
**Second meeting of the Bureau of the
International Conference on Chemicals Management for its fourth session**
Geneva, Switzerland
17-18 June 2014

Report of the second meeting of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management for its fourth session

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The second meeting of the Bureau of the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) was opened at 9.30 a.m. on 17 June 2014, at International Environment House I in Geneva, Switzerland. The SAICM coordinator, Ms. Leonor Alvarado, welcomed participants and introduced the new Bureau President, Mr. Richard Lesiyampe, as Chair of the meeting. The President introduced himself to the participants and expressed the importance of the Dubai Declaration in 2006 and how vital it is to pursue the 2020 goal. He also thanked the former President, Mr. Ali Daud Mohammed, for his previous guidance of the Bureau, and provided an update that Mr. Mohammed had now been appointed as a special adviser on Climate Change to the Kenyan Government.
2. The President emphasised his appreciation for the Quick Start Programme (QSP), having witnessed the importance of many of these projects, the progression under the Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs), the UNDP-UNEP (United Nations Development Programme-United Nations Environment Programme) Partnership Initiative, and the Health Sector Strategy. The President also thanked the secretariat for their work in preparing meetings, especially in light of the financial constraints.
3. Ms. Fatoumata Keita-Ouane, as Head of the Chemicals Branch, UNEP, emphasised the importance of SAICM in the context of UNEP, as it provides the background for the programme of work, and the sound management of chemicals is a vitally important goal. Furthermore, the multi-stakeholder and multi-sector nature of SAICM forms a very strong part of its setup. SAICM is hosted by the UNEP Chemicals Branch, and she therefore confirmed the Branch's willingness and ability to support the Strategic Approach. She highlighted that at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) many of the Bureau members will have the opportunity to engage with stakeholders; an opportunity to be embraced. Also, as we are approaching the finalisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process, it is important to showcase how we are approaching the 2020 goal, and how we will achieve it, or at least get close. Chemicals management is highly pertinent to the SDGs, and consideration of the whole lifecycle of relevant products is integral to sustainable development. Furthermore, SAICM stakeholders are at an important crossroads in terms of funding, with the QSP presumed to be entering its final stage, the GEF (Global Environmental Facility) with an approved new funding window for SAICM activities, and the UNEA discussions of the special programme. She concluded by wishing the participants a successful meeting and re-iterating the Chemicals Branch's support for the Bureau's work.
4. The representative of the secretariat apologised for the late delivery of some of the documents, assuring the Bureau that great efforts were made by the secretariat to meet the deadlines, even as resources are constrained. She noted that the meeting comes at an important time as their input is important in advance of OEWG2.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

5. In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure, Mr. Heidari, as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Bureau, agreed to serve as rapporteur.

B. Adoption of the agenda

6. The Bureau considered the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/ICCM.4./Bureau.2/1. There was a proposal to add preparations for UNEA and an update presentation from UNEP on the eight years, eight actions project.

7. The agenda was adopted as per the below:

1. *Opening of the meeting.*
2. *Organizational matters:*
 - (a) *Adoption of the agenda;*
 - (b) *Organization of work;*
3. *Adoption of the report of the May 2014 teleconference of the ICCM4 Bureau.*
4. *Preparations and planning for OEWG2 and ICCM4.*
5. *Overall orientation and guidance towards the 2020 goal.*
6. *Health sector strategy.*
7. *Updates by the secretariat:*
 - (a) *Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern;*
 - (b) *Outcomes of the regional meetings;*
 - (c) *Highly hazardous pesticides;*
 - (d) *Other updates.*
8. *Presentation from UNEP on “eight years, eight actions”.*
9. *Other matters*
10. *Adoption of the provisional report.*
11. *Next meeting/teleconference of the Bureau.*
12. *Closure of the meeting.*

C. Organization of work

8. It was agreed that the Bureau would meet from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday 17 June, and from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday 18 June 2014.

D. Attendance

9. The meeting was attended by the following Bureau members: Mr. Richard Lesiyampe (Africa) as President, Mr. Nassereddin Heidari (Asia-Pacific), Mr. Marcus Richards (Latin America and the Caribbean) and Ms. Gabi Eigenmann (Western Europe and Others).

10. The following representatives to the Bureau of non-governmental organizations participated in the meeting: Mr. Robert Diderich (The Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development, OECD, representing the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, IOMC), Ms. Lilian Corra (International Society of Doctors for the Environment, ISDE, representing Mr. Peter Orris, World Federation of Public Health Associations), Mr. Greg Skelton (International Council of Chemical Associations, ICCA), and Ms. Olga Speranskaya (representing Mr. Emmanuel Maria C. Calonzo, International POPs Elimination Network, IPEN).

