5th Meeting of the Virtual Group on Targets, Indicators and Milestones (VWG1)

01 February 2021
13:00 – 16:00 CET

Co-facilitators: Silvija Nora Kalnins (Latvia) and Wajira Palipane (Sri-Lanka)

Agenda

We have reserved 3hrs for this meeting

Agenda Item	Time	Topic of discussion	Presenter
1	13:00-13:05	- Welcome Remarks - Review of meeting agenda and meeting objectives	Mr. Wajira Palipane, Co-facilitator (Sri Lanka)
2	13:05-14:00	- Discussion on document: *Set of recommendations for a process to establish indicators and milestones for finalized targets recommendations* o General comments from written submissions o Agreement on integration of the document as an outcome of the group	Ms. Silvija Kalnins (Latvia)
3	14:00-15:00	- Discussion on *Co-facilitators reflections of progress made on Part I of VWG1 mandate* o General comments o Oral interventions o Way forward	Ms. Silvija Kalnins (Latvia)
4	15:00-16:00	- Final steps in capturing the outcome of VWG1	Both co-facilitators

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 multistakeholder 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.

- The Technical Working Group identified the need for broader deliberations leading up to ICCM5 and on a number of issues as contained in meeting document IP.4/3.

A total of 12 electronic submissions were received:

Brazil
Canada
European Union and its Member States
Iran
Japan
Norway
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States
A Group of NGOs
ICCA / CropLife
UNEP

Agenda Item 2- Discussion on document: *Set of recommendations for a process to establish indicators and milestones for finalized targets recommendations*

	Option 1	**Option 2**	**Option 3**
	Policy expert Group	Policy expert group + Technical expert subgroup (data experts/statisticians)	No more work until IP4 and/or ICCM5
Modality	Fully virtual	Fully virtual with feedback from the technical exprt subgroup to the policy expert group	*TBC IP4 and/or ICCM5*
When	Present to IP4 and/or ICCM5	Present to IP4 and/or ICCM5	Postponed
Participation	Open participation + electronic feedback by all participants	Open participation + electronic feedback by all participants	ICCM5 participants
	ICCM5 participants		

Option 1: Policy expert group

The mandate of the group would include:

1. Review of progress in terms of target formulation and based on the results of the:
    i. VWG2 on Governance and mechanisms to support implementation;
    ii. VWG3 on Issues of concern;
    iii. VWG4 on Financial considerations.

    Propose targets and respective indicators where deemed necessary and taking into account the considerations provided by the group(s).

2. Advance the work on indicators to develop an indicators framework as far as possible.

3. Revisit the targets and, if necessary, provide suggestions for adjustments in target wording needed to provide clarity in the indicator framework.

4. Make recommendations to IP4 and/or ICCM5.

Option 2: Policy expert group + Technical expert subgroup (data experts/statisticians)

The mandate of the groups would include:

Policy experts group

1. Review of progress in terms of target formulation and based on the results of the:
   i. VWG2 on Governance and mechanisms to support implementation;
   ii. VWG3 on Issues of concern;
   iii. VWG4 on Financial considerations;

   Propose targets and respective indicators where deemed necessary and taking into account the considerations provided by the group(s).

2. Review work of subgroup and make recommendations to IP4 and/or ICCM5.

Technical expert subgroup (data experts/statisticians)

1. Development of a draft indicator framework, (in particular with relevant indicators that already have an agreed methodology), and an initial/indicative proposed list of indicators relevant for the targets identified by VWG1.

2. Review and/or draft a process for developing an international standard methodology for those indicators that do not have a methodology.

3. Identification of potential institutions responsible for collection / validation of data, and reporting, and development of a methodology in case it does not exist.

4. Draft hosting options for a central open access database where all indicator data and the metadata will be available.

5. Revisit the targets and, if necessary, provide suggestions for adjustments in target wording needed to provide clarity in the indicator framework. Submit information to the policy group for review and finalization of recommendations to IP4 and/or ICCM5.

Option 3: No more work until IP4 and/or ICCM5

No more work conducted on targets, milestones and indicators before IP4 and/or ICCM5. Work on target and indicator formulation will resume at ICCM5 and beyond.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	Policy expert Group	Policy expert group + Technical expert subgroup (data experts/statisticians)	No more work until IP4 and/or ICCM5
Modality	Fully virtual	Fully virtual with feedback from the technical exprt subgroup to the policy expert group	*TBC IP4 and/or ICCM5*
When	Present to IP4 and/or ICCM5	Present to IP4 and/or ICCM5	Postponed
Participation	Open participation + electronic feedback by all participants	Open participation + electronic feedback by all participants	ICCM5 participants
	ICCM5 participants		

Structure of the Part II of the group's outcome document

Issues not covered by VWG1:

- The term 'waste' and how it would be reflected;
- Reference to 'countries' or 'governments'';
- Elaboration of timeframe for targets such as "by 20xx";
- Definitions and glossary- some terms, though broadly accepted and used, may need defining or referenced in a glossary, e.g. "circular economy", in order to avoid vague elements of targets;
- The name of the future instrument.

