

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets: Are approaches and lessons from the biodiversity cluster relevant for the management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?

Organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) with support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany

15-16 January 2018, Berlin, Germany

Information Note

1. Background

In September 2015, the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, through resolution IV/4, initiated an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The first meeting of the intersessional process was held in Brasilia, Brazil, on 7-9 February 2017. At the meeting, several representatives suggested that a chemicals and waste management framework beyond 2020 should include strategic goals and targets, both qualitative and quantitative. During the discussion, reference was made to the five strategic goals and 20 targets of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and that the Aichi goals and targets had helped to give focus to the biodiversity agenda and facilitated consolidated action under a single umbrella by a range of stakeholders. Taking these discussions into account, the Co-chair's summary of the discussions during the first meeting in the intersessional process referred to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a potential model approach in the "scope" section¹.

2. Potential Relevance of Aichi Targets for Chemicals and Waste Management Beyond 2020

The international governance of the biodiversity cluster, similar to the chemicals and waste cluster, includes autonomous legally-binding multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) as well as voluntary approaches. Also, biodiversity, as chemicals and waste management, requires action in many sectors of government, by different key actors, and at various levels of governance. Finally, the approach taken in the biodiversity cluster has been accepted by a wide range of governments and stakeholders as a means of addressing a complex policy issue through global and national action. It also has proven to be an effective way to measure progress in achieving the overall vision of biodiversity conservation.

Taking the above into account, the question arises, to what extent a set of international chemicals and waste goals and targets has the potential to provide a unifying framework to guide complementary and coordinated cross-cutting global, regional and national level action. These goals and targets could complement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by linking the SDGs with more detailed action agreed by specific bodies, such as the conferences of the parties of chemicals and waste MEAs.

¹ <http://saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/FirstIntersessional/tabid/5463/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

3. Objectives and Structure

The workshop will explore, with stakeholders, to what extent the Aichi model and experience from the biodiversity cluster could be relevant for chemicals and waste management beyond 2020.

Specific objectives of the workshop include the following:

- enhance understanding of the rationale for and the process leading to the adoption of the revised Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2011-2020);
- explore to what extent the Aichi model, and experience in revising targets, may be relevant for chemicals and waste management beyond 2020;
- review existing goals and targets in the chemicals and waste cluster and their relevance for chemicals and waste management beyond 2020; and
- identify actions to share the outcomes of the workshop with stakeholders in the intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The workshop will be structured in three parts. Part 1 will feature presentations and a discussion to review lessons-learned from the international biodiversity cluster and its potential relevance to chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Part II will review existing goals, objectives and targets in the international chemicals and waste cluster and examine their relevance for the beyond 2020 process. Part III will look into the future and explore options for structuring a possible goal and target-oriented approach concerning chemicals and waste management beyond 2020. Results of the workshop will feed other informal workshops on chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 and the SAICM regional and intersessional meetings in 2018.

4. Logistics

The workshop will take place on 15-16 January 2018 in Berlin, Germany, starting on 15 January in the afternoon (2pm). It will be hosted by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany (venue to be communicated). The workshop will take place back-to-back with the second face-to-face meeting of the Steering Committee of the second Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO-II) on 17-18 January 2018, and an informal workshop on the beyond 2020 process organized by the Swedish Ministry of Environment and Energy on 19 January 2018 (taking place in Stockholm).

Stakeholders interested in participating on 15-16 January 2018 are invited to contact Ester Hermosilla (Ester.Hermosilla@unitar.org). Limited financial resources are available to support participation. In allocating financial support, priority is given to governmental and civil society participants from least developed and developing countries and countries in transition, taking into account the need to ensure balanced participation (regions, gender etc.).

The meetings in Berlin will be taking place at: Krausenstraße 17-18, 10117 Berlin (provisionally, Room 2.101 A).