4, coupled with declarations at other ministerial fora.

56. The group in charge of discussing information exchange at ICCM4 provided a summary of their deliberations to the entire Bureau, with the following concluding remarks:

- a) Generally, enough information is available at such meetings, often an overload. It is important to be strategic about information made available at the meetings. Exchange of raw information should take place before and after the meeting.
- b) At ICCM4 itself, focus should be given to information that is made useful and understandable for policy makers to achieve SAICM goals, with availability in languages. Consideration should be given to how this is done in other areas, such as the gap report on carbon emissions.
- c) Links to other specific issues may be helpful, such as the Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO), Rio+20 documents, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This may help raise the profile of management of chemicals in other fora.
- d) Information exchange between countries could be enhanced at ICCM4 and beyond. Regional groups need time to exchange information and learn from each other. Consideration could be given to regional centers playing an enhanced role in information exchange.

57. With regards to themes for ICCM4 and media opportunities, the break-out group reported back on their deliberations and the Bureau provided the following comments:

- a) A number of ideas came forward for a possible ICCM4 theme. In general, it is believed that an ICCM4 theme can help make the chemicals issue visible, catalyze action and could be linked to next steps.
- b) The theme should encompass concepts related to the Dubai Declaration, growth, poverty eradication and health, among others.

- c) The theme could build on 2015, such as synergies with the Chemicals COPs taking place in 2015 or the post-2015 agenda or to highlight the most urgent SAICM implementation issues. Other ideas for a theme included: using the ICCM3 theme (Chemical safety for sustainable development); capacity building for chemical safety; public awareness and chemical safety; children and chemical safety; management of chemicals synergies; chemical safety and green livelihoods; sustainable agriculture and chemical safety.
- d) Key factors in consideration of a theme: (i) Links to global priorities; (ii) Increase engagement of UN agencies - FAO and ILO and other international regional organizations (e.g. Islamic Development Bank); (iii) Use of sub-themes, e.g. health, agriculture, but not overly narrowing the meeting; (iv) consider the Rio+20 main points: cooperation and coordination, deep concern for lack of capacity to manage chemicals; prevent unsound management of hazardous wastes and their illegal dumping; assessment of chemicals; safer alternatives; (v) support elevation of the chemical safety agenda politically; out of climate change shadow; and (vi) cost of inaction.
- e) Some thoughts for media and headline possibilities included: using a 'catchy' slogan such as the Sweden's '8 years - 8 actions initiative', data from the cost of inaction, declaration of commitment and further international cooperation post 2020, major address or support from high-level political figure or popular figure, the launch of a major initiative and the use of visual images.

58. In searching for a theme for ICCM4, it was mentioned that "Chemical safety for sustainable development" is difficult to improve upon given how it covers all sectors. A suggestion was made to provide overarching theme ideas that could be formulated into a theme at a later date, with a focus on growth, poverty eradication and health. The Secretariat offered to explore ideas with communications colleagues for an ICCM4 theme based on the discussion of the Bureau meeting and report back to the Bureau at its next meeting on this topic.

59. The Bureau agreed that the guidance document should contain concrete actions up to 2020, maintaining the multi-sectoral and stakeholder nature of the Strategic Approach, and it should be endorsed at a high-level.

60. For a second set of break-out discussions, a number of questions were asked of the Bureau for discussion related to analysis for the Overall Orientation and Guidance as well as the consultative approach for upcoming regional meetings. These questions are provided in an Annex 1 to the meeting report. The discussions followed three main streams: sources of information for analysis of achievements, Consultative approach for regional meetings and time dimension in the Overall Orientation and Guidance.

61. Sources of information for analysis of achievements:

- a) The Bureau generally agreed that the information sources identified in SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.1/3/Rev.1 were appropriate to be used as the basis for analysis of achievements to date under SAICM in the Overall Orientation and Guidance. These sources include: existing SAICM implementation plans, progress reports and priorities previously identified by the regions and stakeholders (such as industry and NGO reporting), QSP project result information, GEF project information, progress on emerging policy issues and other reported projects at the national and regional level. It was acknowledged by the Bureau that the regional consultations will serve a useful purpose in supporting the analysis. In undertaking the analysis, the Bureau advised the secretariat to focus on existing information sources and suggested that the secretariat keep the Bureau informed of progress in the analysis process.
- b) The assigned break-out group also identified available National Implementation Plans under existing conventions, evaluation reports from Regional Centres and GEF annual reports as helpful. Furthermore, the break-out group noted that the secretariat could get specific information on various projects as appropriate, but in order to do so, the secretariat would need to identify the major implementing agency for each project and ask for assessment of achievements from each, e.g. did the project meet its objectives, exceeded, or not meet.
- c) In terms of progress on emerging policy issues, it was suggested to possibly limit the review to lead in paint as progress in this area is already tracked to a certain extent through the Global Alliance. Other information sources noted by the assigned break-out group include: the Blacksmith International database on contaminated sites, WHO

