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**Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4)**

Bucharest, Romania, 29 August – 2 September 2022, and  
Nairobi, Kenya, 27 February – 3 March 2023

## **Scenario note prepared by the co-chairs of the intersessional process**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The present scenario note, developed by the co-chairs of the intersessional process, Ms. Judith Torres (Uruguay) and Ms. Kay Williams (United Kingdom), outlines a proposed structure and flow for the resumed fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4) in order to achieve the objective, set out below.

2. As set out in resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), the task of the intersessional process is to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for consideration by ICCM5. The intersessional process is in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), including the related outcome document “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”<sup>1</sup> and other relevant UNEA resolutions<sup>2</sup>.

3. The overall objective of the fourth meeting is to finalize a comprehensive set of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, for consideration at the fifth session of the Conference in Bonn, Germany, to be held from 25 to 29 September 2023.

4. During the fourth intersessional process (IP 4) meeting held from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Bucharest, Romania, many essential elements of a recommended future instrument were incorporated into a single consolidated document. The language is now more understandable, clearer, and concise. Progress was made in reducing the number of targets and incorporating many new ideas and concepts raised since the third intersessional process (IP 3) meeting held in October 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. However, despite intensive efforts undertaken in Bucharest, it was not possible to complete the intersessional process (IP) mandate. Therefore, during the plenary session held on Friday, 2 September 2022, the IP Co-Chairs outlined a proposal to adjourn IP4 and resume in early 2023, with a view to concluding consideration of the IP4 agenda. This proposal was accepted by the participants.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/strengthening-sound-management-chemicals-and-waste-long-term>

<sup>2</sup> UNEA 4/8 and UNEA 5/7.

5. To inform and guide the organisation of work for the resumed IP4 meeting we launched a stakeholder consultation process in November – December 2022, with the following guiding questions:

- Does the consolidated text help us achieve our vision (understood in a broad sense, not limited to the text on vision in the single consolidated document)?
- What are the gaps, enhancements, or improvements to be made in the text?
- Does the text adequately strengthen and enhance sectoral and multistakeholder engagement and ownership including for the private sector?
- Could the placement of some text in the document be modified, or moved out of the consolidated text and into a resolution?
- What parts of the document could be considered static versus dynamic i.e., be more easily amended?

6. We also requested feedback on other possible resolutions needed from ICCM5, such as the adoption of the new instrument; and on a legal and technical (editorial) revision of the single consolidated document. Our analysis of the feedback received, as well as the submissions received are available [here](#).

7. Our consultation process provided us with a strong steer that the focus of the work at the resumed IP meeting should be on finalising the single consolidated document. However, stakeholders also agreed with the need to start discussing other recommendations for consideration by ICCM5, and we will undertake efforts to reflect this need in the work schedule at the resumed IP4 meeting.

8. Informed by the feedback from the consultation, we appreciate that the task before us at the resumed IP4 session remains immense. Stakeholders must remain ambitious in their approach as the resumed IP4 meeting is a critical milestone and the last opportunity to bring stakeholders together for face-to-face discussions to finalise the IP mandate. In response to the need for broad participation, the Bureau decided to increase the number of stakeholders eligible for funded participation at the resumed IP4 meeting. We encourage stakeholders from all stakeholder groups and sectors to participate.

## **II. Work at the adjourned IP4 meeting**

9. At the final day of the adjourned fourth meeting of the intersessional process in Bucharest, Romania, we captured the state of work on the IP recommendations for consideration at ICCM5 in a single consolidated document with a view to using the text as the basis of further work at the resumed meeting. This single consolidated document is included in document SAICM/IP.4/10.

## **III. Timing and organization of the resumed fourth meeting**

10. The resumed fourth meeting of the intersessional process will open at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 27 February 2023. On-site registration for the meeting will commence at 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 24 February 2023, and will be available throughout the week. The draft schedule is contained in Annex 1.

11. Technical briefings will precede the formal meeting on Saturday, 25 February 2023 and regional, stakeholder and sectoral meetings on Sunday, 26 February 2023. These briefings will provide stakeholders with information on important topics and activities to contribute to a successful outcome. The aim is to inform discussions throughout the rest of the week. An up-to-date programme with more detail will be made available to participants on the SAICM website ([www.saicm.org](http://www.saicm.org)).

12. This scenario note sets out our views on how best to finalize recommendations and our proposals for the organization of work at the resumed IP4 meeting. Our objective is to facilitate deliberations among participants to make tangible progress on each issue in plenary and, if necessary, through thematic and/or informal dialogues to reach a shared understanding, as far as possible, on final recommendations to forward to the fifth session of the Conference. We expect to resolve outstanding issues and clean the text, to the extent possible.

13. In structuring plenary discussions, we plan to address issues in the order in which they are presented in the agenda (SAICM/IP.4/1/Rev.1) and the annotated agenda (SAICM/IP.4/Add.1/Rev.2).

14. During the plenary discussion under agenda item 3, we will go through document SAICM/IP.4/10. We request participants to focus their interventions only on the specific topic being discussed at the time.

15. The daily morning and afternoon sessions will take place between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., as well as 3.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. Stock-taking of progress in a plenary setting will take place during the week and will be announced in advance. Further decisions on the organization of work will be taken as needed.

16. We would also like to remind participants that the rules of procedure of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the work and proceedings of this fourth meeting. As set out in Conference Resolution IV/4, the meeting will be conducted in English only.

