

---

**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference  
on Chemicals Management**

**Second meeting**

Geneva, 15–17 December 2014

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Sustainable development goals and sound management of  
chemicals beyond 2020**

## **Sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of the sustainable development goals**

### **Note by the secretariat**

1. The secretariat has the honour to refer to the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970), in which the Working Group proposed 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets. The report was submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session for consideration and appropriate action. On 10 September 2014, the Assembly adopted resolution 68/309, in which it decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report should be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly.
2. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, Heads of State and Government called for the establishment of an open working group to develop a set of sustainable development goals that should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.
3. The proposed sustainable development goals are accompanied by targets and will be further elaborated through indicators focused on measurable outcomes. They build on the foundation laid by the Millennium Development Goals, seek to complete the unfinished business of those Goals and respond to new challenges. The proposed goals constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development. Targets are defined as aspirational global targets, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition, but taking into account national circumstances. The goals and targets integrate economic, social and environmental aspects and recognize their interlinkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions.
4. Air pollution and the health impacts of chemical hazards and pollution are clearly targeted in the proposed health-related goal, while the sound management of hazardous chemicals and waste is referred to in a number of the proposed targets, including those related to water resources and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

---

\* SAICM/OEWG.2/1.

5. Together with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the proposed sustainable development goals provide an opportunity to foster a collaborative approach to sound chemicals management, including within the framework of the Strategic Approach.

6. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to reflect on the advantages of explicit inclusion of the successful implementation of the Strategic Approach as a measure to achieve many of the targets for sustainable development goals in the post-2015 development agenda. It may also wish to reflect on how the proposed sustainable development goals can provide new impetus to catalyse the implementation of sound chemicals management at the country level, to further support the implementation of existing international regimes and to establish priorities towards a comprehensive approach to sound chemicals management as an essential condition for achieving sustainable development.

---