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 PARTNERSHIPS

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

(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

B) FINANCING THE SECRETARIAT

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

Comments by Norway:

It is important that the feature of the Beyond 2020 Instrument as at multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder platform is reflected in the financial agreement. The evaluation of SAICM concluded that the work of the secretariat has been hampered by capacity constraints, due to lack of funds. The secretariat must have adequate resources, and a broader range of donors must contribute in order to provide a more sustainable base. But the different circumstances of different countries, different sectors, and different non-government stakeholders must also be taken into account. Financial contributions will be necessary to pay for core activities, but contributions in kind and contributions of experts’ time and knowledge will also play a key role in achieving objectives.

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

Paragraph 18: Norway thinks the core budget should include subsidiary bodies that might be established, and any outreach and knowledge activity, such as running a web site.

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.
Paragraph 19: Norway agrees

Paragraph 20: Norway agrees

Paragraph 21: Norway agrees

Paragraph 22: Norway agrees

C) RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

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

Comments by Norway: As pointed out above, the evaluation of SAICM showed that the secretariat has been hampered by capacity constraints. The actions proposed in the proposed resource mobilization will acquire substantial capacity by the secretariat. Norway welcomes the proposed strategy, but underlines the need to first agree on a model for sound financing of the secretariat.

Please provide short statements or proposals on the following sections:

(i) proposed role of the SAICM Secretariat beyond 2020

(ii) proposed strategy and mapping of stakeholder groups

(iii) outreach and communications

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

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.

Comments by Norway: Norway welcomes the review of cost recovery mechanisms and other economic instruments for financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste (SAICM/IP.4/7).

When Norway made steps to drastically limit pollution from 1970 and onwards, regulation implementing the polluter pays principle was the essential component of the approach. Asking taxpayers to finance
measures or seeking funding from other sources would have represented a value transfer from these sources to shareholders of the polluting industries. It proved possible to maintain employment levels in industry while still reducing pollution.

This view still guides Norway's approach to financing. Support from dedicated external financing should be directed to institutional strengthening to facilitate mainstreaming and private sector involvement, notably through enforcing regulation based on the polluter pays principle.

**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