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**5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach  
to International Chemicals Management**  
Bangkok, Thailand, 23-25 January 2018.

## **Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

1. The fifth Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management was opened by the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management secretariat at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 23 January 2018 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand. The President of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) Ms. Gertrud Sahler (Germany), the Strategic Approach Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific Mr. Heidar Ali Balouji (Iran) and from the Strategic Approach secretariat Mr. Jacob Duer.
2. The regional meeting was chaired by the Strategic Approach Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific Mr. Heidar Ali Balouji.

### **2. Organizational matters**

#### **(a) Adoption of the agenda**

3. The agenda was adopted on the basis of the provisional agenda set forth in document SAICM/RM/AP.5/1as follows:
  1. Opening of the meeting.
  2. Organizational matters:
    - a. Adoption of the agenda;
    - b. Objectives and expected outcome of the regional meeting and regional representation in Strategic Approach related efforts.
  3. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management:
    - a. Progress review on implementation of the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance within the region:
      - a. Setting the scene: an overview of the region;
      - b. Panel discussion of country experiences, including financial mechanism and QSP experiences;
      - c. Information exchange on emerging policy issues:

- i. Update from the IOMC on progress on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern;
    - ii. Discussion on country experiences and impact of emerging policy issue efforts in the region;
    - iii. Update on the Strategic Approach GEF projects;
  - d. Status of regional input to the SAICM Report on Progress, 2014-2016;
- b. Provision of guidance on implementation:
  - a. National Implementation Tools: Information exchange and scientific, technological and technical cooperation;
  - b. Development of an industrial chemical management system, including experiences from the region;
  - c. Implementation of the WHO “Road map to enhance health sector engagement in the strategic approach to international chemicals management towards the 2020 goal and beyond” and its implementation;
  - d. Update on the Global Chemicals Outlook II.
4. Perspectives on the future and identification regional priorities towards and beyond 2020.
5. SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020:
  - a. Overview of the intersessional process;
  - b. Regional input to the independent evaluation for 2006-2015;
  - c. Dialogue on regional perspectives:
    - a. Vision, policy principles, objectives and milestones;
    - b. Implementation arrangements and governance;
    - c. Communication and engagement, securing high-level political commitment and visibility;
  - d. Updates from the co-chairs on the second meeting of the intersessional process;
  - e. Nomination of regional representatives at the second intersessional meeting.
6. Moving forward: review of regional outreach, coordination and sub regional initiatives.
7. Preparations for the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.
  - a. Other matters.
  - b. Closure of the meeting.

4. One participant highlighted the importance of finance in the beyond 2020 context. The Regional Focal Point clarified that this would be covered under agenda item 5(c)(ii) implementation arrangements and governance.

**(b) Objectives and expected outcome of the regional meeting and regional representation in Strategic Approach related efforts.**

5. The Strategic Approach secretariat provided an overview presentation of the overall objectives and expected outcomes of the regional meeting. The President of the fifth session of the International Conference also provided her perspective on the expected outcome of the regional meeting in the context of the fifth session of the International Conference.

**(c) Attendance**

6. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu.

7. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations also attended: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme Environment Programme (UNEP), BRS Secretariat, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

8. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following organizations: BCRC-Egypt, Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), Croplife Indonesia, Croplife Asia, Croplife China, Croplife India, Croplife International, Croplife Philippines, Croplife Thailand, Ecological Waste Coalition of the Philippines, Ecowaste Coalition, Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO, Indonesia Center for Environmental Law, INDYACT-League of Independent Activists, Lebanon, IPEN, IPEN/BaliFocus, Japan Chemical Industry Association, JSU-PSU Marines' Court-CENU, Land and Human to Advocate Progress, Malaysian Croplife & Public Health Association (MCPA), Pan Asian Pacific, Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific, Responsible Care Management Committee of Thailand (RCMCT), Shen Zhen Zero Waste, Singapore Chemicals Industry Council Limited, Thai Crop Protection Association, Thanal, Toxics Link.

### **3. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**

9. Paragraph 26 of the Strategic Approach's Overarching Policy Strategy and resolution I/1 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, on implementation arrangements, recognize that regional meetings play an essential role in the implementation of the Strategic Approach by providing a forum for reviewing progress in regional implementation; providing guidance on implementation to all stakeholders at the regional level; and enabling technical and strategic discussions and information exchange.