11. The following regional focal points participated in the meeting: Mr. Jamidu Katima (Africa), Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Central and Eastern Europe), Ms. Vilma Morales Quillama (Latin America and Caribbean), and Mr. Richard Vincent (Western Europe and Others).

12. Ms. Fatoumata Keita-Ouane attended on behalf of UNEP.

13. Mr. Francis Kihumba (Kenya) attended as an observer, supporting the Bureau President in a technical capacity.

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

14. Participants had before them document SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.2/2 containing the report of the fifth teleconference of the Bureau for the fourth session of the Conference, held on 22 May 2014.

15. Paragraphs seven and 11 were amended from the 5 March 2014 teleconference, upon legal advice confirming that neither the Bureau nor the secretariat had the legal authority to set up an ad hoc working group on the future of SAICM post-2020.

16. The representative of IPEN reminded participants that it had sent comments on paragraph 22. The secretariat confirmed that it will take these comments (about HHPs) into account in finalising the report.

17. The report was adopted with the aforementioned amendments and corrections.

IV. Preparations and planning for OEWG2 and ICCM4

A. OEWG2

18. Paragraph nine of resolution III/5 on the indicative budget and staffing table for the secretariat adopted at ICCM3 confirms the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group, in accordance with resolution II/6, to prepare for ICCM4 in 2015, and requested the secretariat to organise OEWG2 in 2014, bearing in mind to keep the length of the meeting as short as possible.

19. OEWG2 will take place in Geneva at the Centre International de Conférences Genève, from 15-17 December 2014. Following earlier consultations with the Bureau, the secretariat prepared a revised concept note contained in document SAICM/ICCM.4/5. This concept note and the list of documents was based on the input and guidance of the Bureau members.

20. Bureau members were informed of the latest developments in relation to fundraising for OEWG2: a balance of US\$920,000 was still being sought, with US\$380,000 pledged at the time of the meeting out of a total proposed budget of US\$1.3million.

21. Meeting participants were updated on the latest status of pledges for support in 2014 for the SAICM secretariat. Letters signed by the UNEP Executive Director and then the Head of the Chemicals Branch were sent to donor partners in 2013 for fundraising purposes. In moving forward, the Bureau President agreed to send letters to donors to seek further funding, and he also agreed to represent SAICM at UNEA and to meet potential donor partners. Furthermore, there will be a targeted approach to emerging economies to see if they are in a position to provide funds, or possibly travel

support to certain countries. The Bureau members were reminded of the tough financial situation that the secretariat faces, both for OEWG2 and ongoing secretariat activities.

22. The representative of UNEP noted that the current dates for OEWG2 and ICCM4 would result in less than the recommended one year between the two meetings. One member indicated that she did not consider this a problem, as there is still enough time to allow for appropriate preparations and for development of meeting documents.

23. One member mentioned that the proposal of a contact group and side event at every lunch time may be considered over-ambitious.

24. Another member commented that there was a plan for a technical session, of 45 minutes, for the 2nd progress report on SAICM implementation, suggesting that there may be merit on focusing on it during plenary, as it will directly contribute to much of the work and the development of Overall Orientation and Guidance document.

25. The representative of the secretariat responded that the proposed number of side events and contact groups was not intended to be final, with feedback expected from the Bureau. It is likely that most events will take place at lunchtime and during the afternoon. She noted that the evening sessions incur a significant cost and therefore contact groups and side events will be restricted, with 9 p.m. as the planned closure each day. The WEOG representative confirmed that Switzerland, as host country, would be holding a cocktail reception on the evening of 15 December 2014.

26. The secretariat has not made a call for side events, awaiting the outcome of discussions of the Bureau.

27. The President voiced his concern that an open call for side events would yield many responses, and it is therefore important that any contact groups and side events are well managed. The representative of IPEN confirmed that the organisation, alongside the Pesticide Action Network and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), is interested in hosting a side event.

28. One participant noted her satisfaction that Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) is on the agenda of OEWG2, commenting that delegates should have time in technical sessions to hear the updates of HHPs, as all regions emphasised at the regional meetings the need to concentrate on these pesticides.

29. One member noted that items 5 to 10 could be included in item 4 of the agenda. With regard to the proposed agenda, the representative of the secretariat suggested that combining several agenda items would likely make one long and unmanageable agenda item. The idea of having the technical discussion on the 2nd progress report on SAICM implementation in plenary would be difficult due to the technical nature, though it is envisaged that the discussion can continue during the meeting. In addition, time is already envisaged for the OEWG2 participants to discuss issues of concern, beyond those that are agreed as emerging policy issues (EPIs).

