

MEASURES TO ACHIEVE MULTI-SECTORAL AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

OEWG3 Mandate: Request that Co-Chairs, with the support of the Secretariat, subject to availability or resources, and in consultation with the Bureau, undertake further work on additional measures to achieve multisectoral engagement

CONTEXT

Throughout the Intersessional Process, SAICM stakeholders have highlighted: (i) that the voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach that has been integral to the Strategic Approach should continue; (ii) the need to promote complementarity and foster coordination with the work of other multilateral environmental agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap; (iii) regional cooperation should be increased in order to share best practices and lessons learned among countries that are facing similar challenges.

The SAICM evaluation has highlighted the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder nature of the program as one of its strengths:

SAICM is an ambitious initiative, is unique in its set-up as an inclusive multi-stakeholder, multi-sector voluntary global policy framework on sound management of chemicals and waste. It has provided a space and opportunity for government and non-government actors alike, to discuss and deliberate on the management of chemicals and chemicals in products throughout their life cycle and of waste within an atmosphere of relative trust and cooperation.

The multi-stakeholder approach character of SAICM has been maintained since the initial meeting in Dubai in 2006. A particular strength has been the participation of non-government actors in the SAICM process to the extent that they are represented in the decision-making bodies, allowing for their perspectives and priorities to be heard and considered as resolutions were framed and agreed. This participation has been made possible because of the voluntary nature of SAICM.

However, the evaluation also notes some weaknesses and gaps:

Despite the multi-stakeholder ambition of SAICM, several important groups of stakeholders are missing from the SAICM process and structure, in particular academia.

The role of National Focal Points (NFPs) is central for the delivery of the SAICM agenda at the national level. However, over 80% of NFPs are located within the environment sector with few representing the agriculture, health or labour sectors. A general lack of cooperation and collaborations between ministries is limiting the multi-sector ambition of SAICM.

Additionally, industry representation at SAICM is limited to the chemical producing industry. Many organizations with an interest in the SAICM agenda are absent. These include: downstream uses of chemicals, retailers, downstream users that have created labeling schemes often driven by consumer demand.

Concerning the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, the evaluation concludes:

Greater capacity and increased representation of the health, agriculture, finance and industrial sectors within government national and regional focal points will support efforts to mainstream the sound management of chemicals across government departments. Within non-government stakeholders, continued efforts to communicate with and reach out to downstream businesses and industries as well as civil society more broadly will further support the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach.

A particular strength has been the participation of non-government actors in the SAICM process, allowing for their perspectives and priorities to be heard and considered as resolutions were framed and agreed. Retaining this strength and character beyond 2020 will support the future mission.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this paper is to provide further considerations on additional measures to support implementation and in particular on measures to enhance multisectoral/ multistakeholder engagement to accelerate achievement of the objectives beyond 2020.

Strengthened engagement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders should include:

- Enhanced actions by members of individual sectors or stakeholders, and
- Increased collaboration between and amongst sectoral or stakeholder groups where this collaboration is critical to successful results.

While one approach would be to describe a range of possible measures in different parts of the new adopted texts for the Beyond 2020 Framework where appropriate and where the linkages with specific targets and or milestones could be emphasized, there is also a risk that this would create piecemeal implementation through discretionary action.

Participants of the Intersessional Process may wish to consider a recommendation to ICCM5 for the development of a comprehensive strategy for sectoral and stakeholder engagement. The advantage of such a strategy would be to describe in one focused document, a complete package of mutually supporting initiatives to achieve multisectoral and multistakeholder engagement to guide future implementation. Such initiatives could then be tracked and monitored to ensure that sector and stakeholder engagement is optimally realized.

One IOMC participating organization in its recent submission to this issue, goes further to suggest the development of a "protocol" on multisectoral engagement that would be part of the adopted texts. The Co-Chairs have not had time to further explore what a 'protocol' may entail but whether it be a strategy or protocol or similar document, based on the lessons learned from the approach to date, and to address the gaps and weaknesses identified in the evaluation, it is clear, as one government stakeholder suggested, that 'enhanced engagement – of sectors, stakeholders, and at the high level within countries – is an area of activity that requires concerted, consistent effort equal to the efforts applied to other areas of SAICM implementation'. We find merit in, as stated above, exploring the development of a focused package of initiatives on sector and stakeholder engagement.

Participation from currently under- and non-represented stakeholders could be improved by demonstrating synergies between achievements of SAICM's objectives and the overarching visions, mandates and strategies of these stakeholders, and in achieving cross-cutting sustainable development goals. This approach, could be conceptualized as "how engagement in the Beyond 2020 Framework would be of benefit to the different sectors in achieving their mandates " to foster buy-in and facilitate mainstreaming of sound chemicals management practices into existing programmes and policies of

stakeholders across sectors, while also helping achieve multiple organizations' goals. Examples include: the expected increase in demand globally for chemicals will bring with it new opportunities for decent work. Sound chemicals management plays a key role in occupational health and safety policies and programming across occupations (not just the chemicals industry), which is an integral criterion of decent work. Sound chemicals management is also key to efficient manufacturing and production practices among many industries other than industrial chemicals. In the agricultural sector, for example, sound management of chemicals and waste is critical to make harvests more resilient or improve harvests which is key to meeting objectives in IOMC POs and SDGs related to nutrition and health, reducing world hunger, etc. Examples of how this can be achieved are included in the section below.

POSSIBLE ELEMENTS [MEASURES] FOR ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT

Based on the input we heard from stakeholders on this issue, the following are some areas which could be examined for increased action. The nature of the action at the sub-national, national, regional, or international level and who should lead will depend on the specific activity. Stakeholders are encouraged to develop roadmaps, work plans, pledges of action, or articulated milestones to demonstrate how they will achieve targets and objectives.

[Strategic Approach] and ICCM

- Visibility of the key sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) needs to be ensured in the objectives, targets and milestones/indicators, to create shared ownership and accountability.
- Approve the development of and monitor implementation of a multi-stakeholder/ multi-sectoral engagement strategy or protocol
- Convene thematic sector or stakeholder conferences of meetings before, during or immediately after the ICCM. Thematic sessions could include how sound chemicals management plays a role in achieving organizations' visions, priorities or goals.
- Set up agendas of meetings and events to the interest of stakeholders and sectors to attract participation of different sectors where more engagement is desired, for example, "sectoral forums" and or themed meetings;
- Establish a new bureau structure to strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement
- Increased funding for multi-sectoral governmental and NGO participation to include a more balanced representation
- Examine opportunities for funding for multi-sectoral activities
- Support their development of roadmaps or action plans (eg. Labour)
- Strengthen engagement of sectors beyond the environment sector in the development of [SAICM] milestones and activities
- Consider multi-sectoral collaboration in selection of issues of concern that warrant global action

Commented [AMRS1]: It could be inquired if there are proposals in this regard.

- ICCM could establish a system to issue awards and recognition for groups making efforts to implement SAICM and/or strengthen its multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder
- Support project activities on building national capacities in multi-sectoral management
- Review the role of national focal points and regional focal points with respect to multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement
- Consider the development of a communication plan to raise awareness at all levels of important issues and developments in the sound management of chemicals and waste (eg. Themed campaigns on specific issues)
- Consider the development of a “showcase” element of ICCM meetings or showcase conference in the intersessional years to highlight best practices and evidence of the benefits of multi-sectoral and multistakeholder action on SMCW.

Governments:

Building on existing cross-sectoral arrangements at the national level, enhanced effort is needed to understand and address institutional barriers and to share successes with regard, but not limited to:

- To garner high level support - Clear communication of the need, within national borders for sound management of chemicals and waste as a cross-cutting issue and identification of how SMCW supports sustainable development and is relevant to economic, social and environmental benefits (link to mainstreaming);
- Inter-ministerial committees and efforts to raise political awareness and sustain efforts across levels of government to support SAICM implementation domestically;
- Domestic policy priorities and solutions that include considerations across sectoral boundaries (for example, policy on pesticide use in agriculture considers the availability of poison control centres for accidental ingestion as well as sensitive ecological areas);
- Domestic engagement of multiple sectors and stakeholders relevant to these sectors as well as public consultation and outreach as part of the development and implementation of national chemicals management legislation and programs;
- Engagement by National Focal Points of multiple ministries (environment, natural resource, industry, health, agriculture, labour, development, social, education, economic/finance ministries) in SAICM activities and meetings as well as in meetings related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements, sectoral governing bodies (UNEA, WHA, ILO, etc.);
- Nomination of a broader number of sectors in country members of the bureau;
- Share tools, experiences and lessons learned in and provide incentives (awarding best practices) for multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement and public outreach and consultation in national programs;
- Develop or promote the development of standards and tools to mainstream sound chemicals management for governments and industry
- Develop and enforce legislation and regulations as needed

Commented [AMRS2]: In GRULAC we have discussed about the difficulties of multiple national focal points in terms of coordination. More elaboration is required.

Commented [AMRS3]: We don't understand this one.