#### **(a) Progress review on implementation of the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance within the region**

10. At its fourth session held from 28 September to 2 October 2015, the International Conference requested Strategic Approach stakeholders to report on implementation of the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals at the fifth session of the International Conference in 2020.

11. The aim of the Overall Orientation and Guidance is to provide direction and identify approaches for all Strategic Approach stakeholders towards facilitating the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management, including concrete elements required at the national level to achieve sound chemicals management to support the implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy.

#### **(i) Setting the scene: an overview of the region**

12. The Regional Focal Point provided an overview presentation on progress on Strategic Approach implementation in the region. The presentation focused on the trends in the region for chemicals and waste and the priorities identified in the Strategic Overall Orientation and Guidance.

#### **(ii) Panel discussion of country experiences, including financial mechanism and QSP experiences**

13. The representative of Jordan presented its experiences with its Quick Start Programme Trust Fund project 'Applying Eco-Innovative Strategies for Chemical Risk Reduction in Jordanian Industry'. He provided an overview of the project and highlighted that the term 'Eco-innovation' is rather new. He went on to highlight the challenges in implementing the project and some of the approaches taken to overcome the challenges.

14. A representative of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) provided an overall update of the Secretariat's contribution to the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

**(iii) Information exchange on emerging policy issues**

15. A representative of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) provided an overall update of the progress on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, based on paper SAICM/RM/2018/4/rev.1.

16. Several representatives presented their experiences and the impact of their work on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. A representative of the Government of China presented their experiences in working with the textiles industry, followed by a representative of the Pesticide Action Network on highly hazardous pesticides and a representative of UNITAR on Nanaotechnology. The secretariat then provided an update on the project preparation of the Strategic Approach GEF projects.

17. In the subsequent discussion, the issue of lead in paint was highlighted as a high priority. Some questions were raised on progress related to highly hazardous pesticides and hazardous substances in the lifecycle of electronics.

18. A number of representatives noted the lack of IOMC organization participation in the meeting.

19. Participants highlighted the hope that GEF 7 will allocate more resources for SAICM where many countries benefit.

20. Finally, it was highlighted that there needs to be a serious and robust discussion linked to implementation of emerging policy issues in the future, including political commitment and the necessary financial resources.

**(iv) Status of regional input to the SAICM Report on Progress, 2014-2016**

21. The fourth session of the International Conference requested the secretariat to develop a third progress report, including achievements, strengths and weaknesses for the period 2014–2016 and an analysis of the 20 indicators of progress for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting.

22. Participants were reminded that an online survey was developed for stakeholder input. The results of this survey will be used as a basis to develop the progress report for 2014-2016 to be developed by the secretariat, which will be considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting. Limited input has been received from stakeholders to date. Participants were invited to report on progress for the period 2014-2016, by 31 March 2018, identify challenges they have faced in completing the survey and confirm that they will fill in the survey by the deadline. Several participants indicated that they will follow-up and complete the survey.

**(b) Provision of guidance on implementation**

23. The SAICM Regional Focal Point provided an overview of implementation tools for the sound management of chemicals and waste available and will facilitate a discussion for the region, highlighting that a review of financing arrangements is required in moving beyond 2020.

24. The OECD led a session on the development of an industrial chemical management system, including a reflection of country experience in China and Japan. The WHO led a discussion on health sector engagement on the sound management of chemicals and waste to 2020 and beyond. Presentations from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Chulabhorn Research Institute followed the WHO introductory presentation.

25. UN Environment presented the latest developments on the Global Chemicals Outlook II. Participants thanked UN Environment for the update, noting the importance of the Global Chemicals Outlook II in considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

#### **4. Perspectives on the future and identification regional priorities towards and beyond 2020**

26. A representative of UN Environment presented an update of relevant UN Environment Assembly 3 mandates and other concepts and initiatives that link to the sound management of chemicals and waste. Participants agreed that the information is useful in supporting forward looking discussions in the region.

#### **5. SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

27. The fourth session of the International Conference, through resolution IV/4, initiated an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The second meeting of the intersessional process will take place from 13-15 March 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden.

28. The Regional Focal Point highlighted that discussions under this agenda item will support the region to consider the regional priorities in the beyond 2020 context and to prepare for the second intersessional meeting.

29. The secretariat provided an update on the intersessional process, in particular the preparations for the second intersessional meeting, highlighting the meeting documents available to participants.

##### **Regional input to the independent evaluation for 2006-2015**

30. The fourth session of the International Conference, through resolution IV/4, mandated the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach. The independent evaluator, Mr. Robert Nurick, presented the draft results of the evaluation, focusing on the results from the region.

31. In closing the presentation, he asked participants to review the Results of the focus group discussions held with National Focal Points (NFPs) from Africa, LAC, CEE and AP regions in Brasilia, February 2017 available in document SAICM/RM/AP.5/3 and provide feedback to him.

##### **Dialogue on regional perspectives**

32. The co-chairs of the intersessional process, Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho (Brazil) and Mr. David Morin (Canada), provided a presentation on their expectations of the second meeting of the intersessional process via Skype. They highlighted the importance of regional input to the process.

33. Participants went on to participate in discussion groups to reflect on (i) Vision, policy principles, objectives and milestones; (ii) implementation arrangements, including finance, and governance; (iii) Communication and engagement, securing high-level political commitment and visibility. Outcomes of the three discussion groups are set out in the Annex to this meeting report.

34. Participants agreed that the Regional Focal Point, with the support of the secretariat, would merge the results into one regional perspective document in follow-up to the meeting. The Regional Focal Point agreed to work with the region to finalize the regional perspective document in consultation with the region in the lead up to the second meeting of the intersessional process.

35. Participants noted appreciation for the opportunity to discuss in small discussion groups.

##### **Nomination of regional representatives at the second intersessional meeting**

36. The secretariat highlighted that nominations to the intersessional process is open. The registration process for paid participants for the second intersessional meeting will close on 31 January 2018.

37. The secretariat indicated that the Regional Focal Point and the Bureau member will be asked to advise on regional representation in the region. Funded participants should represent sub-regional, sectoral and gender balance.

#### **6. Moving forward: review of regional outreach, coordination and sub regional initiatives**

38. By its resolution II/2, the Conference encouraged Regional Focal Points to continue to play a facilitative role within the regions and requested them to report to the Conference on the outcomes of regional meetings and other regional activities during the intersessional period.

39. The Regional Focal Point noted his commitment to supporting outreach in the region. Participants agreed it would be useful to re-establish the Regional Coordination Committee and future

approaches for regional outreach and coordination to facilitate Strategic Approach implantation in the region. The Regional Focal Point agreed that he would review the composition of the Coordination Committee in follow-up to the meeting.

40. As an additional mechanism to support communications in the region, the Regional Focal Point offered to create a What'sApp Group that would help support information sharing in the region.

## **7. Preparations for the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group**

41. At its fourth session, the Conference confirmed the third Open-ended Working Group, in accordance with resolution II/6, to prepare for the fifth session of the Conference in 2020 and requested the secretariat to organize the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

42. The representative of the secretariat provided a brief update on the preparations for the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. In doing so, he indicated that the meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2019.

43. The secretariat went on to invite all stakeholders in a position to do so to make financial contributions early in support of this meeting and also invited interested offers to host the third meeting of the Working Group.

## **8. Other matters**

44. Some participants indicated the wish to spend more time on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 during the meeting. Furthermore, some participants noted that documents should have been made available earlier to the meeting.

45. Several participants noted disappointed the lack of engagement in the meeting from the IOMC agencies, particularly noting FAO and ILO.

46. One government participant requested support in reaching out to and engaging with industry better.

## **9. Closure of the meeting**

47. Participants were asked to evaluate the meeting and provide input to the secretariat via an online evaluation tool.

48. The President of the fifth session of the International Conference provided closing remarks. She highlighted that implementation for the sound management of chemicals and waste comes from the national level. She calls on enhanced responsibility of all stakeholders in moving forward, including support from industry and the developed world.

49. The Strategic Approach Regional Focal Point for Asia-Pacific closed the meeting. In doing so, he thanked the participants for active participation in the meeting, the secretariat for the support and the Conference President for her presence.

50. The meeting closed at 4:50 p.m. on Thursday, 25 January 2018.

## Annex I

# Outcomes of Discussion Groups

### Group 1 Dialogue Summary

Chair: Deeppa Ravindran, Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific

Rapporteur: Joe DiGangi, IPEN

Incomplete List of Group members: China, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Solomon Islands, Representatives of the Chemical Industry, Ecowaste Coalition, Indonesian Center for Environmental Law, Land and Human to Advocate Progress, and others.

