VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

SET OF QUESTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC FEEDBACK No. 2

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 PARTNERSHIP

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

- Rapid, pervasive and constant era of change and transformation in facing environmental issues and challenges necessitates that any partnership should consider requirements of such a dynamic time and incorporate possible coming changes and their consequences into its programs and agenda.

- Strengthening a coordinated framework of action at the international level among partnerships, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the Environmental Management Group (EMG) mechanism to promote sound management of chemicals would be highly essential.

(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 at regional and international level [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

Commented [A1]: We support keeping the brackets. Linking the partnerships to 2030 agenda is not necessarily useful because 2030 SDG are long term, while stakeholders usually need to benefit from the partnerships in mid and short terms.

Commented [A2]: We support keeping the brackets. Issues of concern in chemicals and wastes needs to be clearly defined based on the agreement of the stakeholders and outcome of ongoing negotiations.

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.

¹Please note that the brackets [linked to the 2030 Agenda] and [issues of [international] concern] are subject to discussions in other Virtual Working Groups.
Paragraph 18:
1. A core budget for the beyond 2020 instrument is identified covering staff costs for non-seconded staff, office costs and travel costs, for the secretariat, conference services and meetings. The core budget is financed by voluntary contributions from the government and industry stakeholders.

Paragraph 19:
2. Before the start of each year the secretariat invites each government stakeholder, via its national focal point, to make a voluntary financial contribution and provides a figure showing what that contribution would be according to the UN scale of assessment. Countries that are in a position to do so are encouraged to contribute at least this amount taking to account the above scale.

Paragraph 20:
3. Inter-governmental Organization stakeholders support the work of the secretariat inter alia by contributing human resources, including through secondment as appropriate, and sector related work of the secretariat. The expected contributions are defined at the beginning of the budget cycle by an agreement between the respective organization and the secretariat.

Paragraph 21:
4. Private sector stakeholders support the work of the secretariat through a substantial voluntary financial contributions. Private sector stakeholders may also contribute in kind through human resources, including through secondments, hosting meetings, support for production and dissemination of outputs of the beyond 2020 instrument. The expected contributions are defined at the beginning of the budget cycle by an agreement between the respective organization and the secretariat.

Paragraph 22:
5. Civil society stakeholders support the work of the secretariat inter alia by contributing human resources, including through secondments, hosting meetings or contribution for production and dissemination of outputs of the beyond 2020 instrument. The expected contributions are defined at the beginning of the budget cycle by an agreement between the respective organization and the secretariat.

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

- Certain proposed roles of the SAICM Secretariat beyond 2020, including organising of the International Conference every two years and increased staffing of the Secretariat, needs to be considered along with outcome of the ICCM-5 Virtual Working Group on governance.
We are of the view that the SAICM’s Secretariat principal role is to facilitate and support the stakeholders in implementation of SAICM beyond 2020. This can be fulfilled by acting as a coordinating hub (focal point) for training, dissemination of authoritative information, etc. In light of challenges facing the SAICM stakeholders, it is essential that the SAICM’s Secretariat play its role in a way to ensure an enhanced and effective international cooperation and collaboration which is needed for implementation of the objectives of SAICM. Therefore and taking into account of the lessons learnt between 2006-2020, SAICM’s Secretariat should act differently and go beyond current traditional practice of Secretariats.

(i) proposed strategy and mapping of stakeholder groups

The mechanism for implementation of proposed actions for certain stakeholders needs to be better defined. For examples for “Developed Countries” stakeholders it is not clear how the new commitment from high and middle-income countries would be gained (proposed action b)? Or regarding “Industry Association and Business” (proposed action b); to increase the direct financial contribution from private sector needs more elaboration.

(ii) outreach and communications

Enhancement of outreach and communication activities for general public and focal points is not sufficient. National institutions responsible for chemicals and wastes management also need to be included in the working programs of such activities.

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

In section 6: “conclusions and lessons learned in moving forward” Additional lessons learned”, there is a mention of an increased contribution of industry since 2015. We suggest secretariat develop a report on this matter considering some stakeholders emphasize on the need for enhancement of industry contribution in SAICM beyond 2020.

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.

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