Industry

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- Increased engagement of industrial stakeholders across the supply chain (producers, formulators, major user groups, retailers, disposer and recyclers of chemicals and products containing chemicals of potential concern);
- Engagement of a broader number of industrial sectors (agriculture, manufacturing, food production/distribution, electronics, textiles, plastics, etc.);
- Active support for SAICM initiatives, including high level public pledges and commitments, and/or 'road maps' indicating actions to be taken from associations or key industry players;
- Increased sectoral and lifecycle representation on an extended bureau
- Commit to targets or milestones and develop roadmaps, which are shared or reported
- Commit to achieving sector specific targets
- Develop and implement mentoring programmes

Non-governmental (NGO) stakeholders

- Increased engagement of NGO stakeholders across sectors, regions, and segments of society (women, consumer groups, children's health advocates, development charities, Academia, etc.);
- Active support for SAICM initiatives, including high level public pledges from key associations and or groups on key areas of action that NGOs will take to further engage and or raise awareness of their constituents/ communities;
- Increased NGO sectoral representation on an extended bureau

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) and their Secretariats

- Resolutions at MEA Conference of Parties (COPs) supporting the new Beyond 2020 framework and committing to support its objectives in areas within their own mandate
- In making funding decisions for its own activities and in supporting other funding initiatives for activities relevant to the MEAs (e.g. Special Program, GEF), consider the potential for also meeting [SAICM] objectives
- Regular reporting at ICCM and MEA COPs on activities of mutual interest and opportunities for collaboration; explore areas of reporting synergies/ sharing reporting data/ information where appropriate to avoid duplication and minimize the burden on stakeholders for reporting to multiple fora
- Consider opportunities for joint SAICM MEA secretariat and/or bureau meetings to discuss common areas of work;
- Participate on an extended SAICM bureau

Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)

- Resolutions at meeting of governing bodies for key IGOs (UNEA, WHA, ILO, FAO,) supporting the new Beyond 2020 framework and committing to support its objectives in areas within their own mandate.

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- As in 2006, a joint statement by the heads of IOMC IGOs supporting the Beyond 2020 framework.
- Dedicate the necessary funding to meeting [SAICM] objectives that fall within its mandate.
- Support efforts to find new sources of funds to support implementation of the [Strategic Approach] at the domestic and international level.
- Develop and implement with member countries sectoral work plans/road maps, implementation plans to support SAICM implementation.
- Collaborate in making connections between its stakeholder networks and sectoral contacts with those already involved in SAICM.
- Regular reporting at ICCM and IGO meetings on progress of activities of mutual interest and opportunities for collaboration.
- Consider opportunities for joint IGO/SAICM secretariat and/or bureau meetings to discuss common areas of work.
- Develop tools to support public, sectoral or stakeholder outreach
- Participate on an extended SAICM bureau [?]
- Mainstream sound chemicals management into programming to achieve organizational goals, such as ending world hunger, achieving universal health care, decent work for all, etc.

IOMC

- Strengthen role of the IOMC and its Participating Organisations in supporting SAICM enabling efforts within their sector and collectively.
- Lead and or Co-lead various SAICM initiatives where collaboration among members is needed for success;
- Co-facilitate SAICM meetings under a themed approach [for example, an ICCM session may be dedicated to have a special theme and additional discussion on a certain sector];
- Organize sectoral meetings/ forums/ networks on margins of ICCM or in support of development of positions for ICCM meetings;
- Undertake a study to compare the SAICM strategic objectives and targets against the work plans and commitments in the various IGOs with a view to highlight areas for synergies;
- Develop tools to support public, sectoral or stakeholder outreach;
- Participate on bureau.
- Generate evidence of the cross-sectoral benefits of collaborative efforts;

Regional collaboration

- Build up any existing regional structures to support chemicals management, in particular multi-sectoral venues
- Engagement of regional sectors and stakeholders in SAICM activities
- Development of regional action plans, which include multi-sectoral and multistakeholder considerations and support the overall stakeholder strategy.

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- Regions may also consider the development of communication strategy/ plans for their region as well as 'showcase' events to share lessons learned at the regional level.
- Harmonize legislative and regulatory systems meeting SAICM standards and objectives

SAICM Secretariat

- Upon request of ICCM, monitor implementation of the strategy and seek opportunities to engage with IGO, industry associations, downstream stakeholders, international sectoral events, etc. to increase awareness of SAICM
- Consult with national focal points to understand institutional barriers to multi-sectoral collaboration at national level with a view to determining if common tools could be developed under SAICM
- Examine opportunities for funding for multi-sectoral activities
- Establish a welcoming entry point at the SAICM website for stakeholders interested in engaging with the Strategic Approach
- Maintain information clearinghouse with multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement in mind, for example sharing information on the cross-sectoral benefits of achieving a specific goal through a multi-sectoral response

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Government, industry, IOMC, civil society organization, academia and other sectors and stakeholders may wish to establish commitment milestones or pledges under various strategic objectives or more generally in support of [SAICM] implementation.

The successes, challenges and opportunities for further multi-stakeholder and/multi-sectoral engagement should be a regular consideration in the undertaking of any [SAICM] activity. For example, in establishing an issue of concern [that warrants global action] SAICM participants should ask whether all of the relevant sectors or range of stakeholders with a stake in the issue have been engaged and seek their commitment to the goal of the issue work plan and to support its implementation.

The ICCM may wish to regularly review progress in implementation of the strategy and consider successes, lessons learned and any new challenges and opportunities on a regular basis.