Brief description of topics

Group 1 met again to discuss two topics: Finalize the discussion about the possibility of binding measures and a discussion about increasing high-level political commitment.

Possibility of binding measures

Group participants had different views about the possibility of binding elements in the Beyond 2020 framework. An effort was made to incorporate all points of view in the text below.

Some participants highlighted the value and importance of voluntary, flexible, multi-stakeholder implementation of SAICM and the importance of continuing the voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach. Some participants noted the possibility of changing some of SAICM's non-legally binding implementation elements would depend on political consensus, financial commitment, technical assistance and capacity building among other concerns. Some participants highlighted the need for legally binding elements, such as a global treaty on highly hazardous pesticides. All participants noted that commitment to SAICM should be strengthened.

High-level political commitment

Several options for increasing political commitment were suggested:

Using collaborative initiatives to highlight specific issues to high-level government officials. Examples of public interest NGO, industry, and government initiatives involving parliament were presented.

Developing a comprehensive communication plan including the emerging policy issues.

Increasing media attention and use of cross-cutting issues such as climate change and biodiversity issues to highlight chemical safety issues.

Increasing greater utilization of scientific studies and dissemination of scientific issues connected to SAICM objectives.

Greater utilization of indigenous knowledge, for example farmer knowledge of food production.

Upgrading the profile of chemicals and wastes in UN Environment by engagement of the Secretary General and heads of other UN agencies.

Engagement of high-level UN personnel in the Beyond 2020 process.

Getting positive support for SAICM objectives from private sector representatives.

Institutionalize commitment within government ministries that continues despite changes in leadership.

Strengthening the multi-stakeholder, inter-ministerial committee recommended in the SAICM agreement would increase the political priority of SAICM.

Increasing involvement of all relevant government ministries.

Women Ministers of Environment, Health, and Agriculture and other relevant ministries, develop and deliver a declaration focused on the relationship between women and chemical safety and the Beyond 2020 Framework.

Strengthening institutional capacity at the national level including implementation of relevant elements of Agenda 2030 may be possible by broadening the mission of national ozone units to serve as chemical safety units. If funded, these units could serve a role in coordination, regulation, financing /mainstreaming, compliance, needs assessment, reporting and others.

Develop a strategy for increasing the implementation and integration of mainstreaming plans related to chemical safety and Agenda 2030 within governments to maintain and increase government commitment to chemical safety objectives.

Connections to Agenda 2030

Use Agenda 2030 including SDGs and accompanying targets to engage high-level political officials.

Utilize national attention given to SDGs to help increase SAICM's visibility.

Increase the profile of chemical safety and Agenda 2030 in regional institutions including in their guidelines. Examples of regional institutions include D8, Waste Asia, ASEAN, APEC, and others.

Highlight Beyond 2020 and Agenda 2030 objectives at ministerial meetings such as the Asian Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, Arab Environmental Ministers Council, and Arab Health Ministers Council, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, among others.

Work to eliminate the inhibiting effects of political sanctions on implementing Beyond 2020 and Agenda 2030 objectives.

Raise the political profile of crosscutting issues with the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Food with Beyond 2020 objectives and Agenda 2030.

Extend and expand political, financial, and technical support for legally binding and non-legally binding agreements on chemicals to increase their sustainability and impact.

The Beyond 2020 framework should be adopted with a ministerial declaration at ICCM5.

Increased international incentives and gains under the three-part pillars of technical transfer, secured financial assistance, and capacity building can be help increase the political priority of the Beyond 2020 framework.

## Group 2 Dialogue Summary

What worked and why: multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral, periodic stakeholder exchange within countries, national implementation plans, engagement of the industries, including in national policy, lead in paint, dedicated budget from government.

What did not work and why: HHPs (no programme), not having political support because not legally binding, not a priority in governments like climate change, lack of capacity, ineffective/lack of focal points, lack of finance (including lack of dedicated finance)

What needs to be improved: need some legally binding instruments (HHPs; and overall to gain political support), overarching legal framework for all chemical conventions and SAICM, review process, engaging user industries and consumers, capacity building, financing (increased funding and clear-cut mechanism), institutional arrangements within the country, clearing house mechanism for information. No consensus on voluntary vs binding instruments.

