

---

**International Conference on Chemicals Management****Fourth session**

Geneva, 28 September–2 October 2015

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020****Sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020****Note by the secretariat**

1. In paragraph 23 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted in Johannesburg in 2002, Governments identified the goal of achieving by 2020 that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. That goal was further adopted as part of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first session in 2006. The Strategic Approach provides a policy framework to guide efforts to achieve the 2020 goal.
2. Projections show an increase in chemical production and use worldwide, continuing beyond 2020, with the largest increases occurring in countries with economies in transition and developing countries. While acknowledging the importance of making every effort to achieve the 2020 goal through the Strategic Approach, the continued relevance of the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 has been widely recognized, including by the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste. In resolution 1/5, the Assembly welcomed the outcome document of the country-led consultative process on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster, entitled “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”. The subject has also been embedded into the sustainable development goals.
3. The outcome document of the country-led consultative process on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster set out a vision beyond 2020 to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development. It also identified a number of long-term policy elements with respect to:
  - (a) Fundamental elements for achieving the vision;
  - (b) Basic elements to be addressed;
  - (c) Reinforcing measures.
4. At the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Strategic Approach, representatives agreed, through a contact group on chemicals and waste management beyond 2020, that the strengthening of chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 should be on the agenda for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. They also agreed that Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, could be used as a basis for further work.

---

\* SAICM/ICCM.4/1.

5. The Open-ended Working Group highlighted the contribution that the Strategic Approach has made and continues to make to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including its contribution to the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. It also expressed readiness and willingness to make available its multisectoral and multi-stakeholder platform to that end, as appropriate.

**Proposed action**

6. The Conference may wish to consider the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and its linkages with the post-2015 development agenda and adopt a resolution, as appropriate, proposing relevant recommendations and follow-up actions.

7. The Conference may also wish to agree to use the outcome document of the country-led consultative process on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster as a starting point for its discussions on sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

8. The Conference may wish to establish an intersessional process between its fourth and fifth sessions with a view to the further development of a proposal on addressing the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, with full and inclusive multi-stakeholder and multisectoral involvement.

9. In developing a mandate for the process, the Conference may wish to request the secretariat to prepare relevant materials, as guided by the Conference, including: (a) information on progress made towards achieving the 2020 goal through an independent assessment, taking into account the relevant existing evaluations in all relevant sectors; and (b) an analysis of the 20 indicators of progress in relation to the post-2015 development agenda, including an evaluation of their usefulness and further use.

10. The Conference may also wish to consider the need for a decision addressing chemicals and waste beyond 2020, including the Strategic Approach, at the fifth session of the Conference, to be held in 2020, and to consider, as appropriate, any arrangements for inclusive multi-stakeholder discussions on the topic in the intersessional period.

---