30. In an effort to be more responsive to stakeholder needs, the representative of the secretariat indicated that an agenda item at OEWG2 has been proposed to discuss regional chemicals challenges, where it will be possible to highlight what has been learnt from the regional meetings.

31. The Bureau members agreed to task the secretariat with reviewing the agenda to find space for side events and subsequently to make an open call for the events (with Monday lunchtime and Sunday evening as possible timeslots). Also, the secretariat should consider the makeup of the technical sessions, and how this may impact the need for side events, avoiding duplication.

32. Many participants commented on the prospect of updating the process for establishing EPIs. One member commented that the procedure to nominate EPIs is time consuming and that EPIs are not always “emerging” or new, but certainly may be issues of concern for the general public. As such, it is important to allow for discussions on such issues, as they complement issues under legally-binding agreements.

33. Members discussed a possible mechanism whereby EPIs are no longer considered as “emerging” and can allow other issues to be prioritised under SAICM, possibly when actions are underway and the policy commitment is in place.
34. The representative of the secretariat recalled that the concept of EPIs graduating beyond their “emerging” status was discussed during ICCM3, but no conclusion was made. Lead organizations for the EPIs are requested to report to the Conference and the Bureau; if they remain as EPIs, they will have to continue to report.
35. Some participants commented that the EPIs should not be “finalised” if work is still needed, that the EPIs are a way to focus the attention of governments, and that the issues represent clear workstreams that can be explained to new stakeholders, rather than the broad role of SAICM. One member added that some of the work done under the current and future EPIs may already fall under the present GPA items, and thereby incorporating new issues into the SAICM structure that is already in place.
36. One member suggested that the Bureau and the secretariat develop a background document for the post-2020 approach, which may benefit from a resolution at OEWG2 mandating the work. She also commented that there would need to be a resolution for OEWG2 to bring the issue of revising the organisation of EPIs to ICCM4. Another participant noted that document SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.2/INF/3 Strengthening the sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in the Long Term had already considered much of this topic, and therefore should form a good basis for discussions.
37. Several participants agreed that an informal working group on the post-2020 agenda would be a beneficial undertaking, to discuss options for post-2020, beyond simply having post-2020 on the agendas of OEWG2 and ICCM4. ICCM4 should be the driver for post-2020, and therefore there should already be work underway in advance of the meeting.
38. One participant clarified his intervention at the Bureau teleconference of 22 May 2014, confirming that there was a request for a working group on post-2020, though this was not intended to become an official ad-hoc working group on post-2020. The participant indicated he was concerned that without initial work there may not be sufficient time to discuss the post-2020 work if left until after ICCM4.
39. It was agreed that a post-2020 discussion item would be added to the OEWG2, with that meeting being able to take a decision on also adding the item to the ICCM4 agenda and a work process by which a document to initiate the discussion would proceed. One participant indicated that this discussion has already effectively started, given the outcome of the country-led consultative process on strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term.
40. A few members also noted that a lot of work and successes have happened under SAICM, therefore stakeholders should consider it unnecessary to revolutionise the approach, though lessons can be learnt for improvement to the post-2020 setup. ICCM4 provides stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss achievements under SAICM, what countries have done and ask countries what they believe they can achieve in the period to 2020.
41. A discussion ensued on the relative needs for an omnibus decision, as per the Annex II of document SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.2/5, Concept note of the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. The secretariat requested input from the Bureau on whether there could be an overarching omnibus resolution on gaps and progress in achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, or if individual resolutions would be preferable for the overall orientation and guidance, implementation of SAICM, financial considerations, and recommendation towards the 2020 goal.
42. There was a consensus among Bureau members that individual resolutions would be sought where appropriate, particularly with respect to financial matters due to the complexity and importance of the issue and in areas where significant new work would be requested.

43. One participant commented that there may be insufficient time between the adoption (or otherwise) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ICCM4, and this will impact the relevance and direction of proposed agenda item 8. The representative of the secretariat suggested that there may be discussions at OEWG2 and ICCM4 on how the SDGs can be integrated into sound management of chemicals. She suggested that there is a need to build the business case on supporting sound management of chemicals as facilitated by the focus on the SDGs, even where there is no explicit mention of chemicals and waste. This would provide stakeholders with the tools to understand links between the SDGs and chemicals management.

44. The secretariat received confirmation that it has been given the responsibility to identify time slots for side events, contact groups and technical sessions, particularly on the Sunday and Monday, and to make a call for such events.

45. The Bureau members agreed to meet every morning of OEWG2 to review progress and amend the agenda, if deemed necessary.

