VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON GOVERNANCE AND MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION

REQUEST FOR ELECTRONIC FEEDBACK

TOPIC: SUBSIDIARY AND AD HOC BODIES

Co-facilitators: Karissa Kovner, USA and Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn, Thailand

Mandate: Make proposals that progress work in lead-up to IP4.

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: MONDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Note: Please submit your responses/feedback to the questions below to the SAICM Secretariat at saicm.chemicals@un.org, with a copy to jose.demesa@un.org and marijana.todorovic@un.org on or before Monday, 30 November 2020. You may use this word document to submit your inputs. Indicate your name and organization.

Using the compilation text of recommendations from the outcome of IP3 regarding SAICM (SAICM/IP.4/2), which can be found in the documents section of the website related to this Virtual Working Group at http://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/VirtualWorkingGroups/tabid/8563/language/en-US/Default.aspx, the co-facilitators request electronic input on Section (E): Subsidiary and Ad Hoc Expert Bodies (please see page 11) with the following instructions:

Please provide your general views, not to exceed 1 page, on the discussion presented in SAICM/IP.4/2, page 11, Section VI.E, paragraphs 1 –2. Please note that the co-facilitators are not requesting redline changes to the current compilation text, but rather seeking views on what issues this section should or could address. Based on the input received, further consideration of this section will take place at the 5th virtual meeting scheduled for 17 December 2020 meeting.

In your submission, please consider addressing:

- Whether there is a need for subsidiary and ad hoc expert bodies
- How such bodies would be established and by whom
- Who would participate in such bodies
- What role would such bodies play
- What responsibilities would such bodies have and to whom
- Other relevant issues raised in SAICM/IP.4/2, Section VI.E, paragraphs 1 –2

As agreed by the Bureau, relevant documents for this Virtual Working Group may include:

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/INF/4 Promoting multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation – Summary of known obstacles and possible incentives
SAICM/IP.4/INF/5 Stakeholder input on contributions to achieve enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement for beyond 2020
SAICM/IP.4/INF/6/Rev.1 Stakeholder workshop on strengthening governance for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020: Summary Document
SAICM/IP.3/5/Corr.1 Other mechanism to support implementation prepared by the co-chairs of the intersessional process – corrigendum
SAICM/IP.3/INF/4 Submission from the German Environment Agency – Enhancing the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020
Feedback from the UK - Summary

The UK understands the need for flexibility in the Beyond 2020 framework to ensure it can address and respond to current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner. For this reason there may be a requirement to have a limited number of expert technical or policy input from a subsidiary or ad hoc expert body. If established, these groups will need to have:

- Clearly defined Terms of Reference;
- Clearly defined mandates, aims and objectives;
- Time-bound work plans, clear processes for review and sunsetting when needed;
- Geographical balance, transparency and, where relevant, academic credibility.

These bodies should be established by the International Conference, with the Secretariat sending requests for all members to consider participating and reaching out to relevant stakeholders. Time-bound work plans and clear processes for review should be in place at its inception and the Conference should keep under review the composition, effectiveness and need for these groups. The decision to establish a body should take into account possibilities offered by existing bodies e.g. functions within the IOMC organisation, the Global Chemicals Outlook and any developments from the work to strengthen the science-policy interface. The focus should be for the groups to deliver tangible outcomes.

The make up and type of subsidiary body would depend on the work at hand e.g. if working on more policy-focused objectives it should be open to representatives from all stakeholders including governments, industry and NGOs, but if more technical in nature a small expert group with eligibility criteria for participation may be needed.

Functions for the groups could include:

- Compiling, analysing and reporting on data and information from stakeholders for taking stock of the frameworks progress:
  Developing recommendations and options for any updates to the framework, for example in response to the complementary work through UNEA on strengthening the science-policy interface for chemicals and wastes;
- Identifying and providing recommendations to address chemicals and waste issues of concern that warrant global action.

Groups will have a responsibility to fulfil the mandate, within the proposed time-lines, as outlined by the International Conference, and provide recommendations and advice on the topics selected with responsibility to be open and transparent when reporting back to all stakeholders. This should also encourage collaboration and cooperation with other relevant bodies and organisations where appropriate.