

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY¹

As decided at the meeting, participants are invited to provide factual comments on the Co-Chairs Summary to the SAICM secretariat at saicm.chemicals@unep.org no later than 28 February 2017.

Introduction

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

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 held in Brasilia, Brazil from 7 to 9 February 2017. This summary should be read in conjunction with the official report of the meeting.

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.

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 required. 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 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
- The vision should be further endorsed at the highest levels.

The following elements may be considered:

¹ Document to be formally edited.

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

- 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 and 6 core activity areas.
- All stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure the basic elements of sound management of chemicals and waste exist in all countries.
- The vision may be timeless (not limited to 2030) and inspirational, and linked to measurable objectives and targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements.
- It should take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular targets 3 and 12 recognizing that the sound management of chemicals is an essential prerequisite for sustainable development.
- Consider efforts, in particular, where we have the largest opportunity to foster change.
- It should be complementary to and avoid duplication with other policy frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary.

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

This section describes *what* a future platform for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 will 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 should be considered.
- It should include the elements on ‘strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long-term’ as incorporated United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste.
- The scope should be broader than the current SAICM, including waste.
- There are several Sustainable Development Goals where clear connections can be made and where measurable indicators and targets could be developed. Key Sustainable Development Goals that could be considered are 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17.
- At the global, regional and national level, the scope could take into consideration, inter alia, linkages to new emerging issues, climate change, a broadened health agenda, institutional strengthening, the life cycle approach, vulnerable populations, especially indigenous peoples, women and 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.
- The Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach.
- Work should be based, as appropriate, on relevant scientific data and information.

How will 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 will be realized. This section is connected to *governance, new and emerging issues, science-policy interface, financing and national implementation*.

The how will inter alia be informed by the independent evaluation of SAICM and will consider 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 and climate change.

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

Governance

- A voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach noting that some participants advocated to explore more potential elements that are binding.
- Functionally, the design will promote broader participation in general and to encourage wider sector participation at all levels (national, regional and global), 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.
- The future platform needs to link sectors, 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. There are opportunities to link sectors in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Measuring progress, including targets, milestones, indicators and 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.
- Concrete measurable objectives are required in order to ensure effectiveness.
- Clear milestones will support the capacity to evaluate progress and will 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 new and emerging issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account different needs at 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.

- Monitoring of already identified emerging issues.
- There should be reflection on and consideration of a lifecycle approach.
- 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.
 - Support to development of national chemicals 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 and policy in global chemicals governance.
- Consideration of the social interface.
- 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.

Financing

- The integrated approach to financing composed of mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external financing (GEF and the Special Programme) is a basis for financing the sound management of chemicals and waste (UNEP/GC 27/12).
- Need for sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long term.
- Mainstreaming in national budgets and sectoral policies.
- 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.
- Promote enhanced funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the GEF, Green Climate Fund and others with equal access for all eligible countries.
- Enhance the responsibility of industry in financing the sound management of chemicals and waste.

National Implementation

- National Action Plans are a possible tool to address the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- Additional elements like: institutional strengthening and information sharing were highlighted for making progress at the national level.