VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

SET OF QUESTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC FEEDBACK No. 2  _  ICCA response

TOPICS: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, FINANCING THE SECRETARIAT, RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND COST-RECOVERY MECHANISMS AND OTHER ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

Note: Please submit your responses/feedback to the questions below to the SAICM Secretariat at saicm.chemicals@un.org, with a copy to eduardo.calderapetit@un.org on or before Friday, 11 December 2020. You may use this word document to submit your inputs and can use track changes if needed. Please indicate your name and organization.

A) STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

(i) Views on the purpose and objectives of strategic partnerships to support the implementation of the beyond 2020 programme of work;

ICCA response: ICCA continues to welcome opportunities for partnership with stakeholders on specific projects that advance the sound management of chemicals and waste by providing in-kind as well as financial contributions. SAICM provides for an excellent platform for establishing meaningful partnerships between key stakeholders. These partnerships should: 1) fill a clear need, 2) define goals and milestones that address the five Strategic Objectives, 3) define roles and responsibilities for each stakeholders involved, and above all, 4) includes a mechanism that ensures commitment by the stakeholders involved.

One of the current SAICM challenges is the lack of a (basic) chemicals regulatory framework in each country. While there are examples of successful collaboration between industry and regulators, these efforts could be elevated by providing a more prominent role to national and regional entities (like industry associations where they exist, companies, but also UN regional offices) to support governments to set up basic chemicals regulatory systems. For example, the recently established Latin American Regulatory Cooperation Forum (LARCF) brings together key regulators, industry representatives, and other stakeholders in the Latin American region to jointly define and achieve the actions leading to basic regulatory frameworks in the region. Such a forum may also be replicated to other regions and could be more “formalized” in partnerships. A similar forum, ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Forum, has operated in the ASEAN Economic Community. Additionally, ICCA is partnering with like-minded stakeholders to establish “a global GHS Partnership”, led by UNITAR/ILO/OECD for achieving global GHS implementation, a key basic element towards achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Another example is the MoU between ICCA and UNEP where both are committed to ensure funding the SAICM secretariat and to conduct joint projects related to the Strategic Objectives (SO).

(ii) Views on text SAICM/IP.4/2, page 16, paragraph 17. Views are requested only on the brackets, noting that discussions on some of the brackets are taking place in other Virtual Working Groups.

Paragraph 17: Stakeholders are encouraged to create and implement multi-sectoral [transparent and accountable] partnerships [linked to the 2030 Agenda] to effectively address specific
chemicals and waste [issues of [international] concern]. Stakeholders are also encouraged to explore funding opportunities by engaging mechanisms in all sectors.¹

ICCA response: We support partnerships to effectively address specific chemicals and waste issues, linked to the Strategic Objectives and Targets under the Beyond 2020 framework, and not limiting the scope of the partnerships to “issues of concern”.

B) FINANCING THE SECRETARIAT

(i) Views on the modalities (core budget and contributions of all stakeholders) for financing the Secretariat;

(ii) Indicate your views on text SAICM/IP.4/2, page 16, paragraphs 18 - 22.

ICCA response below.

Paragraph 18: ICCA remains committed to financially contributing to SAICM secretariat and invites contributions from other private sector and other SAICM stakeholders. We suggest that voluntary contributions are open to all SAICM stakeholders and not only governments and industry as now mentioned in the text. The paragraph now only focuses on financial contributions, and we support the paper by Switzerland during IP3 that there may be other creative solutions all stakeholders can take into account, including secondments as mentioned in the paper. Therefore, the proposed new text should read “The core budget is financed by voluntary contributions from the government, industry, and other SAICM stakeholders.”

Paragraph 19: text is regarding government stakeholders. ICCA supports

Paragraph 20: text is regarding IGO stakeholders. ICCA supports

Paragraph 21: text is regarding industry stakeholders. We note that paragraphs 20, 21 and 22 should use the same wordings when elaborating on possible contributions: “contribute in kind through human resources, including through secondments as appropriate, hosting meetings or contribution for production and dissemination of outputs of the beyond 2020 instrument”

Paragraph 22:

C) RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

(i) General views on the proposed resource mobilization strategy (SAICM/IP.4/6) so that it may be further developed for IP4/ICCM5.

Please provide short statements or proposals on the following sections:

(i) proposed role of the SAICM Secretariat beyond 2020

ICCA response: Perhaps an area of improvement is the role of SAICM secretariat as a “Knowledge and Information Clearinghouse”. There are many good initiatives, documents and materials available that it has become a challenge, in particular for developing countries, to know where to start in their journey of safe chemicals management. The “Communities in practice” is a very good start.

¹ Please note that the brackets [linked to the 2030 Agenda] and [issues of [international] concern] are subject to discussions in other Virtual Working Groups.
Another area we see a room for improvement is the connectivity with regional and national agencies/institutions/entities, not only with the UN regional institutions, but also with and among those of other key stakeholders, including industries. Concretely, it is suggested that the SAICM secretariat supports regional initiatives undertaken by stakeholders with the aim to achieve sound chemicals and waste management. The text on page 4(i) could then read as follows: “To support the functioning of technical, policy and scientific subsidiary, ad hoc expert bodies and partnerships established by the international conference;

(ii) proposed strategy and mapping of stakeholder groups

ICCA response: ICCA supports the way forward with the various stakeholders as outlined in the paper (SAICM/IP.4/6). One missing element in the proposed strategy is how to ensure that these actions/capacity building efforts/financial contributions are not standalone actions but actually make part of a Masterplan.

(iii) outreach and communications

ICCA response: We support the text in the paper (SAICM/IP.4/6). Perhaps we could increase our communication outreach on successful partnerships more broadly in order for similar good additional partnerships could be established. The earlier provided example on LARCF is very much welcomed by those stakeholders that are directly involved in Latin American region. We could leverage this work jointly conducted by regulators and industry also in other regions where the need for safe chemicals management is the biggest.

(iv) additional lessons learned to inform the further drafting of the proposed resource mobilization strategy

ICCA response: ICCA believes that the communications strategy should go beyond resource mobilization and address achieving the five SO. It should address all audiences (from others then chemical industry in the private sector to the general public and high level officials) and considering all channels with the aim to not only gathering more resources but to raising awareness, which is a key driver for attracting more resources. We recommend that such a strategy should be presented to SAICM stakeholders for approval and that KPIs are developed to evaluate implementation and efficiency.

D) COST-RECOVERY MECHANISMS AND OTHER ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

(i) General views on the cost recovery mechanisms and other economic instruments for financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste (SAICM/IP.4/7) so that it may be further developed for IP4/ICCM5.

ICCA response: In our view, it is utmost important to establish fee-based chemical management systems in each country. It is critical for countries to prioritize the funding of chemical management and ensure that fees collected through chemical management systems are dedicated and proportionate for their intended purpose and not redirected to other government priorities.

ICCA notes that are many tools developed by UNEP, governments, and industry that can help guide developing countries in setting up such systems and that support for the development of chemical management systems should be a high priority for capacity building projects.
Background documents:

SAICM/IP.4/2 Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, for consideration by the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

SAICM/IP.4/6 Draft proposal for a resource mobilization strategy

SAICM/IP.4/7 Review of cost recovery mechanisms and other economic instruments for financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste