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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,  
Nairobi, Kenya, 27 February – 3 March 2023, and  
Bonn, Germany, 23 – 24 September 2023

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

1. We, as co-chairs of the intersessional process, present this scenario note to outline 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. Sessions of the fourth meeting of the intersessional process were held in Bucharest, Romania in August-September 2022 and in Nairobi, Kenya in February-March 2023. On Friday, 3 March 2022, the IP4 meeting accepted our proposal that the fourth meeting of the intersessional process be adjourned, and reconvened on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 September 2023, two days before the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Bonn, to conclude considerations of the IP4 agenda.
3. We strongly believe that to achieve our common goal, the resumed IP4 meeting should focus on finalizing to the extent possible the consolidated text, SAICM/IP.4/12<sup>1</sup>, for inclusion in the intersessional process report for presentation to the Conference.
4. As agreed in Nairobi, new conference room papers or new proposals related to the consolidated text will not be taken on board, although we will accept necessary revisions to existing papers or proposals. In addition, since this session is carried over from Nairobi there will be NO statements, rather it will be a very intense working session so we can reach our common goal to provide clear and coherent recommendations.
5. We also proposed in Nairobi that in terms of preparation of considerations for the Conference itself, the mandate is given to the Secretariat to prepare, under our guidance, a limited number of additional recommendations for draft resolutions, in line with [ICCM4 resolution IV/4](#). These are available in SAICM/IP.4/13: Draft Resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session. Owing to the priority focus on the finalization of the consolidated text, it is proposed that these draft resolutions be transmitted directly for consideration at the fifth session of the International Conference and not be discussed at this resumed IP meeting.
6. The task before us at the resumed IP4 meeting remains substantial given the additional time pressure to finalize the work in only two days. Nevertheless, stakeholders must remain ambitious

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<sup>1</sup> SAICM/IP.4/12 contains the consolidated text extracted from the annex of the report of the IP4 meeting that was held in Nairobi (SAICM/IP.4/11).

in their approach as the resumed IP4 meeting is the last opportunity to bring stakeholders together for face-to-face discussions to finalise the IP mandate and create a framework instrument fit for the future.

7. At the 27<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting on 22-23 June 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland, together with Bureau members, we agreed on a way forward to ICCM 5. This included a series of virtual regional briefings in July 2023 to explain the timelines and activities in the lead up to IP 4.3. While the consolidated document remains the basis of discussion at the resumed IP4 meeting, we explained that we would prepare some non-papers, with the support of the co-facilitators and secretariat, to facilitate the achievement of consensus at the resumed IP4 meeting in Bonn. A second series of virtual regional briefings will be organized in September 2023 following the publication of the non-papers ahead of the resumed IP4 meeting.

8. Face to face regional meetings will be convened back-to-back with the resumed IP4 meeting, on 21 and 22 September 2023 and should be used to gain consensus on those issues where there are divergent views. We will make ourselves available to interact with stakeholders at these meetings to provide further information or clarity on important topics and activities to contribute to a successful outcome of the meeting.

9. 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. The resumed meeting will take place in a face-to-face mode.

10. The resumed fourth meeting of the intersessional process will open at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, 23 September 2023. The daily morning and afternoon sessions will take place from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., and from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Further decisions on the organization of work will be taken as needed.

11. 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.3).

12. A draft overview schedule can be found in the Annex to this scenario note. 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)).

13. During the plenary discussion under agenda item 3, we will go through document SAICM/IP.4/12 with a view to reach agreement on the substance and structure of the consolidated text.

14. Break out groups may be established to clear and finalize text on outstanding issues, as necessary. The specific mandates for such groups will be decided on an *ad hoc* basis according to needs. The outcomes of any such groups will be presented to plenary for agreement.

15. The key outcome at this resumed fourth meeting is a finalised 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. The consolidated document will be transmitted to the Conference at the close of the resumed fourth meeting of the intersessional process, on Sunday, 24 September 2023.

16. We encourage participants to arrive well prepared, with a constructive disposition and a spirit of cooperation, so we can successfully finalize the intersessional process work and present a recommended text to the fifth session of the Conference that is forward looking and will create a

transformational contribution to the protection of human health and environment from the adverse effects of chemicals and waste.

17. In conclusion, we very much look forward to working together with you and achieving a successful outcome at this resumed and final fourth meeting of the intersessional process in Bonn, Germany.

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

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## Annex 1: Draft schedule

	Saturday 23 September	Sunday 24 September
8.00 – 8.45 am	IP Co-Chairs consultation meeting	IP Co-Chairs consultation meeting
8.45 - 9.30 am		Regional & Stakeholder Groups meetings
9.30 am – 11.30 am	Agenda Item 1 Agenda Item 2	Agenda Item 3 <i>continued</i>
11.30 am - 1.00 pm	Agenda Item 3	Agenda Item 3 <i>continued</i>
1.00 pm - 2.00 pm	Lunch	Lunch
2.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Agenda Item 3 <i>continued</i>	Agenda Item 3 <i>continued</i>
4.30 pm - 6.00 pm	Agenda Item 3 <i>continued</i>	Agenda Item 4 Agenda Item 5 Agenda Item 6
6.30 pm - onwards	Agenda Item 3 <i>continued (if needed)</i>	