During deliberations, the Virtual Working Group added the following to the list of issues:

- Comments related to confidential business information are to be considered by the group developing the high-level declaration;

- As the development of the indicator framework progresses, there is a need to limit the number of targets;

- Targets need to be considered in a reiterative process and together with the indicators, in order to capture and develop a comprehensive framework for the instrument;

- Clarifying the definition of sustainable alternatives and also a need to reference a definition for sustainable and green chemistry;

- Targets need to capture all 11 elements of the Overall Orientation Guidance;

- Group identified a need to consider targets together with the objective formulations to establish a comprehensive indicator framework for the instrument.

Agenda Item 3- Discussion on *Co-facilitators reflections of progress made on Part I of VWG1 mandate*

The co-facilitators reflection is structure as follows:

1. Possible formulation of targets based on points of convergence of views expressed by stakeholders during the virtual meetings and in the written submissions received, including new targets for which the formulations gained overall support.

2. Considerations and components of each target that provide explanations and rationales to further inform the process. The considerations are intended to serve as a “guide” for the wording of the targets in moving forward pending agreement on the next steps.

3. New targets proposed by stakeholders not contained in point 1 above.

Target	**Target A1 – ~~[Countries][governments] develop and periodically review plans to achieve sound management of chemicals [and waste] throughout their life cycle.~~** **~~Target ALT A1. –~~ Measures needed to be implemented by companies and governments to achieve sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle are identified within the beyond 2020 instrument and updated every xx years.**

Considerations: the target need not be the sole responsibility of governments/countries, certain flexibility should be allowed for measures (instead of plans). Target needs a clear reference to legal frameworks as per the OOG.

Components of the target: measures, implementation of sound management, life cycle, update

Target	**~~Target A2 – By [xx], Measures to prevent harm from [xx number] specific chemicals throughout their life cycle [and waste] are identified by [countries] [governments] and non-governmental stakeholders~~**

Considerations: targets should not address specific chemicals or number of chemicals, targets under SOC which focusses on issues of concern cover this target sufficiently, general agreement to merge several targets under A (targets A2, A3 and A4).

Target	**Target A3 – By [xx], measures ~~identified~~ to prevent or, minimize harm from chemicals throughout their life cycle [and waste], are implemented and enforced by relevant stakeholders~~[countries] [governments]~~.**
Target	~~Target A4 – By [xx], measures identified to prevent or, minimize harm from chemicals throughout their life cycle [and waste], are implemented by companies.~~

Considerations: designed to merge A2-A4 and to include all stakeholders that have a role in implementing and enforcing measures, further discussion needed on inclusion of ‘minimization of negative impacts’, the consideration of indicators could provide values to reflect different measures implemented among the stakeholders (i.e. legal frameworks for governments, BAT for companies).

Components of the target: measures, implementation, prevention, minimization of harm, life cycle

Target	**Target A5 – By xx, Countries take measures and initiatives supportive of the effective implementation of ~~make and meet their commitments and~~ obligations under the provisions of chemicals and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements to which they are a Party, as well as health, labour and other relevant instruments in which they participate.**

Considerations: not necessary to establish a target under the beyond 2020 instrument related to obligations of the relevant conventions.

Components of the target: MEAs, health, labour and other instruments, Parties, commitments and obligations

Target	**NEW Target Axx – By 20xx, illegal international trade and traffic of toxic, hazardous, banned and severely restricted chemicals and of waste is effectively prevented.**

Considerations: this target covers the considerations for the SOA that is not included in the other targets, i.e. illegal trade and traffic.
Components of the target: illegal trade and traffic, banned, severely restricted, effective prevention

Target	**NEW Target Ayy – By 20xx, pollution from chemicals and waste has been brought to levels that are not detrimental or harmful to ecosystem services and biodiversity.**

Considerations: the group identified a weakness among SOA targets that they were not adequately integrating issues on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Components of the target: pollution from chemicals and waste, detrimental or harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem services

Target	**NEW Target Azz – By xx minimum requirements for third-party/private/non-governmental standards, labels and certification schemes are defined and reviewed on an ongoing basis, potential for harmonization is explored and adherence increased and applied by private sector and monitored by governments and other stakeholders.**

Considerations: inclusion of non-government entities.
Components of the target: Private, non-governmental standards, labelling and certification schemes

Target	**Target B1 By 20xx, comprehensive data and information on chemicals on the global market, throughout their lifecycle, are generated ~~[are shared]~~, made available and accessible.**

Considerations: designed to broadly encompass all stakeholders of the new instrument, and all data and information necessary for its implementation. 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).