B. ICCM4

46. The secretariat prepared a preliminary concept note on ICCM4, contained in document SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.2/8. This document was intended to assist the Bureau in its deliberations on the preparations for ICCM4, taking into consideration views gathered from the regions regarding potential themes as well as the conduct of business of the Conference. The Bureau was invited to take decisions regarding thematic approaches, organisation of work, the provisional agenda and the high-level participation.

47. One member proposed that items 5-10 of the proposed agenda could be placed under item 4, as they all contribute to implementation. She also would like to see sufficient time made available to discuss regional priorities. Bureau members would also benefit from being able to see what kind of documents are planned, and what the working timelines are, as this will assist with fundraising. With reference to ministers, the participant mentioned that it would be worth developing an attractive high-level segment, and that encouraging a back-to-back meeting may facilitate greater attendance by ministers.

48. A participant commented that ministers would likely wish to spend time in a forum, discussing important topics, such as discussing the core elements of the OOG or the post-2020 visions, rather than having finalised documents awaiting their endorsement. Another member suggested that ministers could focus on concrete examples of positive action, serving as a form of mutual encouragement to other ministers. Another participant made a request for the high-level segment to consider the difference between enabling activities and implementation activities, and make a declaration supporting the focus on implementation.

49. One member requested for ICCM4 to be a more dynamic meeting, focusing on the five years to 2020, what stakeholders want to see achieved and what the priorities are. Other members suggested that the high-level segment should be around implementation for the next five years, with the possibility that the OOG may come up with recommendations that could be approved during that segment as paving the way forward.

V. Overall orientation and guidance towards the 2020 goal

50. Following the high-level dialogue held during the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (20 September 2012), the Conference requested the secretariat, under paragraph 77 of the meeting report, to prepare overall orientation and guidance on what needed to be done to achieve the 2020 goal, which would be discussed during the period leading up to the fourth session of the Conference at regional consultations and at the next meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

51. Following the proposed methodology previously endorsed by the Bureau, participants had before them document SAICM/ICCM.4./Bureau.2/3 containing an annotated outline / preliminary

results of the overall orientation and guidance towards the 2020 goal, and document SAICM/ICCM.4./Bureau.2/INF/1, containing draft background documentation that supports the preliminary results. The preliminary results will form the basis for continued development of the overall orientation and guidance towards the 2020 goal, in preparation for OEWG2.

52. The secretariat delivered a short presentation on the overall orientation and guidance (OOG), outlining the progress to date in its development, sources of background documentation, such as regional meetings, plans for the second report on progress in the implementation of SAICM, and the next steps. The secretariat acknowledged that the OOG document is a work in progress.

53. Mr. John Buccini, via videostype, introduced the latest status of the document SAICM/ICCM.4./Bureau.2/3. He noted that it is an incomplete document, given the vast amount of information available. Mr. Buccini emphasised that he thought it was worth reflecting on the World Summit on Sustainable Development plan of implementation, which contained some specific goals, rather than limiting analysis to the broad SAICM 2020 goal, which could be considered as defying quantification. Other areas that he mentioned included the need to agree on funding programmes after the QSP, so that the investment can be built upon, the relatively successful fundraising, given the global financial crisis, and what improvements can be made to the SAICM indicators.

54. Mr. Buccini commended SAICM for achieving a significant amount, especially in light of its broad nature, noting that it is difficult to be “all things to all people”. He re-iterated earlier comments that the EPIs do attract a lot of attention and it is therefore important to strike the right balance. Furthermore, the SDGs needs to be correlated with SAICM activities, with a view to adopting them in implementation.

55. He mentioned that the definition of “reaching” the SAICM 2020 goal would be a very difficult outcome to measure, indicating that it may be considered more of a journey than a destination. He indicated that Part E (conclusions and recommendations) at this point was explicitly undeveloped and will be developed further as a result of the Bureau.

56. The Bureau members then provided feedback to the document and the presentation.

57. The Bureau formed break-out groups to discuss (i) SAICM governance, (ii) financial and technical resources for implementation, and (iii) implementation of the Strategic Approach. A summary of the breakout groups and the ensuing discussion is contained in Annex I.

58. The break-out groups reported back to the plenary and discussed their feedback collectively. After the report-back, the following suggestions and comments were communicated as feedback to the current document and the presentation.

