

## View results

Respondent

14 Anonymous

84:09

Time to complete

### Introduction

The third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) requested the secretariat to develop a simple Strategic Approach progress report for the period 2017–2019 that, using existing data, would provide an overview of the Strategic Approach activities, accomplishments, and challenges for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session (ICCM5).

A fourth Progress in Strategic Approach Implementation 2017-2019, in its revised version, was presented at the seventeenth meeting (online) of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management for its fifth session on 21 July 2021[1].

The Strategic Approach secretariat invites all the stakeholder groups to respond to this survey. That will provide the secretariat time to analyze and review all submissions and include relevant information in the overall Strategic Approach simple progress report for the extended period between 2017-2022 (reflecting the postponement of ICCM5) to be provided to ICCM5. It would also address progress in the implementation of the SAICM overall orientation and guidance.

Your participation in this process is important to ensure that the SAICM report on progress can provide a complete and accurate picture of SAICM implementation and provide useful information to assist in setting future priorities for the global sound management of chemicals and waste.

You are kindly invited to provide **a single consolidated response** to this survey for your **country or organization** by **Friday, 30 June 2023**. The survey tool is aligned with the 20 indicators agreed to at the second session of ICCM (ICCM2) in May 2009 listed in Annex 1. In providing your answer you might wish to take into consideration these indicators for reporting by stakeholders on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

[1] [http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/meetings/Bureau/ICCM5B17/SAICM\\_ICCM5-Bureau\\_TC\\_9\\_7\\_Progress%20on%20Strategic%20Approach%202017-2019\\_revised.pdf](http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/meetings/Bureau/ICCM5B17/SAICM_ICCM5-Bureau_TC_9_7_Progress%20on%20Strategic%20Approach%202017-2019_revised.pdf)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact information is requested to be provided so that in the case of any ambiguous answers or errors, the SAICM secretariat can make direct contact with the respondent.

1. Your title \*

Dr

2. Your Given Name \*

Hinni

3. Your Family Name \*

Papponen

4. Name of Government/Organization \*

Finland, Ministry of the Environment

5. Your position within your Government/Organization \*

Ministerial Adviser, SAICM focal point

6. Your telephone number, including country code and area code (e.g. 44 22 123-4567) Telephone extension, if applicable \*

+358504156492

7. Email \*

hinni.papponen@gov.fi

8. Would you be willing to be contacted to answer a few questions on your experience with this survey? \*

Yes

No

## INFORMATION ON PROGRESS

Please specify activity(ies) that your Government/Organization took during the period of 2020-2022\* in relation to:

*\*Note: In providing your answer you might wish to take into consideration indicators for reporting by stakeholders on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, listed in the Annex of SAICM/ICCM.2/3 -Proposal on modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation. To access to the file, please click on: <https://saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/ICCM2/doc/ICCM2%203%20reporting%20E.pdf>*

## 9. Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

In addition to EU answer, Finland would like report the following.

Finland has an Advisory Committee on Chemicals that is a cooperation body appointed by the Government. It has members from different ministries, the relevant authorities to chemicals control, trade and industry as well as stakeholders from the civil society and private sector. Committee meets regularly and has sub-committees dealing with chemical products, biocides, international issues and cosmetics. One of the main tasks is to promote cooperation between different sectors and stakeholders.

In 2022, a Chemicals Forum was organized for the first time. An idea of an open-ended multistakeholder forum arose from the process of renewal of the national Chemicals Programme. The Chemicals Forum is an annual meeting that brings together the chemicals experts from governmental institutions, civil society organisations, academia and private sector as well as the central employee organisations to discuss and share information on topical issues of safe and sustainable chemicals management.

We have also made a voluntary agreement, Green Deal, on early childhood education and care. Deal is made between Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and procuring entities of big cities. The objective of the agreement is to reduce children's exposure to harmful substances in early childhood education and care environments through public procurement. In addition, it aims to increase the procurement of products and services that have been awarded e.g. the Nordic Ecolabel. The agreement creates common procurement criteria that the contracting parties will use in their future procurements

## 10. Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

In Finland the chemicals, including hazardous substances and waste legislation of the European Union is in force.

The Nordic Countries share a long-running tradition of environmental cooperation. Finland is actively involved in Nordic cooperation. Nordic environmental cooperation is based on the Programme for Nordic Co-operation on the Environment and Climate, the vision adopted by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2019 and the sustainable development strategy of the Nordic Countries and the surrounding areas.

The Arctic Council is an intergovernmental forum for promoting sustainable development and environmental protection. It has eight Member States: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Russia, Canada and the United States. In addition, six organisations representing indigenous peoples have status as Permanent Participants. The Arctic Council Working Groups produce research and reports, and Finland has contributed to strengthening the production of data and knowledge on chemicals and their impacts in the Arctic.

Finland is actively participating and contributing to the cooperation of Helsinki Convention, HELCOM (the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area) which dates back to 1974. The Helsinki Convention seeks to protect the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution from land, air and sea, as well as to preserve biological diversity and to promote the sustainable use of marine resources. HELCOM has a special working group that produces data, assessments and policy recommendations to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from pollution by hazardous substances.

## 11. Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes, and budgets.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

The national Chemicals Programme was revised 2022. It sets targets and guidelines for developing and improving chemical safety until 2035. An ambitious chemical programme will ensure and promote health and environmental protection. The aim is to prevent, identify and combat environmental pollution caused by harmful chemicals from various sources and the hazardous exposure of the population and employees to chemicals. The aim is to move towards an environment where chemicals do not harm human health or deteriorate the good state of the environment, in line with the objectives of the European Chemicals Strategy for sustainability.

12. Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

The Chemicals Forum was established as a measure of the Chemicals Programme, and it will involve stakeholders and researchers more extensively in developing and influencing decision-making. In the dialogue, representatives of business life, research and financial institutions and the public authorities will have access to new research data and set common goals. Within the framework of the cooperation, steering instruments and innovations will be developed to facilitate the achievement of the objectives. New chemical issues and challenges arising from them, such as endocrine disruptors, nanomaterials, combined effects of chemicals or chemicals related to the circular economy, will be brought up in the discussion at the Chemicals Forum. Cooperation enables the identification and resolution of problem areas in a preventive manner and, at best, helps to weigh the risks and benefits in a new way. Dialogue will also help to achieve the structural change caused by the circular economy, which will enable innovations and inventions as well as new operating methods, while at the same time improving people's health and the state of the environment.

13. Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

Kemidigi is an online service focusing on chemical information. It provides information on chemicals for both consumers and professionals. Companies can submit different statutory notifications to the authorities through KemiDigi. These include chemical notifications related to dangerous chemicals and notification of annual sales volumes. Information on chemicals products on the market, substances, plant protection products and biocidal products approved in Finland can be retrieved from these public registers.

14. Assess progress toward the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation, and prioritizing actions moving forward.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

## Additional supporting information

**Additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc) should be provided to [saicm.chemicals@un.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@un.org) (cc: [juan.caicedo@un.org](mailto:juan.caicedo@un.org) and [can.zhou@un.org](mailto:can.zhou@un.org))**