Vision: “Achieve sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their lifecycle in ways that prevent or minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.”

Generally agreed but some disagreement on the following: including waste, need to identify what waste, use fewer words.

Priorities: HHPs; Gender/women and chemicals in all SAICM issues; Marine litter and microplastics, National capacity building, All EPIs and issues of concern, Vulnerable populations - exposure to toxic chemicals, Capacity building, establishing better financial mechanisms, Compliance mechanisms, Measurable indicators; Research and development, improved data; Establish binding mechanism of SAICM commitments vs keeping it voluntary – no consensus.

New Principles: Zero waste; Polluters pay; Extended producer responsibility; Agroecology.

Objectives:

Phase out HHPs in all countries (# of countries)

Participation of downstream stakeholders (# of industries involved) - secretariat to improve outreach in conjunction with governments

Private sector to endorse Chemicals in Products Programme (# included in dialogue/SAICM)

Ideas for financing beyond 2020:

- Financing smaller projects with quick short success outcomes that would generate financial assistance for more projects
- In-kind contribution (e.g. capacity building workshop/knowledge, technology)
- Tap in to ODA by relating objectives to SDGs
- Link SMCW with 2015 action agenda of Addis Ababa
- Joint capacity building workshops with non-chemical topics (‘piggy-back’ on other issues)
- Polluters pay
- Developed donor governments should increase financial support to chemical projects
- Common funding window for all chemical projects
- Special funding for LDCs
- Simple financing mechanism, especially for small projects
- Increased funding and clear-cut mechanism
- Mainstream SMWC in national development plans

Additional stakeholders:

- Retail
- Plastic industry
- Waste management industry / treatment / disposal/ storage

Facilitate Awareness:

- Strengthen communication between UN agencies
- Formalising and funding multi-sectoral ministers
- National coordination mechanism
- Women ministers of environment, health, agriculture and stakeholders report on women and chemical safety at ICCM5
- Stronger and funded R&D to give better data for High Level people
- Bring SMCW to the World Economic Forum for funding and to increase status

Sustaining Commitment:

- Making SAICM legally binding – not consensus
- SAICM engage with the Global Pact on the Environment by sending reps to ensure chemical safety principles are included; and reporting back to stakeholders
- Linking SMCW to other issues e.g. biodiversity
- Countries to propose their own targets
- High level messages from UN to motivate political leaders

Linkage to the SDGs

- ‘Piggy-back’ on other issues e.g. climate change
- Have specific voluntary targets for countries
- Clear objectives, measurable indicators

### Group 3 Dialogue Summary

#### 1. Please share your experience and recommendations to help shape the overall direction beyond 2020:

- What has worked in SAICM? Why? What needs to be improved?
- What has facilitated implementation of the SAICM to date?

What has worked in SAICM:

- SAICM has a Multi-stakeholder and Multi-sectoral approach which is unique and has turned out to be very effective as it has led to the involvement of various stakeholders.
- Voluntary approach has also been helpful because of which partnerships have been formed.
- Chemical profile has been developed which helped to create baseline and understand the gaps and challenges in managing in chemicals.
- The resolutions on EPIs and issues of concern have been very useful at national and international levels.

What has facilitated implementation of SAICM to date:

- Lot of information creation has been done because of SAICM. We were able to link the issue with policy makers and research institutes. For example, Toxics Link in India worked on BPA, and raised it in Parliament and were able to get standards in BPA bottles. Funding from SAICM played a key role in getting these standards.
- SAICM help to build a good structure on chemicals and waste management in the countries.
- Funding was given to some countries which was quite helpful in the implementation process.

