Written views of the EU and its Member States regarding SAICM beyond 2020

Virtual Working Group on Governance and Mechanisms to support implementation

The Co-facilitators of the Virtual Working Group on Governance and Mechanisms to support Implementation requested feedback on: Mechanisms to support implementation, Sections (G) Mechanisms for taking stock of progress; and (H) Mechanism for updating the framework.

With this submission the EU and its Member States provide their views on the issues requested above.

Mechanisms to support implementation

(G) Mechanisms for taking stock of progress

General comments:
Taking stock of progress is a very important aspect for making sure that the international community is on track. A well-working reporting mechanism, building on meaningful and measurable indicators should form the backbone of such a process. It will enable us to measure if we are moving into the right direction, since otherwise we would be flying blind.

As of now, however, in our view section G does not establish such a well-designed mechanism. As such, several paragraphs are superfluous or seem redundant to us and we suggest them to be deleted, some need adjustments, and the remaining text should be revisited to be developed further into a robust, meaningful, and implementable mechanism.

The EU/MS propose the following changes:
Title: Reword to “Taking stock of progress”
Para 1: Reword this para along the following lines:

1. The purpose of taking stock of progress is to:
   a. assess progress against the strategic objectives and targets;
   b. promote learning, communication of progress, improvement and scale-up for enhanced implementation;
   c. support stakeholders to set priorities.

Para 2: This para is redundant, since it is dealt with in the functions of the conference, section V. A. para (i)

Para 3: This para is also redundant; it is a function of the secretariat and should be dealt with in section V. C.

Para 4: This para requires some amendments to make sure that any data that is being made available can be used for the reporting process. The EU/MS propose the following amended text:
4. Stakeholders should make available data and information in accordance with the agreed indicators and reporting format that allow for a review of progress toward achieving the overall vision, the strategic objectives and targets.

Para 5: This para needs rearrangement to make clear it is the secretariat that is supposed to prepare reports, based on available data. Furthermore, a provision is introduced that allows for the reports to take a broader view, if relevant, and fill in gaps not covered by existing agreements. The EU/MS propose the following amended text:

5. The Secretariat should, with assistance from a subsidiary body, if appropriate, compile and analyse data and information from stakeholders, and develop reports, which include any proposed recommendations to address identified gaps, to be tabled to the international conference. Such reports may take into consideration linkages across relevant agreements and initiatives, for the purpose of complementing chemicals and waste multilateral treaties and other relevant instruments and initiatives.

Para 6: This para could be deleted, since it is self-evident that reports are made available to all stakeholders in due time.

Para 7: This para is not necessary, since it will be dealt with under B) national implementation, para 4.

Para 8: This para is also not necessary. EUMS consider that discussion of the national report would not need to include such information. If at all, when conducting a national report, governments could include relevant information from UN agencies and other stakeholders.

Para 9: This para is superfluous, since it is dealt with in para 12, and the role and nature of said working group are unclear.

Para 10: This para is also superfluous.

Para 11: is Delete this para as well. The proposed cycle is much too short, it is unclear who should carry out the review, and the workload will be too high. It would be preferred if stakeholders would agree on a voluntary peer review and learning system, which enables a limited number of countries to learn from each other.

Para 12: This para requires shortening and could then become a basis for the further development of a well-designed review and reporting process. As a next step, the EU/MS propose the following text:

12. Reporting processes should:

a. Occur regularly, but at least every four years to ensure that collected data and information be analysed and useful reports delivered to the international conference to facilitate trend identification, evaluation against targets and milestones, and to assess overall programmatic performance. Progress against targets should be measured every 4 years and presented in a report to the international conference along with any proposed recommendations to address identified gaps

b. Minimize reporting burden through leveraging data and information obtained through complementary processes, for example reporting required for Basel, and Stockholm Conventions, by relevant agreements and/or IOMC organizations.
Para 13: This is a function of the conference and should in our view be dealt with in section A. International conference, (xii) to evaluate implementation; and be deleted here.

Para 14: This para needs a slight adjustment in wording. The EU/MS propose the following text:

14. The overall effectiveness should also be evaluated after sufficient time has elapsed, linked to a timeline for overall renewal or strategic review, in conjunction with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(H) Mechanism for updating the framework

This mechanism is not required, since the conference can at any time initiate a process for updating the instrument. In the view of the EU/MS, section H can be deleted. What is needed instead is text that needs to be developed in Virtual Working Group 1 on Targets, Indicators and Milestones, on how the targets, indicators and milestones may be continued in due time, e.g. in 2030 when the Sustainable Development Goals will need renewal anyway.