

SAICM/IP.3/CRP.1

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English only

**Third meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach  
and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

Bangkok, Thailand, 1-4 October 2019

**Financing the secretariat**

**Submission by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland**

**Note by the secretariat**

The annex to the present note contains a submission by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland. It is reproduced as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

## Annex

### Financing the Secretariat

#### Submission by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland

It will be important that the secretariat for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is adequately resourced – if not there is a risk that the vision and strategic objectives will be compromised. This paper sets out proposals for how stakeholders might be asked to provide the resources which will be needed, taking account of their various circumstances.

#### Background

The budget for SAICM was agreed by the Open-ended Working Group in April 2019 - \$2.366 million for 2019, and \$3.614 million for 2020 - subject to the availability of resources.<sup>1</sup> This level of funding reflects the current level of activity (including the additional costs of the Intersessional Process, for example), but resources of at least this level are likely to be necessary if progress towards the vision of sound management of chemicals and waste is going to be accelerated.

The current secretariat has however been hampered by a lack of resources. The independent evaluation of SAICM concluded:<sup>2</sup>

"185. Over the ten year period 2006-2015, the secretariat was hampered by capacity constraints to deliver on its mandated functions. .... There were two inter-related capacity constraints: resources and staff.

"186. An indicative budget was approved at each conference to cover the costs of the staff of the secretariat and expenses incurred by the secretariat in order to fulfil its functions. These expenses covered items such as: conference and inter-sessional meeting costs; staff travel; office running costs. However, over the period 2006-2015, there was an annual shortfall in the amount of funds donated (voluntarily) such that the agreed budget was never achieved, ranging from a 4% shortfall in 2013 to a 56% shortfall in 2009. The annual shortfall was at least 43% for six of the ten years (2006-2015).

"187. Related to the shortfall in funds available to the secretariat was the understaffing of the secretariat over the 10 year period. The project experienced a chronic shortfall in professional staff capacity throughout the period 2006-2015; the full complement of professional staff (five full time equivalent- FTE) for the period 2006-2009 was only achieved for the last 10 months of 2009; for 2010-2012 (seven FTE staff) the actual staff complement was 2.6 FTE; for the period 2013-2015 the complement was 3.86 FTE. The project addressed this shortfall to some extent through the contracting of short-term consultants.

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"189. The shortfalls in staff and resources affected the secretariat's ability to deliver on number of functions. The most significant of which were the operation of the QSP and the information clearing house function."

Only 14 countries and one Regional Economic Integration organization made contributions in the period July 2015 to December 2018, and a further two countries provided support in kind (for example, by providing meeting facilities). The International Council of Chemical Associations also made a contribution. One IGO (UNEP) provided support in kind.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Annex II of the report of the OEWG meeting: SAICM/OEWG.3/9. The budget for 2020 reflects the cost of holding ICCM 5 in that year.

<sup>2</sup> Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management from 2006 – 2015: SAICM/IP.3/INF/3

<sup>3</sup> Report on activities, staffing and budget of the secretariat: SAICM/OEWG.3/8

## **Financing the Secretariat for the period beyond 2020**

The approach beyond 2020 will be a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder platform, and it is important that this key feature is reflected in the financial arrangements. Each sector and each stakeholder should play their part. The secretariat must have adequate resources, and a broader range of donors must contribute in order to provide a more sustainable base. But the different circumstances of different countries, different sectors, and different non-government stakeholders must also be taken into account. Financial contributions will be necessary to pay for core activities, but contributions in kind and contributions of experts' time and knowledge will also play a key role in achieving objectives. We will however only have succeeded once the sound management of chemicals and waste has become mainstreamed into the policies and approaches of all countries and all industries.

The following paragraphs suggest how the secretariat should be financed in future. Each group of stakeholders should contribute as follows:

### *Countries*

Countries should ensure that the core budget of the secretariat is covered. Contributions will be voluntary, but there should be an expectation that all countries who wish to align themselves with the objective beyond 2020, and who wish to engage in and benefit from the work undertaken under its remit, should contribute according to their means. The UN scale of assessments provides a recognized way of reflecting the different capabilities of countries to contribute.

It is proposed that before the start of each year the secretariat should invite each country, via its national focal point, to make a voluntary contribution and should provide a figure showing what that contribution would be according to the UN scale. Some countries already base their contribution on this figure. Countries should be encouraged to contribute at least this amount. Hopefully many more countries would make a bigger contribution to ensure that the full needs are covered even if a few countries fall short. These contributions should be without condition.

The core part of the budget would include the staff costs of a standing secretariat and their office and travel costs, the costs of meetings of the international conference, the bureau and other subsidiary bodies which may be established, and any knowledge and outreach activities, such as a website for example.

We will however only succeed if the range of activities undertaken goes beyond just these core activities. All countries should be encouraged to provide support, in cash or in kind and earmarked if appropriate, towards specific projects or parts of the work programme, on top of their core voluntary contribution. This could include, for example, providing resources to support projects on issues of concern, supporting a wide range of delegates and experts so all developing countries can take part in meetings, providing regional focal points, or providing meeting venues.

### *Inter-Governmental Organizations*

The members of the UN Inter-Organizational Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)<sup>4</sup> should be expected to contribute. Rather than financial contributions, it might fit most appropriately within the UN budgetary arrangements if they could second staff to the secretariat. This would enhance the capacity of the secretariat and extend the range of work that can be undertaken, and would demonstrate the cross-sectoral nature of the Strategic Approach.

### *Industry*

Industry should provide support in various ways, including financial contributions, short term secondments of staff to support particular projects, or other support in kind – for example, assembling information, or supporting the production and dissemination of SAICM outputs, or hosting meetings. Given the large size of the global chemical industry and the amount of waste generated, industry might be expected to make a significant contribution to SAICM.

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<sup>4</sup> Current members are UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR, OECD, The World Bank and UNDP.

It would be necessary to ensure that any contributions linked to particular projects or work streams are appropriate given the need to avoid conflicts of interest.

*Civil Society*

Non-governmental organizations are often rich in experience, with committed staff and volunteers and a great deal of knowledge. They often have extensive networks of experts and knowledge of local situations. They, too, should make a contribution, though in practice the circumstance in which this can be organized may be more varied and would need to be addressed on a specific case-by-case basis. Secondments, hosting meetings and contributing to the work on particular projects (for example, by undertaking to edit technical documents or maintaining databases) might be options. Again, it would be important to have controls in place to manage any conflicts of interest.

**Next Steps**

The outcome of ICCM5 needs to recognize the requirement for an adequately financed secretariat and set out a commitment on behalf of all stakeholders and all sectors that they will ensure that financial contributions and other resources are provided sufficient to meet the aspirations of ICCM5 as set out in the budget and programme of work which will be agreed.

**September 2019**