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Strategic Approach
to International
Chemicals Management

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**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 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 perspectives on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020*' from the sixth SAICM Africa Regional Meeting that was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 6-8 February 2018.
2. The document is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Annex

Sixth SAICM African Regional Meeting Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 6-8 February 2018

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

Introduction

This document provides an overview of the African region's views on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. It is developed based on the discussion groups that took place at the regional meeting held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 6 to 8 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 wastes throughout their lifecycle to prevent or minimize adverse effects on human health and the environment, and placed emphasis on implementation to assist developing countries to reduce the gap with developed countries on the sound management of chemicals. It was suggested that a future vision should be clear, short, measurable and reflective of the different stages of emerging policy issues in different countries. One proposed vision was "By 2050 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".

Participants suggested that the vision should be all-encompassing of chemicals and wastes issues, covering the entire lifecycle of chemicals' management, aligned with other related initiatives and be linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SMART Targets (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound) and indicators.

(II) Policy principles

The future approach should reaffirm some of the principles from Rio and other core Strategic Approach documents, such as the Dubai Declaration. Some suggested possible principles include:

- Polluter-pays
- Precautionary approach
- Circular economy
- Zero waste
- Substitution
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Integrated life cycle approach
- Extended producer responsibility
- Vertical and horizontal institutional integration within nations
- Green chemistry
- Risk-based/hazard-based assessments and regulations
- Good governance
- Right to know
- Women and chemical safety /Gender Equity
- Protection of children, workers/inclusivity
- Intergenerational equity
- Agroecology
- Liability and compensation
- Proximity (waste)
- The right to a healthy environment
- Workplace right to know
- Accountability of the exporting country
- Participation of women and vulnerable groups

(III) Priorities, objectives and milestones

Priorities for the African region

Participants at the meeting noted the following as priority issues:

- Emerging policy issues such as chemicals in products, lead in paint, endocrine disruptors, persistent pharmaceutical products, highly hazardous pesticides, PFCs, DEEE, nanomaterials and nanotechnology
- Marine plastic
- Legislation and harmonization
- Strengthening capacity and transfer of technologies for data generation
- Political engagement, adequate awareness and visibility of SAICM
- Industry commitment and active participation
- Mainstreaming chemical management into national planning, agenda, implementation frameworks/strategies and National Determined Contributions
- Involvement of sub-regional bodies
- Capacity and involvement of regional centers and economic integrations
- Capacity building in risk assessment, risk mitigation/reduction
- Integrated pest management, responsible use of chemicals and personal protective equipment
- Implementation of the WHO chemicals roadmap beyond 2020
- Hierarchy of waste management, lifecycle
- Encouraging research and development and monitoring
- Assessment of capacity building needs
- Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Participants also emphasized the importance of a pollution-free Africa with a cessation of illegal traffic and illicit trade, as well of dumping of chemicals and wastes in Africa. Participants also highlighted the need to implement an adequate, flexible dedicated, predictable and accessible financial mechanism.

Objective and milestones

The African regional group participants stated that the main objective beyond 2020 would remain the same as the current SAICM objective, building on specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound (SMART) indicators that are quantitative and qualitative to facilitate the measurement of successes and challenges. These targets should be aligned in support of Agenda 2030 and act as a platform that contributes to the achievements of SDG goals as recommended in the ICCM4 resolution. It was also suggested that all eleven elements of the SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance be included in future objectives.

Participants suggested that 5 new initiatives (zero waste, right to know of workers, agroecology, marine plastic pollution and women and chemical safety) be added to the existing emerging policy issues such that there are 12 pertinent initiatives that will contribute to measurable goals in support of Agenda 2030.

Beyond 2020 should set out a priority list of the chemicals and a time frame for phase down and phase out. This should include a smaller and clearer system with a few strategic goals and a small number of measurable targets ensuring linkage with emerging issues such as green chemistry. Examples of specific objectives given were: to eliminate lead in paints and varnishes in all countries by 2027 (SDG 3 and 16); to eliminate the production and use of highly hazardous pesticides in 50 countries (SDG 2, 3 and 8); and to make available data on 150 chemicals in products of concern that are used in 75 countries (SDG 3, 8 and 16).

(IV) Implementation arrangements, governance and financing

Facilitating implementation

Beyond 2020 governance should maintain its multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral nature.

In addition to conserving its current structure of the ICCM, a bureau and a secretariat, a panel of scientific experts should be established. It was also suggested that legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks be elaborated to ensure effective implementation and enforcement for all chemicals and wastes in all countries.

A future legal framework should foresee funded national actions with measurable achievements that contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030.

Further, the legal framework might consider the establishment of binding mechanisms for enhanced implementations of certain commitments.

Participants reiterated the need for broad stakeholder engagement and participation at the national, regional and global level as well as increased awareness raising and information sharing.

Target governance groups and individuals to enhance implementation.

- Strengthened Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMCs) to bring together stakeholders in a continuous manner
- Engaging the media to sensitize the wider public and catch attention of decision makers
- Informing environment standing committees in parliaments on chemicals and wastes issues
- Engaging regional economic bodies to ensure harmonization at the sub-regional level

Suggestions for financing.