- a. Important to acknowledge SAICM as the only arena where diverse and big picture chemical safety issues can be discussed at the global level, outside of the conventions.
- b. Paragraph 1 of the Dubai Declaration notes that sound management of chemicals is essential for sustainable development and poverty eradication, and it would be beneficial if development agencies took this into account.
- c. The subject of chemical substances must gain priority in the sustainable development agenda.
- d. The concept of a minimum or base standard for all countries is difficult to define given the implementation is so varied across countries.
- e. The importance given to industry engagement during regional meetings, especially the internalisation of costs; the difference between involvement of industry and commitment. Also, worth noting that cleaner production centres are not often being used to their full potential and with SAICM activities in mind.
- f. Important to consider performance and impact of SAICM. Possible to link to the Overarching Policy Strategy to measure impact of SAICM.
- g. Sections B and C have overlap.
- h. The voluntary and comprehensive nature of SAICM need not be considered only as a weakness.

- i. Contrary to the draft document, financing should be considered a weakness, as targets under SAICM have not been reached, thereby limiting the impact of relevant activities.
- j. It would be beneficial to see more discussion of engagement with regional development banks, as well as regional involvement of development agencies. This type of activity has already been agreed to in the Dubai Declaration.
- k. Need to see greater presence of health in the document, with WHO producing many documents on chemical burden of disease. Perhaps an opportunity to have subsections on industry engagement, health sector, NGOs etc.
- l. The Conference has previously requested integration of actions among all IOMC organisations at regional and national levels, and this still needs to be improved.
- m. Increased stakeholder engagement should be considered a success, given SAICM's establishment as a platform for discussion.
- n. While the SAICM goals may not be achieved under the specific timelines, it is always important to continue progressing. Mainstreaming is an essential part of the achievement of the goals, and this should be emphasised.
- o. Vital to link the SDGs process with the sound management of chemicals.
- p. The EPIs have been successful in developing concise objectives and support for actions. It may be worth considering a replication of these characteristics in terms of recommendations.

59. In direct response to some of the comments, Mr. Buccini indicated that the Overarching Policy Strategy had not yet been taken into account, though it would be in the next few weeks. Some sections will be amended to improve the flow, and there will be a greater inclusion of health. He also indicated that the document will contain a reference to the consequences of a continued lack of funding for the secretariat. With reference to achievement of the 2020 goal, it may be that SAICM stakeholders should consider this as a development of a system that is capable of handling new chemicals issues, rather than a product in place.

60. In closing the agenda item, the chair noted that Bureau members indicated a general comfort with the current Governance structure of the Strategic Approach to 2020. He also highlighted the important need to reflect on the roles of SAICM Focal Points in the implementation of SAICM. He stressed the role of IOMC organizations in supporting the delivery of SAICM as well as the need for the Overall Orientation and Guidance to be focused and action-oriented.

VI. Implementation of the Health sector strategy

61. The International Conference on Chemicals Management, by its resolution III/4, adopted a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. Paragraph 2 of the resolution requests the World Health Organization to report, in collaboration with the secretariat, on the implementation of the strategy at sessions of the Conference, commencing at its fourth session.

62. The representative of the IOMC, on behalf of the World Health Organization, provided a brief update on the progress in implementing the Health Sector Strategy. WHO will make a separate report to ICCM4 on the health sector, as some of the indicators and questions within the reporting indicators have specific relevance to the sector. Given the low number of responses on the reporting indicators, WHO will be complementing the information with other health indicators.

63. One member commented that there was hope for a broader update on the health sector strategy, given its importance, especially with many multilateral environmental agreements linking policy and science.

64. The representative of ISDE noted that her organisation is working closely with WHO on the chemical burden of disease, with several related publications. ISDE has also discussed methods to increase the presence of the chemical burden of disease issue at OEWG2 and ICCM4, through

dissemination of recent publications about chemical pollutants in the air, and a focus on successful stories and implementation activities.

65. One participant reflected on the opportunities to increase synergies between the EPIs and the health sector strategy. These opportunities include: development and implementation of an electronic medical tracking tool; work on occupational health issues in the manufacture of nanomaterials, electronics, and in e-waste recycling; prevention and treatment of lead poisoning from paint; a chemicals policy framework that provides information on chemicals in products as a basis for safer substitutes and development of inventories of suspected and known occupational health hazards due to chemical exposure (with Health Care Without Harm); professional training and development should include links to pesticide poisoning, and mercury and lead exposure; involving Endocrine Society health professionals in the EDC emerging policy issue.

66. One Bureau member recalled the important discussions on pesticides at the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) regional meeting. It is important that both FAO and WHO update their toxicity of pesticides factsheets, as the documents are often used as the basis for legislation.

VII. Updates by the secretariat

A. Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

67. ICCM3, held on 17-21 September 2012 in Nairobi, agreed on continued collaborative actions on four emerging policy issues, notably on lead in paint; chemicals in products; hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products; and nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials. The Conference also recognised endocrine-disrupting chemicals as a new emerging policy issue under SAICM and agreed to collaborative action focusing on updating existing scientific information, raising awareness and developing a plan of work for cooperative actions. The Conference also agreed on further collaborative actions on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives.

