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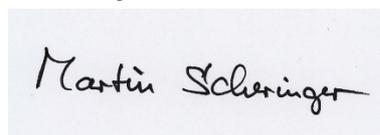
*Re.: Input in response to the co-chairs' summary of discussions at first meeting of the intersessional process*

Dear Ms. Koekkoek,

please find attached to this letter the input in response to the co-chair's summary submitted by the International Panel on Chemical Pollution, IPCP.

If you have any questions regarding our input, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Martin Scheringer

Chair of the International Panel on Chemical Pollution

**Input in response to the co-chairs' summary of the discussions during the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, submitted by the International Panel on Chemical Management (IPCP)**

The International Panel on Chemical Management (IPCP) and its members welcome the efforts made at the first meeting of the intersessional meeting, and have the honour to submit their views on the sound management of chemicals and waste (SMCW) beyond 2020, particularly related to the science-policy interface. We look forward to explaining our views and listening to the views of others and engaging in a constructive spirit in discussions to reach a common understanding regarding the SMCW beyond 2020.

1. It should be recognized that academic scientists in the field of chemicals and waste have much to offer to the SMCW, but in comparison to other stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations and industry are much less organized and coordinated with respect to policy-related work. Thus, in contrast to the fields of climate change and biodiversity, only a small number of academic scientists have been individually called in by some ministries and agencies, whereas the majority of academic scientists are neither participating nor represented in the current science-policy discussion of chemicals and waste. As a consequence, the academic community has a rather limited voice in the current science-policy interface in the field of chemicals and waste. Accordingly, a future, strengthened science-policy interface should leverage existing associations of academic scientists, engage scientists globally, and facilitate a harmonized contribution of the academic community, similarly to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Working Groups under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.
2. It should be recognized that a strong science-policy interface should facilitate bi-directional communication, and thus, promote the co-production of science and policy in the field of chemicals and waste, including perspectives from developing and developed countries: scientific evidence from exploratory research can grow stronger if the policy context defines a need for additional research, and, similarly, a weak policy context can become stronger if confirmatory scientific evidence is produced. The future, strengthened science-policy interface should therefore have at least the following functions:
  - a. to monitor and evaluate the progress of science, identify new and emerging issues, and inform decision-makers about those issues;
  - b. to monitor and evaluate progress on methods for monitoring and reporting in support of policy initiatives; and
  - c. to monitor and evaluate progress of policy, identify fields where gaps in the relevant science exist and are critical, and inform scientists about these gaps.

3. The future, strengthened science-policy interface with the engagement and involvement of the academic community may be established both on the national/regional and international levels in the following ways:
  - a. On the national level, one route of more actively including academic scientists could be through continuous, broad outreach by national agencies and ministries. This could be similar to the current practices, but may also be enhanced through regular dialogue between agencies/ministries and the academic community in individual countries.
  - b. On the international level, governments may wish to provide financial support for the coordination and facilitation of the academic community to be present at international meetings and conferences to provide scientific and technical inputs as well as for scientists to understand the existing research needs and better organize future research activities within the academic community to fill these gaps.
4. The future, strengthened science-policy interface should be neutral (i.e., without financial conflict of interest), independent, transparent and science/facts-oriented.
5. The International Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP), is a global network of academic scientists across all UN regions who work on chemical pollution issues ([www.ipcp.ch](http://www.ipcp.ch)). The IPCP is currently preparing an “International Workshop Supporting the Dialogue Between Science and Policy on PFASs”. The workshop intends to engage leading scientists and regulators across the globe to review the status quos of science and policy in the field of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), an “Other Issue of Concern” under SAICM. The workshop further intends to, building on the review and dialogue, identify common goals and a strategic plan (or a roadmap) that highlights major needs on each side and milestones along the pathways to address them in the next 5–10 years. The workshop in its current form also serves as a first step in addressing such an emerging issue, for which existing information warrants actions while critical data gaps may still need to be filled: It first brings academic scientists and regulators on the same page, which can then be used as a basis for a constructive dialogue among a wide range of stakeholders, including industry and civil society. This could be a model case to test and evaluate how such a “science-policy” dialogue may contribute to the processes under SAICM to address new and emerging issues. The organizers have invited one of the Co-Chairs, Ms. Reis de Carvalho, and the SAICM Secretariat to participate in the workshop. In addition, the workshop outcomes will be published and shared with all stakeholders.