Components of the target: encompass all stakeholders, all-inclusive data and information (non-restrictive, including health and safety data), includes information on safer alternatives and substitutes, information on properties, chemicals on the global market, encompass the whole life cycle

Target	**Target B2 By 20xx all stakeholders have and are using ~~the most~~ appropriate and standardized tools, guidelines and best available practices for assessments and sound management, as well as for the prevention of harm, risk reduction, monitoring and enforcement ***

Considerations: designed to broadly encompass all stakeholders of the new instrument, could integrate to include concepts on costs of inaction in target formulation or indicators.

Components of the target: encompass all stakeholders, development of instruments, sharing of best practices, monitoring and enforcement, risk reduction

* 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".

Target	**~~Target B.3 By 20xx, stakeholders have put in place mechanisms to access information and standardized methods to assess, reduce and prevent health impacts at all stages of the chemical life cycle.~~** **~~Original phrasing for Target B.3 from IP3~~ ~~Information and standardized methods are available and used to understand the impacts of chemicals and waste for improved burden-of-disease and cost-of-inaction estimates, to inform the advancement of chemical safety measures and to measure progress towards reducing those impacts.~~**

Considerations: duplication of parts of this target with targets B1 and B2, standardized methods and cost of inaction.

Components of the target: health and environmental impacts, burden-of-disease, cost of inaction

Target	**NEW Target B3: burden of disease and cost of inaction.**

Considerations: duplication of parts of this target with targets B1 and B2, standardized methods and cost of inaction.

Components of the target: health and environmental impacts, burden-of-disease, cost of inaction

Target	**Target B4- By 20XX educational, training and public awareness programmes on chemical safety, sustainability and safer alternatives have been developed and implemented.**

Considerations: responsible entity/-ies for this target and its respective indicators need to be captured in its further formulation.

Components of the target: Development and implementation, Education, training and public awareness, Safety, sustainability and safer alternatives, benefits of chemicals, Vulnerable populations and workers, Gender-responsiveness

Target	**NEW Target B.5- By 20XX, stakeholders in the value chain ensure that reliable information on chemicals in [materials and] articles is available throughout their life cycle [including at the waste stage], to enable informed decisions and safe management of chemicals in a clean circular economy.**

Components of the target: value chain, chemicals in articles, life cycle, informed decisions, circular economy

Target	**NEW Target Bxx- By 20XX, all governments have legally implement and enforce the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in all relevant sectors.**

Components of the target: United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

Target	~~**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	~~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)~~ ~~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)~~

Target	**NEW Target C - The targets and indicators for each issue of concern are incorporated by reference under Strategic Objective C once adopted by the Conference.**

Considerations: target needs to be results-oriented rather than process-oriented and include the actual issues of concern and a call for action. The Strategic Objective C is linked to discussions under VWG3 on Issues of Concern. Any discussions on specific targets will need to take into account the agreements reached in the VWG3. Further consideration of adding additional targets under this SO needs to ensure that they are measurable.

Target	**Target D1 - ~~Companies adopt and implement policies and practices consistently, regardless of where they operate, to produce and use sustainable and safer alternatives and deploy life cycle management and cleaner production technologies.~~** **Companies consistently invest in and achieve innovations toward advancing green and sustainable chemistry, cleaner production, and the deployment of life cycle management approaches for chemicals and high resource efficiency.**

Considerations: wording adjusted to be more actionable, inclusion of innovation.

Components of the target: sustainable chemistry, innovation, cleaner production, life cycle management, high resource efficiency

Target	**Target D.2. ~~[Countries][governments] (globally, regionally, sub-regionally, nationally) implement policies that encourage production using natural products or non-chemicals, facilitate the recycling and re- use of products (circular economy), and the adoption of sustainable and safe(r) alternatives, including cleaner production technologies.~~** **~~Alt. D.2.~~ [Countries][governments] ~~(globally, regionally, sub-regionally, nationally)~~ implement policies that encourage production using sustainable and safe(r) alternatives including cleaner production technologies and facilitate re-use and recycling ~~and re-use~~ of products (circular economy).**

Considerations: aspects of geographical scope and further details, such as cleaner production technologies could be addressed at the indicator level.

