



SAICM/IP.2/INF.17

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Strategic Approach
to International
Chemicals Management

English only

**Second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach
and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**
Stockholm, Sweden, 13-15 March 2018

Summary of different perspectives on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

1. The secretariat has the honor to provide, in the annex to the present note, the '*Summary of different perspectives on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020*' from the Sixth SAICM Central and Eastern European Regional Meeting that was held in Lodz, Poland, 19-21 February 2018.
2. The document is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Annex

Sixth SAICM Central and Eastern European Regional Meeting Lodz, Poland. 19-21 February 2018

Summary of different perspectives on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Introduction

This document provides a summary overview of different Central and Eastern European views on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. It is developed based on the discussion that took place at the regional meeting held in Lodz, Poland from 19-21 February 2018.

(I) Vision

In looking for a vision for “Beyond 2020”, participants acknowledged and reaffirmed the “2020 goal” of the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle to prevent or minimize adverse effects on human health and the environment.

Participants suggested that there be a non-time bound or long-term vision with concrete short term timelines for measurable objectives which can be supported by concrete milestones or steps that should be taken towards such objectives.

Participants agreed that vision should be consistent with UNEA resolution 1/5 and SDG 12.4, and proposed following vision: « To avoid or minimize adverse effects of chemicals and waste to human health and the environment during the lifecycle”

They further noted that reference to the following vision should be included in the short slogan/motto promoted vision. The slogan should be easy to communicate to attract public and political attention. Participants proposed following words to be used to formulate slogan: Environment, Health, Chemicals, Sustainable, Safe, Toxic/pollution-free future, wellbeing, no harm.

(II) Policy principles

The future approach should complement the 2030 SDG Agenda and reaffirm core Strategic Approach documents, such as the Dubai Declaration. Some suggested possible principles include:

- Polluter-pays
- Precautionary approach
- Circular economy
- Zero waste
- Substitution/ Access to information replacement and environmentally appropriate alternatives to hazardous substances
- Sustainable consumption and production/integrated life cycle approach
- Extended producer responsibility
- Sustainable chemistry
- Good governance
- Right to know
- Science-policy interface
- Full participation of women, vulnerable groups, and stakeholders/inclusivity
- Protection of workers
- Intergenerational equity
- Agroecology
- Liability and compensation
- Proximity (waste)
- The right to a healthy environment
- Gender equity
- Responsible use

(III) Priorities, objectives and milestones

Priorities for the Central and Eastern European region

Participants emphasized the following: the need for a higher quality of life, a lifecycle approach, a non-toxic environment, a thought set of prevention, no harm to public health, a need to act, safe alternatives and legislation.

During discussion participants also noted the following priorities:

- Chemicals in products
- Highly hazardous pesticides
- The development of science-based studies to inform political decisions
- Strengthened communication
- Pharmaceutical wastes

Participants also suggested an increased involvement of the Electronics and toy industry; the fragrance industry; and the International Council of Mining and Metals. They stressed the need for more science and academia.

Objectives and milestones

Participants at the meeting suggested that the strategic goals (objectives) should be ambitious, long term, and limited in number. Those strategic objectives should be further complemented by several concrete milestones, with timelines. As a strategic objective participants suggested the following examples of goals.

- To prevent and reduce risks and adverse impacts
- To maximize benefits of chemicals through sustainable production and use
- To increase knowledge and awareness of chemicals of concern
- To avoid the most hazardous substances, and to practice substitution
- To enhance implementation through multi-sectoral and participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building
- Develop whole of society approaches to reduce risks of chemicals and waste

Each strategic objective should be complemented by several concrete, measurable, and if feasible time limited milestones. The timelines for proposed milestones should be agreed during further discussion. During the regional meeting participants proposed following proposal for milestones:

- A basic industrial chemical management system in all countries
- Implementing obligations under legally binding instruments
- Safe alternatives
- Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in all countries
- Making best practices and capacity building in mitigating chemicals threats within chemical conventions operational and international
- Increasing risk communication
- Engaging vulnerable groups of the population
- Including public data on chemicals in consumer products
- Implementation of a Science Policy interface
- Development of a proper revision mechanism of implementation of targets

- Safe disposal of toxic waste and polluted soil
- Addressing contaminated sites
- Decreasing illegal traffic and illegal use of chemicals and waste
- Removing hazardous chemicals from waste streams
- Enabling transparency or disclosure of hazardous chemicals in the products supply chain
- Producing guidance and develop international standardized chemicals training
- Minimization of chemicals use and reducing waste
- prohibiting and/or eliminating persistent organic pollutants for example all known persistent organic pollutants in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,
- destroying all stockpiles of persistent organic pollutants;
- reducing waste
- reducing to a minimum the illegal transboundary movement of chemicals and hazardous waste,
- In addition, it was suggested to establish specific milestones regarding transboundary movements of chemicals as per the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

(IV) Implementation arrangements, governance and financing

Facilitating implementation

Participants emphasized the need of an enhanced role for science as follows:

- A science-policy interface
- A science advisory to the chemicals and waste community
- Building capacity of developing countries
- Building a united voice for academia

The need for free trade and common safety standards was also noted.

Regarding governance, participants stressed the need to:

- Underline complementarity and synergies
- Pursue a science policy interface
- Focus on improved coordination, including with helpful national workshops
- Reflect on how to address illegal traffic (consider establishing TRAFFIC for chemicals, an NGO that tracks illegal traffic related to wildlife)
- Connectivity to multilateral environment agreements including the Montreal Protocol
- Review of waste addressed under the Montreal Protocol
- Connect to safety and security agenda

Target governance groups and individuals to enhance implementation.

Participants made suggestions for additional stakeholder communities to be involved for future enhanced implementation as follows:

- Interpol and Customs agencies in countries
- The agriculture community
- Youth groups
- The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

- The circular economy community (but note this is targeted to the waste aspect, the circular economy has weak links to protecting human health)
- Distributors and suppliers
- Consumer product associations
- Additional consumer organizations

Suggestions for financing.

During the discussion on financing of the SMCW beyond 2020 participants reflected on all three components of the integrated approach which include mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external financing. Participants elaborated also on financing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and potential sources of financing from this agenda and from Climate Change agenda. Participants emphasized the need for a sustainable mechanism for implementation and a predictable finance mechanism.

(V) High-level political commitment and visibility

At the international level

- Engage the UN media sources.
- Ensure connectivity to the Sustainable Development Goals
- Connect decisions to decision making forums of IGOs (i.e. UNEA and WHA)

At the national level

- Better science to build more media attention
- Engaging journalists and the media in general

Links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Participants supported linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals as given in document SAICM/IP.2/8 for the intersessional process: Proposal on objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda and related milestones