Participants emphasized that adequate, sustainable and predictable funding was crucial to address chemicals and wastes management and that access to funding must be improved, pointing to the need for a flexible funding mechanism that is dedicated, adequate, predictable and accessible.

Further suggestions for financing include:

- Dedicated national budgets to ensure sustainable financing for the chemicals and wastes issue
- Engaging ministries of finance in beyond 2020 and other chemical and waste management agencies to raise awareness for dedicated financing
- Enactment of laws for the sound management of chemicals and wastes to enable allocation of budgetary provisions for such activities
- Regional and sub-regional financial institutions and economic bodies
- Exploring financing sources from bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation institutes
- Access the resources of the chemical industry
- International and national industry contributions for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including incentives and dissuasions
- In-kind financing from industries, ex: through training, information sharing and capacity building
- Development of instruments for internalization of costs that could also provide resource assistance to developing countries and countries in transition to establish robust mechanisms for the sound management of chemicals
- Registration schemes and licensing schemes that could generate revenue streams
- Expanding the remit of the Special Programme to allow for access to funding to all stakeholders
- Building on the achievements of the Quick Start Programme and establishing a more sustainable and predictable financial mechanism for the future framework accessible to all relevant

stakeholders, including transparency to track financial contributions for managing chemicals and wastes

- Inviting donor governments/development assistance agencies to substantially increase financial support for chemical safety
- Look for avenues to enhance resources for research and development
- Environmental trust funds

Further, to ensure commitment to and sustainability of financing there is a need to call on African governments and regional economic organizations to commit resources and to ensure follow-up financing through national budgets, the African Union, and sub-regional organizations (eg CEDEAO, CEMAC, SADEC, CEAC, ECOWAS etc) and to establish direct and indirect links between the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the SDGs. Given that link, national aid agencies should increase their contribution for the sound management of chemicals.

(V) High-level political commitment and visibility

- Ensure that government works together with the private sector rather than the usual top-down approach
- Use social media platforms to share information to reach and sensitize the current generation
- Focus on community/public issues that draw attention
- Focus on research and development to build the evidence base on the need for environmental safety

At the international level

- Strengthen the interlinkages with MEAs in support of their implementation
- Dedicate a calendar day for chemical safety and use communication materials to sensitize the public
- Endeavour to establish soon a “Year of Sound Chemicals Management”
- Convene a high-level segment at ICCM5 and have a high-level declaration that calls for meeting the SAICM objectives
- Hold high-level side-events at conferences of the parties of conventions dealing with chemicals and wastes such as those of the Minamata Convention; the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Montreal Protocol
- Invite leading women to develop a report on issues related to women and chemical safety and wastes to be presented at ICCM5
- Establish a high-level political platform or forum with a technical support team
- Discuss sound management and waste issues as a priority during national and regional political meetings such as the African Union and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

At the national level

- High-level government commitment to ensure political engagement beyond 2020 and prioritization of the issue at national and sub-regional level
- Craft messages along the line of the SDGs to garner commitment at the highest level in national governments
- Include SAICM in national development plans
- Include sound management of chemicals and waste in national budgets
- Ensure sustained support for sound management of chemicals and wastes including a monitoring and follow-up system
- Develop a communication platform at the country level including lessons learned
- Ensure SAICM resolutions of past years are implemented

- Mainstream SAICM issues/chemicals and waste/in national curricula starting at the grassroots level
- Develop agreed national actions through multi-stakeholder processes and encourage resources from various stakeholders
- Formalize and/or strengthen existing national institutions and establish inter-ministerial committees for the coordination of activities of the future framework

Generally

- Involve academia and engage the student body
- Involve youth and youth organizations and engage them in employment creation by looking at waste as a wealth
- Work on harmonization of legislation to bridge the legislative differences among countries
- Obtain evidence on the impacts of chemicals in the African context using partners from civil society

All sectors should be involved in the beyond 2020 process: environment, agriculture, fisheries and farming, health, broader range of industry, commerce, mines, energy and water, transport, communications and media, economic and development planning, artisanal activities, universities, civil society, private sector, unions, consumers, consumer organizations, local and indigenous groups.

These sectors could be involved through national and global mechanisms that are established in an agreed manner and that are transparent and inclusive taking advantage of cooperation and coordination frameworks. They should also embrace the bottom to top approach and work in both voluntary and committed agreements.

Additional stakeholders that should be included in beyond 2020 are: African regional financing institutions; policy makers/parliamentarians, ministers of finance and justice; labour associations; the International Labour Organisation; human rights organizations; women's groups; donor agencies; research and academia; and regional centres and regional economic groupings.

Links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Goal 12.4 of the SDGs places special emphasis on the sound management of chemicals and wastes. Beyond 2020, could be the operational tool for achieving the related objectives of Agenda 2030. Objectives 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 also have a direct link with the sound management of chemicals and wastes and that sound management could indirectly contribute to the achievement of Agenda 2030.