Components of the target: sustainable chemistry, innovation, cleaner production, life cycle management, high resource efficiency

Target	**Target D3 - By 20xx, c~~C~~ompanies, including from the investment sector, incorporate strategies and policies to implement the sound management of chemicals [and waste] in their investment approaches and business models and apply internationally- recognized reporting standards.**

Considerations: in further deliberations of the indicator framework, clarification is needed on what international-recognized reporting standards means.

Components of the target: strategies and policies, investment approaches, business models, reporting standards

Target	**Target D5- Industry associations facilitate change towards sustainability and the safe management of chemicals [and waste] and consumer products throughout their life cycles, and their value chain, including in sharing information and building the capacity of small, medium, and micro-sized enterprises.**

Components of the target: consumer products, sharing information, building capacity, small, medium and micro-sized enterprises

Target	**NEW Target Dxx- In research and innovation programs priority is given to sustainable solutions and safer alternatives to harmful substances in products and mixtures, including in consumer products.**

Considerations: important to include the issue of research under a SOD target. Further work is needed on indicator development to ensure target is measurable.

Components of the target: research and innovation, sustainable solutions, safer alternatives, consumer products

Target	**Target E1: All countries and stakeholder organizations ~~at the high[est] level~~ recognize the importance of and demonstrate their commitment to the sound management of chemicals [and waste] ~~as a contribution to sustainable development [and the 2030 Agenda].~~**

Considerations: as the indicator framework is further developed, this target may become redundant as other targets with more actionable items and indicators may be introduced.

Components of the target: recognition, demonstration of commitment

Target	**Target E2: Policies for sound management of chemicals [and waste] are integrated into local, national, sub regional, regional ~~[global]~~ development strategies.**

Considerations: policy coherence in an important issue to demonstrate the efficacy of the instrument.

Components of the target: policies, integration, development strategies

Target	**Target E3: Partnerships and networks amongst sectors and stakeholders are strengthened to achieve the sound management of chemicals [and waste].** **ALT E3 Stakeholders scale up efforts to strengthen the inter-connectivity among sectors toward the adoption of sustainable approaches ***

Considerations: as the indicator framework is further developed, this target needs revision to be more specific and measurable.

Components of the target: partnerships and networks, sectors

* Target formulation introduced by VWG1 participants as suggestion under D4, however the co-facilitators thought it might be useful as an alternative to Target E3.

Target	**Target E4: Financial and non-financial resources needed to achieve the sound management of chemicals [and waste] are identified and mobilized in all sectors by and for all stakeholders.**

Considerations: as the deliberations in VWG4 on Financial Considerations progress, reference to integrated approach to financing and its three components should be included. Further discussion on the formulation of this target needs to take into account results from discussions in VWG4.

Components of the target: financial and non-financial resources, mobilization, all sectors, all stakeholders

Target	**Target E5: Gaps between developed and developing countries the implementation of sound management of chemicals [and waste] are identified and narrowed.**

Considerations: difficulty to define this target and relevant indicators to fix baselines and thus measure progress, challenge in determining and measuring ‘gaps’ as well as make clear this is in reference to positive ways in narrowing gaps – issues to be discussed and resolved in further development of the indicator framework.

Components of the target: identification and narrowing gaps, developed and developing countries

Target	**NEW Target Exx: All stakeholders identify and strengthen synergies and linkages between chemicals [and waste] and other environmental, health and societal priorities, such as climate change, biodiversity, human rights~~, universal health coverage and primary health care~~.**

Considerations: The purpose of this target is to address a current gap amongst the targets on addressing the need for commitment across sectoral boundaries, to ensure appropriate linkages are made with other environmental, health and societal priorities.

Components of the target: synergies and linkages, health and societal priorities, human rights, climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services

Target	**NEW Target Eyy: regarding internalization of costs/cost recovery mechanism**

Considerations: Further discussion on the formulation of this target can take place after the outcome of discussions in VWG4 on Financial Considerations.

Components of the target: cost recovery mechanisms, internalization of costs

Agenda Item 4- Final steps in capturing the outcome of VWG1

Finalization of the structure of the group's outcome document

Part II of mandate: *set of recommendations for a process to establish indicators and milestones for finalized targets*

- Form of outome document: put forward options 1-3 or selection of options

Part I of mandate: *targets proposal*

- Form of outcome document