What needs to be improved:

- Waste management needs to be taken up by SAICM.
- More focus is needed on the implementation of the resolutions of emerging issues and issues of concern.
- There is a need to develop capacity of nations which can be done by sharing of information and knowledge, it also helps in developing institutional structures.
- SAICM should organize and conduct technical assistant programmes for countries sharing best practices.
- Better use of studies that highlight the problems on the ground, for example, the Lancet Commission on Health and Pollution study. And more such studies need to be conducted which provides solid numbers and evidence of how chemicals adversely affect people that could highlight the problem on the ground and encourage Political Will.
- SAICM needs to develop a 360 degrees approach or “not one solution fits all” approach as every country is different, it needs its own solutions which should cover risk management and mitigation.
- There is a need to improve coordination between different ministries at national and international levels.
- All the stakeholders including relevant industries, NGOs, sectors like labours should be involved in the SAICM process.
- Catchier name can be adopted instead of SAICM. It was suggested a simple, catchier, short slogan for the future that could support the vision would help increase SAICM’s profile. Some participants suggested, Toxic-free future.
- There is a need for visibility and recognition. Media should be involved for this purpose. A social media campaign can also be conducted.
- SAICM secretariat should pressurize national focal points to provide information about their work.
- There is a need for scientific support on emerging issues globally.
- Sustainable and predictable funding is crucial actions to address the gaps identified in the chemical profile.
- SAICM needs to work on new mechanisms to communicate with people about best practices on chemicals and waste. Focus on waste not only on chemicals.
- SAICM needs to align itself with International regulatory body, to get attention from national governments.
- Move towards development of global standards.
- Suggestion was made to invite the Generics Industry to attend SAICM.

#### 2. What should be the future vision beyond 2020? What are the priorities to be addressed beyond 2020? What would be the related policy principles; objectives and milestones?

## Vision:

- Some participants suggested that we continue voluntary and multi stakeholder approach. We should take Bottoms up approach. Targets should be based on the goals we have achieved, very smart and achievable. Goals should be complementary to Global Outlook.
- Others felt that SAICM should have legally binding elements incorporated.
- Waste and chemicals throughout their life cycle should be incorporated.
- Risk reduction and safer alternatives can be on vision statement.
- Overall agreement of participants: “Achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their lifecycle in ways that prevent or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment.”

Or

Some participants felt that “A toxics free future for all” would be help and it could indicate the elimination of chemicals, not only about management. It also gives a window to ban a few chemicals. This is small and catchy and draws attention. It has a larger scope and covers many chemicals as it points out towards the toxics present in all the environmental matrices. (Note: It is not apt as by definition many chemicals can be banned. It shouldn't be taken.)

We can combine both- A toxics free future for all: “Achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their lifecycle in ways that prevent or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment.”

We can put this short one may be catchy. We need a slogan for a vision.

## Principles:

- We should reaffirm some of the principles from Rio and other documents and maybe add issues like intergenerational equity, substitution, full participation of women, liability and compensation, right to know, good governance, issues with children, polluters pay and right to know.

## Priority issues for the region:

- Plastics waste is a very serious issue across its life cycle. We need to have political space to create a buzz around this issue.
- Lead pollution and poisoning from other sources and pollution from other heavy metals should also be incorporated.
- Air pollution should also be taken up.
- Disposal of obsolete pesticides (Hazardous) should also be incorporated.
- Labelling should also be considered. It is very important, and it should be written very clearly by the manufacturers.
- GHS should be enhanced.
- Workers right to know is a very critical issue specially in countries like Iraq and it needs to be taken up by SAICM.
- Pesticides is another big issue for our region as the region is predominately agricultural based and 2 billion people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods and most of them are exposed to pesticides.
- Food contamination particularly pesticide residues in food is another big issue specially in Thailand.
- Surveillance and risk reduction are important and are also included in NIP of Thailand.
- Health surveillance important for prevention and control of disease causes by chemical exposure
- More work is needed in illegal trafficking of chemicals and products across countries.
- Moving towards alternatives including non-chemical alternatives and agroecology is also very important.
- There needs to be information on supply chain process.
- It was suggested that some level of Legally binding element should be there to increase the accountability and responsibility for all stakeholders including government, IOMC, industry and CSOs. Some participants felt that this is one of the gaps in SAICM.
- Others suggested that NIP could be an element that can be legally binding. If NIP and reporting is binding with funding, it would be like a legally binding element.
- There is a need to establish some sort of accountability mechanism to identify responsibility.
- Best practices and safer alternatives including non-chemical solutions either local or national, some innovations can be showcased to improve chemicals and waste management. We can involve youth champions.
- We should start with improved issues like LIP. Every year Thailand gives awards to a champion. This can be adopted.

## Objectives:

- Some suggested that objectives should be very specific/smart that we are able to achieve. Others suggested that SDGs, previous SAICM objectives, resolutions of EPIs and issues of concern could be reviewed to develop the objectives. In addition, specific indicators should be developed to track our progress to achieve these objectives.