17. Meeting documents were made available in advance of the meeting to give stakeholders opportunity to provide input, and to enable all participants to come to the meeting well prepared for a successful outcome so that together we can finalize recommendations to be presented to the fifth session of the Conference.

18. The resumed meeting will take place in a face-to-face mode. However, the web streaming will support broader stakeholders' involvement. No registration will be required to access the web streaming and online observers will not be included in the IP4 list of participants. Information on live web streaming will be circulated to SAICM Stakeholders in advance of the meeting. Information on the daily programme of web streaming will be provided on the IP4 meeting webpage under the section Schedule and will be projected on the screens at the meeting venue.

#### **IV. Proposed in session work at the resumed IP4**

19. The aim of the discussions to finalise the IP mandate is to provide a comprehensive set of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for consideration by the fifth session of the Conference. As noted through the IP Co-Chairs consultation process, the single consolidated document, document SAICM/IP.4/10, is only a part of this set of recommendations, but that finalising discussion on this part of the mandate should be the focus of work at the resumed IP4 meeting.

20. To this end, we propose that the IP Co-Chairs single consolidated document, document SAICM/IP.4/10, be used as the basis for discussions at the resumed IP4 meeting. In addition, the meeting may wish to consider proposals for the name of a new instrument as presented in document SAICM/IP.4/8/Rev.1 and additional proposed recommendations to forward to the fifth session of the Conference, and how these will be addressed.

21. Depending on progress in plenary, thematic groups may be mandated to finalise outstanding issues and any intersessional work between the resumed IP4 meeting and ICCM5.

22. We are still considering the composition of the thematic groups for the resumed IP4 meeting. However, following the IP Co-Chairs consultation process, thematic groups may need to address targets; mechanisms to support implementation, including taking stock of progress and capacity building; programmes and Issues of Concern; and financial considerations.
23. Should there be a need for additional thematic groups, these may be established as needed. Taking into account the limited time and the size of delegations, there will be no more than two thematic groups at a time.
24. Informal dialogues on specific topics may be convened as necessary. To address some of the overarching issues raised in the IP Co-Chairs consultation process we propose the establishment of an informal Friends of the Co-Chairs to consider the overall structure of the single consolidated document and how any gaps, as well as additional recommendations may be addressed. We will request regions and stakeholder groups to nominate a limited number of representatives to participate in this group to keep it manageable.
25. We intend to give the thematic groups and possible informal dialogues very clear and concise mandates to enable the opportunity for participants to discuss in detail the specific topics needed to finalise recommendations.
26. We would also like to remind stakeholders that a thorough legal and technical editing of the outcome text will take place after the resumed IP4 meeting for consideration by ICCM5.

## **V. Key deliverables for resumed IP4**

27. The key outcome at this resumed fourth meeting is a finalised single consolidated document that presents the core of the comprehensive set of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for consideration at the fifth session of the Conference. In addition, the meeting may wish to develop text for related additional recommendations to be forwarded to ICCM5 or decide how to address these, as well as agree on any possible intersessional work between IP4 and ICCM5.
28. We would like participants to recall that following the resumed fourth meeting of the intersessional process, and in advance of the fifth session of the Conference, regional meetings are proposed be held in mid-2023. These meetings would be intended to support the different regions in their preparations for the fifth session of the Conference.
29. We encourage participants to arrive with a constructive spirit, so we can make significant progress at this resumed fourth, and final, meeting of the intersessional process.
30. In conclusion, we very much look forward to working together with you and achieving a successful outcome at this resumed fourth meeting of the intersessional process in Nairobi, Kenya.

Judith Torres (Uruguay) & Kay Williams (United Kingdom)  
Co-chairs of the intersessional process

## Annex 1: Draft schedule

	Saturday <sup>3</sup> 25 February	Sunday 26 February	Monday 27 February	Tuesday 28 February	Wednesday 1 March	Thursday 2 March	Friday 3 March
8.00 – 9.00 am			IP Co-Chairs consultation meeting	IP Co-Chairs consultation meeting	IP Co-Chairs consultation meeting	IP Co-Chairs consultation meeting	IP Co-Chairs consultation meeting
9.00 - 10.00 am		IP Co-Chairs consultation meeting	Regional & Stakeholder Groups meetings	Regional & Stakeholder Groups meetings	Regional & Stakeholder Groups meetings	Regional & Stakeholder Groups meetings	Regional & Stakeholder Groups meetings
10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Technical Briefing	Regional and Stakeholder Groups meetings	<b>Agenda Item 1</b> <b>Agenda Item 2</b> <b>Agenda Item 3</b>	<b>Agenda Item 3</b> <i>continued</i>	<b>Agenda Item 3</b> <i>continued</i>	<b>Agenda Item 3</b> <i>continued</i>	<b>Agenda Item 3</b> <i>continued</i>
1.00 pm - 3.00 pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
3.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Technical Briefing	Regional and Stakeholder Groups meetings	<b>Agenda Item 3</b> <i>continued</i>	<b>Agenda Item 3</b> <i>continued</i>	<b>Agenda Item 3</b> <i>continued</i>	<b>Agenda Item 3</b> <i>continued</i>	<b>Agenda Item 4</b> <b>Agenda Item 5</b> <b>Agenda Item 6</b>
4.30 pm - 6.00 pm	IP Co-Chairs Scene setting						
6:30 pm - onwards							<b>Bureau meeting</b> <b>6.30 pm – 8.00 pm</b>

<sup>3</sup> Information about other events taking place back-to-back with the resumed IP4 meeting to be added.