

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY¹

As an output of the first meeting in the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, the co-chairs of the meeting prepared this summary, which sets out their views of the contributions of the participants. This summary also incorporates input received from participants during the initial comment period following the first meeting in the intersessional process, reflecting factual additions and clarifications to the document.

Based on the co-chairs' summary a further elaborated document will be prepared throughout 2017 to support the preparations for and discussions at the second meeting in the intersessional process. All SAICM stakeholders will have opportunities, on multiple occasions, to provide input to this document through an open, transparent and online consultative process.

The co-chairs', with the support of the SAICM secretariat, will consolidate the input received as part of the process for the development of the document.

Call for input:

All SAICM stakeholders are invited and encouraged to submit input and suggestions on areas and issues that they feel are not already covered or sufficiently addressed in the co-chairs' summary.

The deadline for input is 7 July 2017. Input should be sent directly to the Strategic Approach secretariat at saicm.chemicals@unep.org.

Introduction

The fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), through Conference resolution IV/4, launched an intersessional process to provide recommendations for consideration at ICCM5 on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

ICCM resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term".

The present summary sets out the co-chairs' views of the contributions of the participants in the first meeting of the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 held in Brasilia, Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017. This summary should be read in conjunction with the official report of the meeting.

¹ Document to be formally edited.

While the Co-Chairs' summary is not intended to present a consensus view, in some areas there was a common understanding. The document is solely that of the Co-Chairs and is non-negotiated.

It is important to note that the discussions at the first meeting of the intersessional process and the Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting are not intended to limit any additional ideas and views to be considered in further discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The present Co-Chairs' summary will be submitted to all SAICM stakeholders for further input and comments in order for it to further inform the discussions during the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?

This section describes why a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is being considered. This section is further linked to the vision for such a future platform.

Vision

- It should be built on the vision set out in UNEA I/5 and referenced in ICCM resolution IV/4, namely “To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development.”²
- It is essential to enhance political awareness and commitment, at the highest levels, in order to meet this vision.

Furthermore, the following elements may be considered:

- It should take into account the SAICM Overall Policy Strategy, the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, including the 11 basic elements.
- All stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure the 11 basic elements of sound management of chemicals and waste, as set out in SAICM's Overall Orientation and Guidance, exist in all countries.
- The vision may be timeless (not limited to 2030) and aspirational, and linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements.
- It should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and particular goals 3, 6 and 12 recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development while respecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Consider efforts, in particular, where we have the largest opportunity to foster change and to have the greatest impact [to achieve transformation towards a more sustainable chemistry](#).

² United Nations Environment Assembly resolution I/5 on chemicals and waste – Annex I, paragraph 7: Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term.

- It should be complementary to and foster coordination with the work of, other environmental multilateral agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap and to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels.
- Momentum should build upon strengthening the linkages of chemicals to policy areas of high priority like climate change and gender, amongst others [also by demonstrating the high solution capacity of the chemical sector for those other policy areas](#).

What could a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 cover?

This section describes what a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 could cover. This section is further linked to the scope for such a future platform. Making progress on the scope of the future platform is a priority for the second meeting of the intersessional process.

In considering the *scope*, the following elements may be considered:

Scope

- Scope should consider the 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance, as well as the WHO health sector roadmap, as a practical way to reflect on the scope beyond 2020. A roadmap for chemicals and waste could be considered.
- It should include and address the elements on ‘Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long-term’ as incorporated in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste.
- The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including waste. The scope could be broader than the current SAICM, including the consideration of sectors, prevention, [innovation](#) and waste.
- The basics of chemicals and waste management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to emerging issues of concern.
- There are several Sustainable Development Goals [which can only be achieved with innovations from sustainable chemistry and](#) where clear connections can be made and where measurable objectives and milestones and supplementary indicators could be developed in support of the 2030 Agenda.
- At the global, regional and national level, the scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to: prevention policies; new emerging issues; climate change; a broadened health agenda; institutional strengthening; the life cycle approach; the potential contribution of sustainable chemistry; sustainability; as well as gender and vulnerable populations, especially indigenous peoples, women, children, and through them future generations.
- Collaborative actions should be fostered on new and emerging issues, particularly issues not currently covered under existing policy frameworks and agreements [and on issues that require actions and innovations from the chemical sector to achieve the SDG’s](#).
- The Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach.
- Work should be based on relevant scientific data and information and consider key elements of chemicals management systems.

- At this meeting, there was no discussion regarding what type of waste issues are being considered in the scope of the beyond 2020 context.

How could the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 be realized?

This section describes how a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste could be realized. This section is connected to governance, new and emerging issues, science-policy interface, financing, sustainable and green chemistry as well as national implementation.

The how will be informed by the independent evaluation of SAICM and should focus on the gaps in reaching the 2020 goal.

Drawing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, linkages should be made to other agendas such as biodiversity, oceans and climate change, food and agriculture, health, gender and labour.

