
International Conference on Chemicals Management**Fourth session**

Geneva, 28 September –2 October 2015

Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Progress and challenges towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management: sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of the sustainable development goals

Sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of the sustainable development goals

Note by the secretariat

1. The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015, is expected to adopt the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals.¹
2. In all, 17 sustainable development goals have been proposed. They are accompanied by 169 targets. The new goals and targets are expected to come into effect on 1 January 2016 and guide sustainable development efforts over the next 15 years. The proposed goals build on the foundation laid by the Millennium Development Goals and respond to new and continuing challenges. They constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development. Targets are defined as aspirational global targets, with each Government setting its own national targets, guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. The goals and targets integrate economic, social and environmental aspects and recognize interlinkages for the achievement of sustainable development in all its dimensions.
3. The proposed sustainable development goals provide an opportunity for fostering cross-cutting collaborative approaches and actions towards the sound management of chemicals and waste. They can serve as an instrument and provide a new impetus to catalyse the implementation of sound management of chemicals and waste at the country level, to further support the implementation of existing international regimes and to set priorities with a view to a comprehensive approach on sound management of chemicals and waste as an essential condition to achieve sustainable development.
4. The Strategic Approach secretariat, in cooperation with the Chemicals Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of the United Nations Environment Programme, the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and others, has made a

* SAICM/ICCM.4/1.

¹ The finalized text for adoption at the summit, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development”, is available from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

number of efforts to ensure that issues related to chemicals and waste are integrated into relevant sustainable development goals and associated targets.

5. The sound management of chemicals and waste is addressed both explicitly and implicitly in a number of goals and associated targets, including the following:

- (a) Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- (b) Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- (c) Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- (d) Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- (e) Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- (f) Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- (g) Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
- (h) Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
- (i) Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- (j) Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- (k) Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
- (l) Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

6. The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will provide a timely opportunity to welcome the post-2015 development agenda and to consider how, consistent with the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform of the Strategic Approach can be used to support its implementation.

7. Consistent with the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal, the post-2015 development agenda will provide an opportunity to highlight the importance of sound chemicals management in development prosperity and of integrating it into national planning processes. In that regard, the message of the cost of inaction and the benefits of action needs to be well articulated and understood with a view to supporting implementation. Mainstreaming creates strong links with national development planning, priorities and processes and can support the mobilization of domestic resources. It can also influence multilateral and bilateral development assistance cooperation by supporting the inclusion of sound chemicals management in funding priorities, either as a priority area or as a cross-cutting issue, and in developing and enforcing legislation controlling chemicals production and use.

Proposed action

8. The Conference may wish to:

- (a) Welcome the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals;
- (b) Highlight the contribution that the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management has made and will continue to make to the sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of promoting sustainable development;
- (c) Emphasize the importance of mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste as a priority within national development planning processes and poverty reduction strategies and signal to Governments, donors and intergovernmental organizations the cross-cutting nature and importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste in the post-2015 development agenda;

(d) Identify areas where the Strategic Approach can contribute directly to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;

(e) Request the secretariat, in consultation with stakeholders, to provide input to the development of indicators for the sustainable development goals, taking into consideration the experience of relevant stakeholders and complementing existing decisions for relevant multilateral environmental agreements.