Environment Chemical Burden of Disease information, other available regional information and other conventions such as the Chemical Weapons Convention (waste management requirements) and climate change.

62. The representative of the secretariat clarified that in order to keep the scope manageable, only a quick scan of the proposed sources of information was considered at this point, with specific punctual information to be looked up if necessary. The secretariat could not commit to looking at national implementation plans, but rather to reports that presented aggregate information. The Bureau agreed to this approach.

63. UNITAR confirmed that it will ask members of the IOMC if they are aware of further reports or sources of information in order to make them available to the secretariat.

64. Consultative approach for regional meetings

- a) The Bureau agreed that the homework questions identified for regional meetings in Document SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.1/3/Rev.1, Annex 1 (Q2-Q4) were appropriate for consultation with the regions at regional meetings. At the same time, the Bureau noted that they were not considered sufficient to support a gap assessment for SAICM.
- b) The assigned break-out group discussed how the questions in Document SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.1/3/Rev.1 may be adjusted to support the analysis required for the orientation and guidance most effectively. Some suggestions included: (i) ask a direct question on gaps (not only achievements) while being careful not to ask too many questions, (ii) distinguish between work completed, work started but not finished, work not even started, (iii) ask the regions to identify and prioritize gaps (e.g. what are top 3 or 5 gaps?) and also the obstacles and how can they be filled, (iv) adjust questions to reflect planned structure of section VII (achievements, gaps, and priority actions) against the 5 OPS objectives (e.g. list key achievements, gaps, and priority actions), and (v) add a question/section on what could be regional contributions (or contributions of SAICM stakeholders/process) to the post-2015 development goals process.

65. Time dimension in the Overall Orientation and Guidance

- a) The Bureau decided that a time dimension for recommendations in the Overall Orientation and Guidance is helpful for priority setting and moving forward. The 2020 goal creates a deadline and an important milestone in time. However, a time dimension could facilitate the identification of priority actions.
- b) Three terms for timeframes were generally agreed to by the Bureau: (i) Now until ICCM4 (2 years); (ii) ICCM4 – ICCM5 in 2020 (5 years); and (iii) Post 2020 considering that even if the 2020 goal is achieved, there will still be work to do on management of chemicals at the global level. Some participants suggested that this discussion could be outlined in an options paper for discussion at ICCM4 and raised in the context of the post-2015 discussion in the guidance. Short term priorities include the low-hanging fruits that could be identified at regional meetings and to which regions could commit to implementing by ICCM4.

66. The Bureau also agreed that given the ongoing post-MDGs discussions, it may be beneficial to engage with relevant stakeholders at regional meetings to influence the development of the goals, before they are decided without due consideration for chemicals. In that regard, the Bureau also agreed that a post-2015 section should be added to the Guidance document, where the need for a post 2020 discussion could be raised.

VIII. Other matters

67. The representative from Health called the attention of participants of the need to provide a forum for dialogue beyond 2020, as this is a discussion many SAICM stakeholders would like to have. Such discussion could take place at the OEWG2 and ICCM4 to assess continuity of an open, transparent and inclusive platform for dialogue when the SAICM mandate is over. .

IX. Adoption of the report

68. The Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare the preliminary report for approval by all members via e-mail, and for final adoption at their next teleconference.

X. Next meeting

69. The next face-to-face meeting of the Bureau has been tentatively scheduled for 17-18 June 2014. The next teleconferences are provisionally scheduled for the week of Monday 21 October 2013 at 2pm CET (Geneva) time and the week of Monday 20 January 2014 at 2pm CET time.

XI. Closure of the meeting

70. The meeting concluded at 4.00 p.m. on 10 July 2013.