## Milestone:

- 2030 (For now)

## Conclusive point:

- To get political attention is also a communication problem. The current vision is for 2020 goal. We should have a short vision- overall objective of SAICM. We need another name.

**3. What are your ideas for financing to support implementation of the beyond 2020 framework? How can sustainability be ensured in financing projects? Based on your group's identified priorities beyond 2020, who are the key stakeholders and sectors to involve in beyond 2020 processes and governance? How would they be engaged?**

- There should be more thought process/brain storming in developing better financing regime.
- Taxation on chemicals and introduction of polluter pays principle would be good for financial mechanism. But there should be clear definition, mechanism and way to identify the cost. Such as, Green Tax, which could generate financing for sound chemicals management.
- ODA- Official Development Aid (Putting specific percentages for chemical management).
- Internalization of cost like hidden cost in some products to this issue. This money can be used for capacity building and technological advances at the national level.
- GEF funding can be also be utilized for this.
- Social responsibilities of companies can also be a good source of funding.
- Companies pay before polluting before their impact on the environment in some countries. This funding can also be used.

**4. High level political commitment and visibility**

**a. What is needed to facilitate awareness and enable commitment for beyond 2020?**

- **In seeking agreement amongst all stakeholders in 2020.**
- **Sustaining commitment for implementation beyond 2020.**

**b. How can the approach for chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 leverage linkages to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development?**

- Since our region is very complex, it needs to be country specific and there is a need to identify some priorities.
- There is a need to create awareness at the senior ministry/government level. We can partner with senior bureaucracy. After awareness jointly, an action plan with a clear roadmap can be decided.
- We need to continue the momentum to go beyond 2020. All stakeholders should come up with more research and information and like chemical issues with other issues like poverty, health etc. We also need to monetize the issue to create political space.
- There should be reasonable timelines for the commitments.
- SAICM has fairly identified some critical issues to get success. We should have a sustained effort. This can be achieved by inviting more political people in such meeting.
- In UNEA, a women's meeting was held which identified key points. One way to tap SAICM issues, we can contact such ministers and come out with a declaration. We can use this set up and get something done on chemicals and waste.
- Apart from having high level commitment, we need commitments from our end. NGOs need to organize themselves in groups and reach for advocacy. NGOs has played a key role in SAICM's implementation for issues like mercury, BPA, LIP etc but we need a concerted effort from institutions like IOMC (very important role) to create a political space. Industries also need to come out as it has a key role in chemicals management.
- Support of national focal point in sharing information is very much needed.
- Note by chemical company- visions are already pushed in this direction and we are developing indicators to move to sustainable development. We are already doing it.

- There is a need for data generation to create a baseline and sharing the information to relevant stakeholders. Although, many countries have right to information act to share information yet NGOs struggle to get access to many reports, specially monitoring reports from government
- Industry should also make their reports available when they come up with a new product specially if it relates with the human health and environment. Information disclosure is needed.
- Food contamination can be a way to raise political awareness on this issue. Many countries in Asia are exporting their products to developed countries. So, this can be helpful in getting political attention.
- Making optimum use of existing reports like Lancet.

**Priorities/How to prioritize:**

- Common goal is to protect human health and the environment.
- Prioritization should be at the national level. At the regional level, we can bring together priorities of different countries and their stakeholders. More brainstorming at the political level. Broaden it to get varied ministries involved (Human rights, labour etc). We can link human rights with the chemical management.
- How to ensure that all the stakeholders participate in SAICM. There is committee between many ministries and many times we make one team to study one issue and forward to high level to take an action.
- Mobilizing women in the community can lead to action.
- For chemicals and waste, it is important to get all the sectors. It must be at the government level. Forming synergy committees and other types of committees (that are multi-sectoral) at the government level.
- It is important to put pressure on the government
- There should be more regional participation in a region. May be a regional secretariat can discuss this at this level. National focal points can be more effective to the nation. They can involve the key stakeholders from all the ministries.
- Regional focal point can call for meetings with the national focal points who can present their challenges and achievements.
- Synergy committee between stakeholders to make decisions on chemical related matters
- Create new mechanism between national focal point to address problems and issues and to get better solution to solve disputes.
- Expert committee in the SAICM secretariat (for information sharing and get technical support).