VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON ISSUES OF CONCERN

REQUEST FOR ELECTRONIC FEEDBACK

The co-facilitators have released a proposal on how to address the existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (30 November 2020) based on the submissions received.

Please submit your feedback and proposals to the SAICM Secretariat at saicm.chemicals@un.org, with a copy to delfina.cuglievan@un.org by 21 December 2020.

Please provide electronic feedback as follows:

1) General comments and considerations
IPEN welcomes the opportunity to provide general comments and considerations on the co-facilitators’ proposal:

- IPEN favors option 2 for the process to determine next steps on emerging policy issues and other issues of concerns; and provided comments on option 1 if it should be the option retained by stakeholders.
- IPEN reiterates view that all the six current emerging policy issues (EPIs) and two other issues of concern (IOCs) should be carried forward into SAICM2.0. For this reason, a 3rd option is proposed based on a suggestion made by Brazil during the first round of submissions.

2) Section IV - Co-facilitators’ proposal on the way forward for consideration by the VWG
*please try to insert comments in revisions mode below

IPEN welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback and proposals on section IV of the co-facilitators’ proposal on the way forward for consideration by the VWG on IOC

Section IV - Co-facilitators’ proposal on the way forward for consideration by the VWG

A. Key general considerations in moving forward

i. The emerging policy issues process has been useful under the current SAICM in raising profile of issues on the international stage.
ii. There is a need to **carry forward the existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern in the new instrument (SAICM 2.0)** to continue efforts in addressing them including moving forward and assess current status.

iii. Progress to date has been variable across the issues. There is a need to be flexible so that a decision may be taken on an issue by issue basis (i.e. no blanket decision).

iv. The path forward must stimulate ownership for implementation and action (**by who?**) in moving forward for the particular emerging policy issue and / or other issue of concern.

v. The decision-making on the future of the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern will be transparent **and based on SAICM independent evaluation report**.

vi. The International Conference is the appropriate body to take decisions on the future of the current emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.

**B. Proposed approach**

i. **At ICCM5:** The ICCM5 should agree to an omnibus resolution on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern that:

   (a) Recognizes the progress on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern under SAICM to date;

   (b) Highlights any immediate and specific priority actions, as appropriate, to ensure that efforts and momentum continue **beyond 2020**;

   (c) Sets out a process to determine next steps on the existing emerging policy issues and issues of concern under the beyond 2020 instrument (see possible options set out in (ii) below).

   (d) Requests the next session of the International Conference [ICCM6] to deliberate on and determine the path forward on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern in the beyond 2020 instrument.

   Deleted: where necessary and appropriate

ii. **Options for the process to determine next steps (see B.i.(c)):**

   **OPTION 1**

   (1) **[The existing working group for each EPI, led by the responsible IOMC organization,] [SAICM stakeholders] will be invited to submit proposals on an emerging policy issue or issue of concern to the secretariat six months before the following session of the International Conference [ICCM6] for consideration at that meeting. The secretariat will make the submissions available on the SAICM web-site.**

   (2) The proposals will include: (i) workplans; (ii) proposal for issue-specific goals and indicator(s) in the new instrument; and / or (iii) review of contributions of
positive efforts in the existing emerging policy issue and issue of concern on SDGs and the 2030 agenda.  

(3) Should no proposal be submitted, the next International Conference [ICCM6] may decide to set up an ad hoc working group to supplement the responsible IOMC organization to develop and submit the proposal at the next International Conference [ICCM7]. Should a submitted proposal be deemed insufficient, [ICCM6] may postpone further consideration of the future of the emerging policy issue or other issue of concern to [ICCM7].

OPTION 2

(1) Establish a time-bound group, with enough time and appropriate resources for each of the current Emerging Policy Issues and other issues of concern and agree on and submit work plans at least 6 months prior to the following session of the International Conference [ICCM6] (e.g. in the form of a task force or an ad hoc working group) with the purpose of defining relevant objectives and milestones and laying out actions. The main functions would be:

- developing and coordinating the implementation of a workplan, including propose indicators for relevant targets under different Strategic Objectives of the Beyond 2020 instrument;
- coordinating with other subsidiary bodies, IOMC organizations and beyond (e.g. the convention secretariats);
- monitoring and evaluating the progress against the indicators; and
- making recommendations to the ICCM (e.g. completion of the IoC, extension of the time frame of the subsidiary body, elevation of the IoC to other fora).

OPTION 3

The existing 8 EPIs and other issues of concern that have all resulted from the consensus agreement of more than 100 countries be treated in the same way as the initial 12 POPs of the Stockholm Convention and included without the proposed technical assessment for future issues of concerns.

_____________________

1 We have set out the following three forms, based on the submissions, for discussion with the VWG: (i) workplans; (ii) proposal for specific indicators in the new instrument; and / or (iii) review of the emerging policy issue or other issues of concern according to the criteria/modalities/procedure established for the new beyond 2020 instrument. We would foresee the need to discuss this in more detail if this option is pursued.