In considering the how, the following elements should be taken into account:

Governance

- The voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, that has been integral to the nature of SAICM, should continue. Voluntary standards, common objectives of protection and codes of practice, to which relevant stakeholders may voluntarily commit for some issues, should also be considered.
- Some participants advocated to explore more elements, as well as potential elements, that would be legally binding. Potential legally binding elements could also be explored.
- Functionally, the design should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sector participation at all levels (national, regional and global) along with a targeted approach, as an essential means to promote impact, involvement, ownership and commitment.
- There is a need to increase industry engagement, by for example promoting partnership approaches in the future platform and by including the waste and downstream sectors.
- Partnerships should focus on public needs and be in line with agreed principles and values. They should be transparent and accountable; ensure multi-stakeholder involvement; provide an added value; and complement rather than substitute commitments made by governments.
- The future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill the gaps and coordinate with decision-making bodies of the Participating Organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), other relevant agencies and organizations. This could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the ICCM (i.e. governments, NGOs and IGOs) to one where the sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) can play a more formal role. There are opportunities to link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Measuring progress, including objectives and milestones, and supplementary indicators, in addition to the SDG targets and indicators, as well as a related plan of action including at the national level. The 11 basic elements and 6 core activity areas set out in the Overall Orientation and Guidance are a useful starting point.
- Measurable objectives, as noted in paragraph 10 of ICCM Resolution IV/4, should be considered, including on means of implementation in order to ensure effectiveness.

- Clear milestones would support the capacity to evaluate progress and would ensure transparency.

New and emerging issues / Issues of concern

- Ensure an information and knowledge base on chemicals and waste, including early warning systems that can inform work on new and emerging issues.
- Focus on scientific and technical capacity building facing new and emerging issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account different needs at the regional level.
- The basics of chemicals management systems must remain a priority in those countries - largely in the developing world - that still face basic regulatory challenges, while also considering how to be responsive to the issues of concern.
- Build on existing efforts by stakeholders and sectors and focus on prevention and minimization.
- Develop a concept for a process of nomination, prioritization and evaluation that is robust and relevant. Future activities on emerging issues should be focused on where there is added value.
- Monitoring of already identified emerging issues.
- There should be reflection on and consideration of the implementation of a lifecycle approach [which is transformative towards sustainable chemistry and contributes to the implementation of circular economy approaches.](#)
- Give priority to the identification of hazardous chemicals in products and throughout their lifecycle.
- Actions should be categorized to facilitate work planning, for example:
 - Areas where scientific information exists and there is a need to increase the knowledge basis.
 - New emerging issues where we need to promote understanding and awareness.
 - Development of national or regional chemicals and waste management systems, including refinement of existing systems.
 - Issues which need global or coordinated action.

Science-policy interface

- Explore how to strengthen the link between science, public health and policy in global chemicals and waste governance.
- Recognize the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice on chemicals and waste by intergovernmental and international bodies such as UNEP, WHO and the chemicals and wastes conventions secretariats.
- Consideration of the social interface and the full range of scientific and public health disciplines.
- Explore approaches on the use of science to inform policy-making and action, including existing mechanisms, in other clusters, such as climate change and biodiversity.
- There were also come comments regarding the need to focus on scientific capacity building and caution about diverting resources from implementation.

- [Strengthen the science-policy interface to bring sustainable chemical innovations to achieve the SDG's faster to the markets and to implementation.](#)

Financing

- The integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste is composed of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing (UNEP/GC 27/12 and UNEA 1/5). The implementation of the integrated approach is essential for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term.
- Providing sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long term with emphasis on the role of developed countries.
- A broader range of contributions should be considered that are predictable, sustainable and adequate.
- Mainstreaming in national budgets and sectoral policies.
- Provide effective capacity building in relevant areas and also focus on the importance of building and strengthening institutional capacity and the need to engage industry in solutions.
- Broadening the donor base for sound management of chemicals and waste, including exploring untapped resources linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Building on existing funding structures at all levels, including lessons learned from existing funding mechanisms [and to consider innovative finance instrument including from the private sector.](#)
- Promote enhanced funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the GEF Trust Fund, Green Climate Fund and others with access for all eligible countries and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with applicable rules.

Sustainable and Green Chemistry

- There was some debate concerning the definition of sustainable versus green chemistry. However, there was agreement that there were useful aspects of these concepts that should be followed up at the next intersessional process meeting.
- [The follow-up discussion should consider that sustainable chemistry is an overarching approach to a transformative process for the chemical sector that builds on green chemistry solutions and provides sustainable solutions for the SDG implementation.](#)

National Implementation

- National Action Plans were mentioned as a possible tool to address the sound management of chemicals and waste, focusing in particular on building in-country capacity for basic chemicals and waste management with the support of international cooperation.
- Additional elements such as institutional strengthening and information sharing were highlighted for making progress at the national level.

Next steps following this stakeholder comment period:

- From July to September 2017, the co-chairs will further develop the work, incorporating the input received.

- ii. The next document would be posted on the Strategic Approach website for further stakeholder comments during October and November 2017.
- iii. The co-chairs would produce a final document in December 2017 that would be made available for discussion during regional meetings held in January and February 2018 in preparation for the second meeting in the intersessional process scheduled for March 2018.

ADVANCE