



SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/22

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

Second meeting

Geneva, 15–17 December 2014

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**Progress and gaps towards the achievement of the 2020
goal of sound chemicals management**

**United Nations system-wide support in achieving the sound
management of chemicals and wastes**

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a report received from the United Nations Environment Management Group on United Nations system-wide support in achieving the sound management of chemicals and wastes (see annex). The report is reproduced as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

* SAICM/OEWG.2/1.

Annex

United Nations system-wide support in achieving sound management of chemicals and wastes

Information Note

Background

In response to the Rio+20 outcome and decisions of various intergovernmental processes such as the chemicals-related MEAs that have called for a more systematic approach for cooperation and coordination in the implementation of chemicals-related agreements and instruments, the UN Environment Management Group (EMG), a UN system-wide coordination body on environmental issues, set up an ad-hoc Issue Management Group (IMG) composed of 16 UN and related agencies¹ in January 2014 to provide a coherent system-wide support to the work towards achieving the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

The IMG on the sound management of chemicals and wastes has a time-bound mandate, building upon and complementing the on-going work of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the knowledge and experiences of other UN and related agencies to:

- raise the priority given to chemicals management in the broader UN system
- promote integration of chemicals management issues in the context of economic and social development planning, and
- ensure additional synergies between UN organizations in supporting countries in activities to achieve the 2020 goal. The IMG also contributes to enhancing the profile of chemicals and wastes in the discussions on the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.

Once its mandate has been completed, the IMG will cease to exist.

Focus and deliverables

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the IMG were prepared in cooperation with the IOMC and focus on the following main functions, taking into account relevant inter-agency and inter-governmental processes:

1) Joint input to indicators and targets for the SDGs on chemicals and waste

In close consultation with the IOMC, the IMG prepared a set of key composite targets and indicators in the area of sound management of chemicals and waste as a joint input by the UN system to the negotiations of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building on the existing contributions of its members, the IMG put forward a set of targets and indicators that could underpin, as appropriate, relevant goals. The list of suggested targets and indicators was delivered to the Open Working Group on SDGs in the beginning of May 2014 and can be downloaded at www.unemg.org.

¹ For a list of member agencies, please see the Annex to this Note.

2) Enhancing synergy in achieving the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals

The IMG is currently undertaking a mapping of activities and initiatives in the UN system that contribute to the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals and waste management either directly or indirectly, including conducting a survey, collecting information, and preparing a synthesis report on UN system and other relevant agencies contributions and perspectives on the sound management of chemicals and wastes. An important component of this work is to canvass the views of a wide-range of agencies on chemicals and waste-related issues and making use of information already generated by the IOMC or in the context of the SAICM process.

The survey yielded responses from 24 agencies to date, including 8 IOMC organizations and 16 non-IOMC members. The collected data will be analyzed with the view to provide recommendations on how to achieve additional synergies between different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system, in order to enhance the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals.

Contribution to ICCM-4

The result of the mapping exercise will be considered by the IMG as a basis for a possible UN system-wide contribution to 4th International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-4) in 2015. By proposing recommendations on how to achieve additional synergies between different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system, the synthesis report could provide insights into how the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals could be enhanced, as well as contribute to the “Overall Orientation and Guidance towards the 2020 Goal” that is under development in the SAICM context.

Based on the results from the mapping exercise, the senior officials of the Environment Management Group (EMG) may decide to engage in joint and consistent messaging to reinforce the communication to ICCM-4 and other relevant fora and stakeholders on the measures needed to support the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals and wastes.

Further information

Further information about the tasks and issues discussed in the IMG is available at:

<http://www.unemg.org/issue-management-groups/sound-management-of-chemicals-and-waste>, where the IMG Terms of Reference and meeting minutes can be found.

Annex

List of members of the Issue Management Group on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste

1. Department of Field Support (DFS)
 2. Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 3. International Labour Organization (ILO)
 4. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
 5. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
 6. Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)
 7. The World Bank
 8. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 9. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
 10. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 11. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 12. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
 13. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
 14. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
 15. United Nations University (UNU)
 16. World Health Organization (WHO)
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