

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

First Technical Briefing: Welcome and overview with the ICCM5 President and Intersessional Process (IP) Co-chairs.

Thursday, 22 October 2020 Session 1: 12:00-14:00 CET and Session 2: 16:00-18:00 CET

Q1: Is the participation at the Virtual Working Groups open to all stakeholders?

Answer: Yes, the participation is open to all stakeholders.

Q2: How can stakeholders register to participate at a Virtual Working Group?

Answer: Information on the registration procedure was sent to SAICM Focal Points. The registration closed on 22 October 2020 and will remain open until 31 October 2020 to accommodate late registrations. Please contact the SAICM Secretariat [via email](#) for further information and support.

Q3: Can one stakeholder join multiple Virtual Working Groups?

Answer: Yes, stakeholders are invited to participate at all four VWGs. You can find the schedules for each VWG on the [SAICM website](#).

Q4: How will written comments and contributions be incorporated and dealt with?

Answer: The co-facilitators have been asked to facilitate a dialogue to develop and consult on proposals that build and enhance the understanding of the issues under discussion. They have developed detailed [schedules](#) that outline how the written comments and contributions will be incorporated and dealt with.

Q5: The four Virtual Working Groups differ in the number of sessions scheduled. Is this due to the amount of work or will additional sessions be added to the existing ones along the way?

Answer: The co-facilitators were asked to develop a proposal for the work of the VWG to address the mandates agreed by the ICCM5 Bureau. There is no one right answer to how that should be done. Each VWG will deal with topics that are different in nature, and the reason why different approaches were used. The ICCM5 Bureau and IP Co-chairs wanted to provide maximum flexibility to the co-facilitators. The schedules may be subject to adjustments as the virtual work advances.

Q6: When will the Virtual Working Group meetings take place and how many meetings will be conducted?

Answer: The work of the VWGs will start on 22 October 2020 and run until late January / mid-February 2021. The schedules for each of the VWGs are available on the [SAICM website](#).

Q7: (Directed to ICCM5 President Ms. Sahler): Is the High-level Declaration informal Drafting Group¹ open to NGO participation and what are the TOR for the group?

Answer: Three representatives from each region, sector and stakeholder group were nominated to the High-level Declaration Informal Drafting Group. All SAICM stakeholders have been invited to contribute to developing the elements of the High-level Declaration and the deadline for submissions was 29 October 2020. Thereafter, the ICCM5 President will consult with the 2 co-facilitators (Ms. Kay Williams, UK and Angela Rivera, Colombia) on the process and schedule for developing the proposed High-level Declaration. Please visit the [SAICM website](#) for more information.

¹ Participant referred to the ‘Friends of the President Group’ that is currently called the ‘High-level Declaration Informal Drafting Group’.

Q8: Will all participants of the Virtual Working Groups be able to speak during the meetings or will a spokesperson be appointed for each actor or stakeholder group?

Answer: There will be no appointed focal points. Every registered participant will have the possibility to speak during the virtual meetings and submit written inputs. Participants are encouraged to coordinate in advance and reflect their opinions by convening a single message from a Government or Organisation.

Q9: Will it be possible to have a participant list for each Virtual Working Group including an email address to be able to liaise with each other?

Answer: A list of participants will be uploaded on the website for each VWG, which will include the name and affiliation. If participants give their consent, the list of participants including email addresses can be shared via email.

Q10: Could the timing of the Virtual Working Group meetings be arranged considering the different time zones of the participants?

Answer: The co-facilitators of the VWGs in close communication with the SAICM Secretariat will do their best to facilitate the virtual meetings considering the different time zones. If a participant cannot join a meeting due to this or any other reason, there are other opportunities to provide written input. Please study the VWG schedules [online](#) to find out when and how written input can be submitted.

Q11: Will alternative text be proposed, or brackets be removed from the current text during the work of the VWGs and hence diminish the role of a face-to-face IP4 and ICCM5?

Answer: The VWGs are not intended to replace formal face-to-face discussions at IP4 and/or negotiations that will take place at ICCM5 but rather are intended to further build understanding and prepare delegates for these important negotiations. The VWGs will develop and consult on proposals that build and enhance the understanding of the issues under discussion. VWG proposals may (i) address identified gaps; (ii) present possible compromise text; or (iii) propose new or alternative text, as appropriate that could be considered at IP4 and ICCM5. A summary document will be developed for each VWG reflecting the views expressed. These documents will be considered at IP4. However, the outcome of IP3 presented in document [IP.4/2 Compilation of recommendations](#) remain the basis for negotiations at IP4.

Q12: In which form will the results of the Virtual Working Groups be presented to the participants of the fourth meeting of the Intersessional Process (IP4)?

Answer: The outcomes of the VWGs will be presented as Annexes/Addendum to IP.4/2 and as information documents.

Q13: Can stakeholders propose documents to be added to the list of background documents for the VWGs such as for example the recently released UNEP report on Issues of Concern?

Answer: Recently published documents prepared by different stakeholders can contribute to the discussions in the VWGs. If agreed by the co-facilitators these documents can be included in the pre-session background documents for each VWG.

Q14: Will UNEP and WHO play a key role in the SAICM Secretariat?

Answer: UNEP hosts the SAICM Secretariat, including the provision of secretariat staff and administrative support. The SAICM Secretariat works closely with [IOMC organisations](#) including the WHO.