VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON TARGETS, INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

THIRD REQUEST FOR ELECTRONIC FEEDBACK

Comments by Switzerland, 21 December 2020

**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
*please try to insert comments in revisions mode below*

**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)

**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)

**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)

The current draft C-targets are process oriented and do not mention the actual issues and the improvement needed. The objective and target framework however should indicate what needs to be achieved by when regarding identified issues in order to guide national and international action. Switzerland is of the view that Objective C needs to include targets for each of the existing issues (EPI and IoC) and that the framework needs to be flexible in the sense that targets for future issues can be added. We suggest that targets for each existing issue (EPI and IoC) be added to Objective C. The expert group mentioned in part (ii) below can take up this task.

Moreover, Switzerland is of the view that objectives, targets and indicators need to cover waste. We thus suggest to add waste across the objectives and targets and consider waste in the work on indicators.
PART (ii) General comments on co-facilitators proposal for a process to establish indicators and milestones:

- The VWG defines the work that is ready for work on indicator/milestones
  - scope of a set of targets the VWG agrees would benefit from indicator work
  - information on components of the target

- In terms of the definition of work defined by this group, a group of experts add to existing information with a list of indicators relevant for agreed targets

- Proposed indicators are discussed and agreed by ICCM-5 stakeholders

Switzerland supports advancing the work on indicators and is of the view that wherever possible draft milestones should also be established before ICCM5. As part of its work the group should propose targets for the substantive issues (IoC and EPI) and respective indicators. In its work the group should also cover the waste aspects. Moreover, the group should consider links to existing frameworks, and instruments, indicators, data collection methods (Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi Target 8 (Annex 1), Chemical and waste conventions and agreements, Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, ILO Conventions and the IHR (2005), etc). It should also identify areas where existing indicators are insufficient/unsuitable for the post2020 framework and where the establishment of new indicators might potentially be needed.

We would like to thank the UK for their proposed support to a group of experts and welcome advancing work in view of adopting indicators and milestones at ICCM5.

Given the likely high workload, some of the detailed milestones and indicators may be defined by the organization/body in charge of individual issues while the targets are agreed by the International Conference.

Alongside the draft objectives, targets, indicators and milestones, considerations must be made regarding the mechanism that allows to add additional elements to the target and indicators framework in order to ensure that this long term universal framework can evolve.