An important relationship with Agenda 2030 is the work on the linkage between SDG 12 on sustainable consumption / production and chemical and waste management at the national level. Every programme or project needs to have a link with sound management of chemicals within it. For that purpose there is a need for improved alignment of objectives and targets; better coordination across actors; broad representation of the crop production industries and the generic industry; tapping into the large amounts of information from industry that governments can make use of in understanding chemicals and their impact; avoiding duplication of support; and ensuring better tracking of financial flow when supporting countries. It will be necessary to identify appropriate platforms for engagement that link with Agenda 2030. Efforts should be made to develop a future framework that addresses existing challenges in chemicals and wastes management including gaps in the SDG goals and indicators.

Further there should be links to children's rights and health, including linkages to cancer.

(VI) Reflections on the success of SAICM

The success and effectiveness of SAICM.

The success of SAICM has been due to its multiparty, multi-sectoral nature and the resulting multi-stakeholder ownership. Countries have benefitted from institutional strengthening and the establishment of IMCs and a dynamic that has improved intersectoral coordination. SAICM's global nature has assisted in managing chemicals issues – international in scope and broader than the mandate of existing chemicals agreements.

Additionally, SAICM addresses emerging issues or issues of concern, unlike existing chemicals instruments. The voluntary nature of SAICM has encouraged stakeholders to engage. At the same time SAICM has encouraged the elaboration of chemicals' legislation and raised awareness of national chemicals' problems and promoted capacity building.

SAICM has had some success in sensitizing populations to the chemicals and wastes issue and has assisted in the identification of chemicals and in the development of chemicals' inventories. It has also focused on the link between health and the environment and has facilitated dialogue between civil society organizations and the administration. SAICM has encouraged a holistic classification of chemicals and assisted countries to identify specific issues of concern.

Through the Quick Start Programme, countries were assisted with initial enabling activities tailored for understanding national gaps and to address national priorities:

- Establishment of a framework of discussion and coordination among relevant multiparty/multi-sectoral partners
- Development and updating of national profiles on capacities for management of chemical products
- Elaboration of SAICM national policies including integrating national action plans
- Elaboration of national strategies and support for the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
- Promotion of the accession, ratification and implementation of chemicals conventions
- Managing the life cycle aspect of chemicals in products

The implementation of SAICM has been facilitated by:

- The network of NGOs involved in the SAICM process enabled sharing of information
- The nature of SAICM in bringing together a wider web of stakeholders providing for coordination among them and with government and decision-making entities
- Improved vertical and horizontal engagement among stakeholders at the national level
- Regional centers that have helped in providing technical support
- The secretariat being a strong driving force to catalyze activities

Additionally, most of the countries are parties to most of the chemical and waste multilateral environmental agreements. This has enabled interlinkages leading to accelerated implementation of some obligations under those agreements and efficient sharing of information for implementation of activities.

Improving chemicals and wastes management in the future.

Chemicals and wastes management in the future can only be ensured through commitment at the highest level. To improve chemicals and waste management and increase stakeholder participation and ownership, the visibility of the related issues needs to be raised. Any future system should maintain a multi-stakeholder

approach and should implement projects at the regional and sub-regional level. Participants emphasized the importance of the sustainability of projects and follow-up through lessons learned.

Taking note of the SDGs, participants highlighted the issue of poverty alleviation and suggested further demonstration was necessary to show the relationship between the adverse impact of chemicals and wastes and poverty.

The following are aspects of SAICM that need to be improved:

- Increasing government engagement on the relevant issues through broadening the engagement of different ministries and departments
- Bridging gaps to ensure linkages with other sectors and initiatives
- Increasing commitment and coordination of international partners, in particular WHO and others such as FAO and ILO
- Improved coordination between national SAICM focal points and other stakeholders as well as between national and regional focal points, ensuring accountability of national and regional focal points
- Increased stakeholder participation (e.g. media); broadening civil society and industry representation
- Highlighting national and regional specific needs to ensure resources for such specific activities
- Technical and financial assistance for the implementation of action plans and strategies elaborated under the QSP framework
- Equitable access to available funds
- Including the sound management of chemical substances in national and regional budgets, policies, strategies, plans, programmes as well as national and local development plans
- Identifying new sources of funding
- Training of customs officials on import of chemical substances
- Avoiding duplication of capacity building efforts
- Greener chemicals must be looked at in terms of the energy use and resource intensiveness
- Use of local and regional experts/consultants
- Nationally orchestrated meetings and planning
- Strengthening of relevant existing institutions, such as poison centres and making IMCs permanent
- Development of legal and institutional frameworks for the sound and ecological management of chemicals at the national and regional level, ensuring that governments have the capacity to enforce legal instruments
- Need for harmonization of regulations and activities at the sub-regional and regional level
- Establishing binding instruments on enforceable issues such as pesticide control, illicit trade etc.
- Strengthening SAICM's role as a clearing house to facilitate the flow of information
- Improving information exchange at the national and sub-regional level

(VII) Other considerations

Some participants also suggested synergies between the SAICM beyond 2020 and the Global Pact for the Environment launched in September 2017.