68. The Bureau had before it document SAICM/ICCM.4./Bureau.2/6, containing the secretariat update on progress on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern since ICCM3. The representative of the secretariat requested comments from the Bureau members on the update of the EPIs, going through them sequentially, and offering to provide feedback to the issue leads.

Lead in Paint

69. One participant noted that the current document states that “GAELP supported a global NGO network”, while this could specifically state “IPEN” as the NGO network.

Chemicals in Products (CiP)

70. The representative of ICCA, on behalf of industry participants involved in the steering group and the CiP process, noted that the CiP programme is being re-organised following a phase for comments, with a next round of comments to be opened. He was interested to hear from the issue lead when the revised document is expected to be released and when comments are likely to be welcomed.

71. A participant suggested that the report needs to focus additional work on the needs of a broader set of developing countries. Furthermore, it was important to elaborate in paragraph 21 on the use of “textile sector actors”, to include NGOs and the health sector.

Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

72. It would be beneficial for the document to include information on the progress to date in this area and relevant information on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) work, including details on the pilot projects to see that all regions are represented and activities are underway.

Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

73. In addition to the progress to date, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has proposed a workshop in 2014/2015. The Bureau was reminded that ICCM3 called for the workshop to avoid duplication of previous efforts and instead build upon prior work.

Endocrine-disrupting chemicals

74. The representative of ICCA reconfirmed the significant concerns that its member organisations have with regard to the WHO and UNEP “State of the Science of endocrine disrupting chemicals report”, published in 2012. A critical report was published in February 2014¹, funded by industry and utilising some of the authors from the 2002 “Global Assessment of the State of the Science of Endocrine Disruptors” from the International Programme on Chemical Safety. The critical report raised concerns that the latest state of the science report does not reflect the current levels of uncertainty in the science, though there is no suggestion that EDCs are not a concern. Industry representatives welcome a working group on EDCs, and an industry representative has been appointed.

75. One member suggested changes to the text in the meeting document, noting that the African and LAC regions had adopted resolutions, rather than agreeing “draft” resolutions, and the Asia-Pacific region also adopted a resolution, which had been missed.

Perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs)

76. The IOMC representative updated the Bureau, confirming that OECD and UNEP are hosting a series of webinars, with three already completed, and one to take place in June or July 2014. Additionally, OECD has received approval from its governing body for a project to describe and compare regulatory and non-regulatory approaches for switching to safer alternatives for PFCs. This is intended to be a beneficial activity in particular for countries that have not yet started work in this area, with the hope of being able to report by ICCM4.

Nomination of a new emerging policy issue

77. The representative of the secretariat highlighted to the members that a new EPI (being Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants) has been nominated and encouraged members to review the nomination that is available online and submit comments, by the closing date of 11 July 2014.

78. The representative from ISDE informed the Bureau that the new proposal was submitted in light of the comments received at previous SAICM meetings on a previous proposal. She also informed the Bureau members that a workshop on pharmaceuticals in the environment was held in April 2014, in Geneva.

B. Outcomes of the regional meetings

79. The Bureau had before it document SAICM/ICCM.4/Bureau.2/4, Outcomes of Regional Consultations on the Overall Orientation and Guidance, containing a summary analysis of the outcomes of the regional priority setting workshops that took place as part of the SAICM regional meetings held from August 2013 until March 2014. The summary analysis is a contribution to the overall orientation and guidance to 2020.

80. One member indicated that it was an entirely legitimate role for SAICM to have bottom-up nomination of issues from the regions. It is possible to develop global themes for SAICM work based on the outcomes of the regional meetings. It was re-iterated that if there are issues that stakeholders would wish to discuss, there is a need to have them on the agenda of OEWG2 as early as possible, so that time is made to discuss them.

¹ “Critical comments on the WHO-UNEP State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals – 2012”, Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology, Lamb et al, 2014

C. Other updates

81. The Bureau had before it document SAICM/ICCM.4./Bureau.2/7 containing other updates on the status of the financial situation of the secretariat, as well as an update on the Quick Start Programme for the information of the Bureau.

82. A balance of US\$920,000 (US\$380,000 pledged out of a total proposed budget of US\$1.3million) was still required at the time of the meeting in order to cover the costs of the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. Consequently, it was suggested again that the Bureau members may wish to remind countries within their respective regions in a position to provide financial contributions to the secretariat, to do so expeditiously in order to support planning and preparations for the meeting. The Bureau was also invited to advise the secretariat on fundraising activities that may be undertaken in order to obtain sufficient funds for ensuring a successful meeting.

