Virtual Working Group on Targets, Indicators and Milestones

Third Request for Electronic Feedback

Group Mandate: make proposals that progress work on this topic in lead-up to IP4, building on the outcome of the Technical Working Group as presented in meeting documents SAICM/IP.4/3 and SAICM/IP.4/INF/15. Specific tasks include:

(i) Finalize the targets proposal currently set out in SAICM/IP.4/3, with a view to enable multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral commitment and action, where appropriate;

(ii) Develop a set of recommendations for a process to establish indicators and milestones for finalized targets.

Instructions for providing electronic feedback:

Please provide electronic feedback on:

Part (i) General comments and proposed text edits to existing text on targets under Strategic Objective C.

Part (ii) General comments on co-facilitators proposal for a process to establish indicators and milestones.

Please refer the following meeting documents for more detailed information on each target:

- SAICM/IP.4/3 - Proposed targets prepared by the Technical Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020
- SAICM/IP.4/INF/15 - Supplementary information on proposed targets prepared by the Technical Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Please submit your feedback, if possible in a Microsoft Word file to the SAICM Secretariat at saicm.chemicals@un.org, with a copy to delfina.cuglievan@un.org by 21 December 2020.
PART (i) Provide a) general comments and b) proposed text edits on existing text for targets under Strategic Objective C

Strategic Objective C: Issues of concern [that warrant [global][and][joint] action] are identified, prioritized and addressed.

Considerations: Intended to cover the need to effectively identify, select and address issues of concern that warrant global action. The intention is to cover topics similar in nature to those covered by the Strategic Approach, emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, as well as topics such as managing specific chemicals, the burden of disease and financing. There may be a need to develop and identify the criteria for issues of concern.

(extracted from SAICM/IP.4/3)

Industry appreciates the ongoing work of the Virtual Working Group on Issues of Concern and notes the necessary synergies between the outcome of that group and the wording of targets under Objective C. Industry strongly supports efforts to better integrate the work on issues of concern into the overall framework and strategic objectives, targets, and indicators. We note that there is still disagreement among stakeholders as to whether the targets under this objective should measure progress on individual issues of concern or rather focus on the process of identifying and conducting work on issues of concern. In the interest of limiting the overall number of targets and avoiding having to reopen the targets every time new issues of concern are identified, we support the ALT targets proposed below. The most important functions are that stakeholders identify, nominate and the international conference adopts issues of concern according to the agreed process and criteria, and that stakeholders implement workplans and track the progress of work on each issue. As it was mentioned in VWG3 discussions by various stakeholders, by adopting a new process, we recommend not to lose the work already done by the various groups on the current EPIs.

Target C.1: Programmes of work including timelines are established, adopted and implemented for identified issues of concern. (original)

Target ALT. C1: As an ongoing process, stakeholders nominate, and the international conference adopts issues of concern with specific goals. (extracted from SAICM/IP.4/3)

Target C.2: Information on the properties and risk management of chemicals across the supply chain and the chemical contents of products is available to all to enable informed decisions. (original) We note that this would better fit under Objective B.

Target ALT. C2: As an ongoing process, stakeholders implement workplans for adopted issues of concern and report on progress achieving their goals, such that the use of sustainable solutions is maximized and significant negative impacts on human health and the environment are prevented or minimized. (extracted from SAICM/IP.4/3) We note that for simplicity, the
PART (ii) General comments on co-facilitators proposal for a process to establish indicators and milestones

We recognize that in many cases, it is difficult to agree on targets without a clear understanding of the indicators that could track progress. We note that indicators and milestones are critical to the achievement of the objectives and targets. However, we note that for other instruments, such as the biodiversity framework, it took more time to agree on indicators and milestones.

We can support the co-facilitators proposal that the VWG define some of the targets that are ready for indicator work, but note that our preference is that we seek greater agreement on the targets before moving onto the indicator work.