

**First virtual meeting of the Virtual Working Group on
Targets, Indicators and Milestones**

Monday, 23 November 2020, from 14:00 – 16:00 CET

**VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON TARGETS, INDICATORS AND MILESTONES
Report of the 2nd Virtual Meeting on Targets, Indicators and Milestones**

1) Welcoming remarks and review of meeting agenda and meeting objectives

Welcome remarks were given by co-facilitator Mr. Wajira Palipane (Sri Lanka).

There were 97 participants on the call.

2) Discussion on inputs provided for targets under SO B

- A total of 19 electronic submissions were received for targets under SO A and SO B. Silvija provided an overview of the targets under SO A and SO B and presented an overview of the general considerations received and “new proposed targets” on the electronic submissions. It was pointed out by one of the participants, that the submission from “a group of NGOs” was missing. The co-facilitator apologized and reassured the participant that the submission and the compilation document would be revised accordingly, and the submission would be uploaded to the dedicated VWG webpage.
- The co-facilitator explained that while reviewing the written submissions and looking at the general comments under SO B, two points were extracted 1) related to confidential business information and 2) the insertion of target dates.
- Based on these two general points made by the co-facilitator, the group agreed to make a note of the confidential business information and forward the comment to the group developing the high-level declaration.
- Regarding the second point on the insertion of target dates, the group agreed to focus the VWG discussions on wording of the targets and leave the discussion on proposed dates for a later time.

General discussion under target B1

- Some stakeholders mentioned that the target should be designed to broadly encompass all stakeholders of the instrument, and all data and information necessary for its implementation.
- There was consensus that the formulation of indicators should seek to capture this broad scope, implementation of United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and chemicals registers/inventories (PRTR) should be considered as indicators for this target (among others).
- Most stakeholders agreed that the target should encompass all stakeholders, all-inclusive data and information (non-restrictive, including health and safety data), include information on safer alternatives and substitutes, information on properties, chemicals on the global market, encompass the whole life cycle.

General discussion under target B2

- Stakeholders mentioned that this target should broadly encompass all stakeholders of the instrument.
- Stakeholders generally agreed that this target could integrate and include concepts on costs of inaction in target formulation or indicators.
- Most stakeholders agreed that the wording of the target should be shortened.
- There was general understanding that further discussion is needed regarding the addition of “risk” before “assessments” and listing “standardized tools” last so that “standardized” is not seen as describing “guidelines” and “best available practices”.

General discussion under target B3

- Some stakeholders reiterated their support to have a target on methodologies available for burden of disease and cost of inaction estimates.
- General comments reiterating that cost of inaction and burden of disease should be on separate targets.
- General stakeholder support for original phrasing of B3. There was general consensus that both target B3 and the original phrasing of B3 focus on different elements.
- General comments on the duplication of parts of this target with targets B1 and B2 including standardized methods and cost of inaction.
- Some concerns about the methodologies of who would be calculating the burden of disease and cost of inaction.

General discussion under target B4

- The target lacks responsible entity/-ies and its respective indicators need to be captured in its further formulation.
- Suggestion to add gender responsiveness and vulnerable groups to the target wording.
- Stakeholders suggested to link this target to the SDGs as chemicals are a cross cutting topic.

General discussion on proposed “new targets”

- Some suggestions to consider IPENs target proposal as an indicator.
- General agreement to include target on GHS. Some concerns regarding wording “legally implemented and enforced”. Other suggestions include GHS target under SO A rather than SO B, include GHS as indicator rather than a target.
- General agreement to include EU proposal on target concerning chemicals in products.

3) Discussion on inputs provided for targets under SO A

General discussions under target A1

- Stakeholders suggested that there needs to be a clear reference to legal frameworks as per the OOG.
- Some stakeholders suggested that the target needs not be sole responsibility of governments/countries, certain flexibility should be allowed for measures (instead of plans).
- Considerations that target A1 and A3 are similar in nature and should be merged.

Due to the time constraints, the co-facilitator decided to park the discussion on the missing targets under SO A. She suggested to pick up the general discussion of targets under SO A once the co-facilitators are able to consolidate the comments and present them in a more favorable manner for the meeting participants.

The co-facilitator suggested to have add one extra hour on the next meeting in order to be able to have more time for discussions. There were no opposing views from meeting participants on the proposed way forward.

4) Introduction to targets under SO D and SO E

The co-facilitator proceeded to introduce targets under SO D and SO E. She explained that in the interest of time she will not open the floor for general comments. She assured stakeholders that they will be given the opportunity to submit electronic feedback for each target on the second request for electronic inputs. The request for electronic feedback can be found [here](#).

5) Information for the process for review on SO C

The co-facilitator explained that there needs to be coordinated work between this group and the Virtual Working Group on Issues of Concern in order to move forward on targets under SO C. She mentioned that the group should expect to get further clarification on how to move forward on targets under SO C on the next meeting once they coordinate with the co-facilitators from the Virtual Working Group on Issues of Concern.

6) Next steps

- Second request for electronic input on targets under SO D and SO E. This document is to be posted online by 23 November in the SAICM website and open for written comments by 30 November. The request for electronic feedback can be found [here](#).
- The compilation of electronic inputs for SO D and SO E will serve as the basis for discussion for the third meeting scheduled on 07 December 2020 from 13:00-16:00 CET.