83. One participant hoped that stakeholders would remember past, difficult SAICM discussions on financing, and be prepared for such discussions at OEWG2 and ICCM4. She is highly motivated to encourage discussions around funding for implementation and not just enabling activities.

84. The representative of the secretariat provided some background on the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA); the first meeting of UNEP's governing body under its new structure with universal membership. The high-level segment of UNEA has decision making authority, as opposed to under the Governing Council where the high-level segment did not have that capacity.

85. An omnibus decision on chemicals and waste is expected, which will have an impact on SAICM, and activities up to 2020. Important decisions on the proposed Special Programme for funding chemicals and wastes are expected at UNEA. The secretariat indicated that the negotiations on chemicals and waste were expected to be difficult.

86. One participant communicated significant concerns that many stakeholders are removed from the Special Programme, as it is only focused on government stakeholders. Furthermore, that no activities eligible under the GEF can be funded under the Special Programme, which results in a large number of activities being ruled out.

87. Furthermore, the UNEA side events "detoxifying development" and "business and the SDGs" were highlighted to fellow Bureau members, and as many SAICM stakeholders and advocates as possible were encouraged to attend.

88. The President, as a representative of Kenya, welcomed all participants to UNEA and hoped for a peaceful and successful Assembly. He also encouraged meeting participants to use UNEA as an opportunity to promote the efforts under the Strategic Approach.

VIII. Update from UNEP- Eight Years, Eight Actions

89. Mr. Kaj Madsen, representative of UNEP, gave a presentation of the progress under the Eight Years, Eight Actions project. The presentation summarised the aims to help reach the 2020 goal of Sound Management of Chemicals, with eight actions to be undertaken in the eight years between 2012 and 2020. As part of the initiative, UNEP hosted a workshop on "Mainstreaming the Sound Management of Chemicals into National Action Plans" in July 2013, and will hold a further meeting in July/ August 2014, with industry involvement. The focus so far has been on mainstreaming, starting with awareness raising (action one). The project will also engage industry, in line with the integrated approach on financing of chemicals, including development of legislation that clearly defines the responsibilities of governments and industry. Further work has been undertaken on the health and environment effects, translated into economic effects.

90. In response to the presentation, one participant felt that though the work is a positive step, there is a concern that the work is limited to national policies; mainstreaming needs to be done at all levels, including United Nations agencies, regional partners and multinational organisations. Furthermore, awareness raising campaigns are often difficult, as they are frequently undertaken as defined activities within a project period.

91. A participant also suggested that stakeholders should consider mainstreaming as collaboration among different stakeholders. It is not just about getting it into funding discussions, but also ensuring discussions are happening every day across government. This starts with a coordination group, while trying to include ministry of finance or planning as an integral part.

92. In response to direct questions, Mr. Madsen indicated that integrating the sound management of chemicals into the agenda of finance ministers means there is a much greater chance of retaining the sustainability of projects and activities. Furthermore, there needs to be commitment from industry, through acknowledgement that investment can be strengthened by sound management of chemicals, rather than seeing it as a barrier to investment.

93. Mr. Madsen, furthermore, confirmed that the current project is time bound (activities under the current project will end in October 2014) and it is focused on awareness raising and access to information. Capacity building pilot projects are underway in Zambia, Uganda and Burkina Faso. There is also a plan for monitoring of project results, as it is vital to review what the long-term impacts of the projects are, in order to assess what has been implemented in the years after a project has developed the tools and the mechanisms are in place.

94. The President thanked Mr. Madsen for his presentation and comments, and indicated the importance of mainstreaming as part of the integrated approach to financing at national, regional and international levels.

VIII. Other matters

95. The Bureau agreed that they would like to review some of the main documents for OEWG2. The named documents were: the overall orientation and guidance; the second report on progress on SAICM implementation 2011-2013; aspects related to financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach; and preparations for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. As this has an impact on planning timelines for document development, it was agreed that the procedure for document review will be undertaken via email, as documents become available, with a one week turnaround.

IX. Adoption of the provisional report

96. The Bureau agreed to entrust the secretariat, the rapporteur and the President to compile the final meeting report and submit to the remaining members, to be further considered by the Bureau at its next teleconference for final approval.

X. Next meeting

97. As the end of July is the timeframe for delivery of the next version of the Overall Orientation and Guidance, the proposed next teleconference is scheduled for Tuesday 19 August 2014.

