

4th Meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2022

(Bucharest, 29 Aug - 2 Sep 2022)

Draft EU+MS statement on the agenda item 3 in plenary:

Development of recommendations for consideration by ICCM-5 for the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2022: Vision

Madam co-chair,

The EU&MS support that the vision is easy to understand, short and concise and is kept as close as possible to the SDG goal 12.4 and particularly taking into account SDG 3.9 too. The EU&MS are open to further discuss any proposals and we believe that we will find a text that will be generally understandable and that will easily express what we want to achieve in the future in the field of chemical and waste management.

Thank you,

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Draft EU+MS statement on the agenda item 3 in plenary:

Development of recommendations for consideration by ICCM-5 for the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2022: Targets

Madam co-chair,

The EU&MS appreciate the work of the Technical Working Group and of the Virtual Working group on targets, indicators and milestones, which took into account the outputs of the technical working group. Both groups have made significant progress and we believe that the outcome of the virtual working group presented in document SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1/Add.1 is a good basis for further discussion at this meeting.

We are of the view that it is crucial to make substantive progress on targets during this meeting. Therefore, sufficient time should be available for discussions in the respective thematic group and all participants should be ready to compromise in order to reach agreement on a set of targets at this meeting. Additional target proposals could be discussed in the thematic group. However, once draft targets have been developed, it will be useful to check whether and how those can be measured, through indicators and milestones.

The EU&MS support that targets should be drafted in accordance with the "SMART" approach, which e.g. means they should be impact focused and time-bound. However, as previous experience has shown, this approach is not always strictly applicable, and that "SMART" formulations are not necessarily raising political awareness. Thus, a balance must be sought so that this approach does not come at the expense of the clarity and meaningfulness of the given targets.

The EU&MS think that there should be the possibility to review and update the targets, milestones and indicators in the future, if appropriate and therefore it would be appropriate if they were included in an annex to the future framework.

Thank you,

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Draft EU+MS statement on the agenda item 3 in plenary:

Development of recommendations for consideration by ICCM-5 for the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2022: Strategic objectives

Madam co-chair,

The EU&MS believe that the strategic objectives need to be consistent to each other, focused and easy to understand.

Madam co-chair we appreciate your efforts in this regard for more understandable and communicable language and the proposals you presented during the regional meetings. We also appreciate the proposals of the IOMC presented in SAICM/IP.4/INF/18. We see benefits in both. We particularly consider the proposals from the IOMC to be a step in the right direction for the formulation of strategic objectives and support that these proposals be taken into account in the negotiations. We are ready to further discuss their use for a clearer formulation of the strategic objectives in the planned thematic group.

It is crucial that any rewording of the strategic objectives clearly reflects the aim of each objective, which has been discussed for a long time and maximizes the use of previously agreed text.

The strategic objectives should neither be expanded nor reduced in number and revisions should be considered to make them as clear and focused as possible. A short and precisely worded objective could be followed by a very short (3-4 lines) sub-title or explanation if that is found necessary and at an appropriate point in time, taking into account the many other issues of priority to be deliberated here in Bucharest.

Finally, we would like to emphasize that we consider objective C on Issues of concern a central element of the new framework. Therefore, we are in favour of keeping that objective. We believe that the mechanisms and processes for adoption and implementation of the issues of concern need to embrace their importance.

Thank you,

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Development of recommendations for consideration by ICCM-5 for the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2022: Scope

Madam co-chair,

The EU&MS support the scope to be broad and overarching, which takes fully into account chemicals and waste matters and lifecycle approaches throughout the value chain. The EU&MS support the reference to sustainable development and non-toxic circularity in the scope of the new framework. This is without prejudice to the fact that when specific issues (e.g. issues of concern) will be addressed, it will be necessary to determine the scope of the work for each issue.

The EU&MS fully support the text in the scope definition as proposed in the document because it reflects the importance of the involvement of sectors and stakeholders.

Thank you,

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Development of recommendations for consideration by ICCM-5 for the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2022: Principles and approaches

Madam co-chair,

The EU&MS consider the list of principles and approaches should be kept as short as possible and limited to those that are of high relevance for the framework. The list in the existing overarching policy strategy is a very good basis, but needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect the developments of the past 15 years.

Thank you,