

VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON ISSUES OF CONCERNS
Report of the 2nd Virtual Meeting on Issues of Concerns
Date: Monday 14 December 2020

Co-facilitators: Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana) and Sverre Thomas Jahre (Norway)

1) Welcoming remarks

Welcome remarks were given by co-facilitator Sverre Thomas Jahre.

Further welcoming remarks were provided by the co-chairs of the intersessional process, Mr. David Morin (Canada) and Ms. Judith Torres (Uruguay). The co-chairs thanked the co-facilitators, the secretariat and the participants for all of the efforts.

There were 102 participants on the call.

2) Overview presentation of the co-facilitators proposal on the current emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana) provided an overview of the co-facilitators' proposal. He reminded participants that the mandate of the VWG is to propose a path forward to address the current existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. The draft proposal was released on 30 November 2020 and is available on the SAICM web-site.

The proposal was developed by the co-facilitators', based on the submissions received from SAICM stakeholders. He reminded participants that the focus of the discussion would be on section IV of the document.

3) Discussion on the proposal

Key points that came forward include:

- There was overall general support for section A.
- Overall, there was a view to not jeopardize any current important implementation work. The process should not stall important work. Equally, there is a need to be efficient.
- Resourcing considerations need to be included in moving forward, including champions for any issue that is taken forward.
- The Independent Evaluation highlighted that the current emerging policy issues and other issues of concern were not adequately monitored and assessed. We need to give consideration to the linkage to the indicators process in moving forward.
- General support for a proposed omnibus resolution on the current emerging policy issues and other issues of concern at ICCM5. The language should be softened to 'might' or 'could' not 'should'.
- There was a common view that the existing EPIs and other issues of concern should be part of the new instrument as part of the new 'issues of concern'. They should not be an additional activity in the future instrument.

- Many discussed the option of merging Option 1 and 2 for the process. There were valuable insights in both proposals identified, in particular option 1 was seen as a process for proposals on the next steps for each of the existing issues and option 2 was seen as important to develop and agree on workplans.
- The co-facilitators invited final written submissions on the proposal by 21 December 2020.
- The representative of the WHO indicated that she would try to activate the relevant IOMC organizations to provide collective feedback on how to keep the momentum alive for the current EPIs and not stall efforts by the 21 December deadline to inform the next version of the proposal.

4) Next steps

In closing, the co-facilitators reminded participants of next steps.

Electronic input until 21 December 2020: Co-facilitators proposal (Section IV)

- a. Please use the template provided for input. If you prefer to submit PDF, in parallel please send a WORD file to Secretariat.
- b. If possible, we encourage the participants of this group to have discussions with colleagues in your region/sector to combine ideas and interests in joint submissions that will make it easier for both the secretariat and cofacilitators to prepare for the next meeting.

8 January 2021: Co-facilitators to release a draft VWG3 outcome document on (i) Annex B and the process for future issues; and (ii) addressing current emerging policy issues.

Next meeting Monday 18 January 2021 14:00 - 16:00 (CET)

- a. Final discussion on Outcome Document for VWG3: Annex B and proposal for current emerging policy issues.