98. A teleconference in advance of the OEWG2 was proposed for Tuesday 23 September 2014.

XI. Closure of the meeting

99. The meeting was closed by the President at 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday 18 June 2014.

100. The President closed by thanking the secretariat and his fellow Bureau members, and the Swiss Government for hosting a welcome dinner. Also, he finalised by making a plea for financial support for the Strategic Approach, with OEWG2 at the end of 2014 still in need of funding.

Annex I**Summary notes of the Bureau break-out groups****Group 1: Governance**

- a) Governance is vital insofar as it can determine, through its bearing upon implementation, the rate of progress towards the 2020 SAICM goal and what lies beyond that.
- b) Whilst there are many encouraging indications of progress towards that goal, there are also clearly matters which need more encouragement. Notably, as paragraph 12 of Bureau 2./3 says, ‘successful mainstreaming is a key to attracting economic development funding for chemicals management: at the same time, there is a need for more such country initiatives’.
- c) Through discussion of experiences in the WEOG, Africa and LAC regions, the syndicate agreed that a key governance issue is the need to strengthen dissemination of SAICM at national level so as to promote mainstreaming. This can be done through strengthening national focal points, encouraging each country to ensure that both political and technical interests country are covered by national focal points, perhaps by nominating more than one. National focal points should encourage mainstreaming of sound chemical management through every relevant organisation in their country.
- d) A related governance issue is to improve collaboration of UN agencies with national focal points so that (i) information relevant to understanding and dealing with health and environment issues arising from chemical management is shared, and (ii) chemical management issues inherent in other development priorities are endorsed and advanced through political awareness. A particular action is to encourage the participation of IOMC national representatives
- e) The crucial role of the SAICM Secretariat needs to be reflected in more stable funding in order to facilitate further improved implementation.

Group 2: Implementation

- f) Allocate basic elements to objectives of WSSD. Might help to focus them and identify missing ones.
- g) Organise elements according to:
 - Legal framework
 - Enforcement (Special focus)
 - Collection, dissemination and use of data
 - Monitoring
 - Mainstreaming (special focus)
 - § Focus on sustainability of action.
 - § Make UNDP/UNEP initiative a routine activity in all developing countries.
 - § Better tracking of progress with mainstreaming.
- h) All suggested activities should have an element of monitoring the results and the impacts.
- i) Define what all the stakeholders can do. Increase and better define role and responsibility of industry (including informal sector) e.g. through social corporate responsibility in all regions.
- j) EPIs are an important aspect of SAICM. It is important to identify factors of success (e.g. strong steering group, strong and clear mandate for key actors, easy to communicate, limited number), apply to core activities.
- k) Recommend to fine-tune indicators and measures of success to basic elements defined in the OOG. Reporting success depends on strengthening the SAICM focal point. Give them the means to be aware of all projects in the country.

- l) Minor: Be more precise on success and gaps with meeting the WSSD objectives (real impacts, real champions).
- m) Governance: Need for process to be able to table bottom-up basic activities like HHP and launch concerted activities

Group 3: Financing

- n) The group did not see any particular direct implication for financing from the report of the consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and wastes cluster in the long term, mentioned in paragraph 10(a). This report essentially endorses the outcome of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes previously endorsed by the Governing Council, and mentioned in paragraph 10(c). The group suggests these references be clarified and the outcome of the integrated approach be emphasized. A reference to the UNEP special programme could also be included here.
- o) In paragraph 10(b), the group agreed that SAICM has been useful in establishing the chemicals window in the GEF, but also noted that SAICM has also catalyzed actions at the national level and highlighted national responsibility.
- p) In paragraph 10(e), the group suggested adding “and expanding the donor base” to the last sentence after “stable and predictable funding”.
- q) With respect to mainstreaming, the group noted that it was also important to get chemicals management on the agenda of regional bodies (e.g. regional development banks, OIC, CARICOM, etc.) in order to raise political awareness. This could also identify additional, diversified sources of funding.
- r) The group also suggested that the financial needs for SAICM implementation and the needs for the SAICM Secretariat be more clearly separated out. The group suggested that the document also include a call for additional resources (both financial and administrative) from UNEP, the WHO and other IOMC organizations, including the World Bank.
- s) Under the heading of “Making more effective use of existing sources of funding” on page 43 of document INF-1, the group supported additional coordination and cooperation, including raising awareness in additional sectors; and clearer monitoring of where funds are being sourced from for SAICM implementation. This would improve coordination, reduce duplication, and enable better prioritization of financial support in future.
- t) The group also saw the SDGs as an avenue for development funding, in addition to raising political attention and awareness.
- u) The group also noted the absence of references to both large and small-scale public-private partnerships, for awareness raising as well as for specific projects. It also noted the role that civil society groups could play in forming these multi-stakeholder partnerships under SAICM.