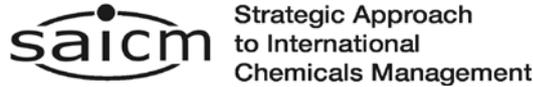




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Second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Stockholm, Sweden, 13-15 March 2018

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Considerations for beyond 2020

Co-chairs' overview paper to support preparations for the second intersessional meeting considering the strategic approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Note by the secretariat

1. The co-chairs of the intersessional process have developed the current 'Co-chairs' overview paper' to support the discussions at the second meeting in the intersessional process.
2. The 'Co-chairs' overview paper' is based on the co-chairs' summary developed at the first intersessional meeting and the subsequent input received from Strategic Approach stakeholders between April and July 2017.
3. The co-chairs consulted with the Bureau of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in the development of this document. In addition, the secretariat circulated the document to all Strategic Approach stakeholders inviting inputs. Input received has been considered in the finalization of this document.
4. The secretariat has the honour to provide, in the annex to the present note, the document as developed by the co-chairs. It is presented without formal editing.

*SAICM/IP.2/1

Annex

Co-Chairs' overview paper to support preparations for the second intersessional meeting considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

A. Introduction

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

Resolution IV/4 specifies that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the outcome document from the first session of the Environment Assembly entitled "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term". Furthermore, other relevant available documents should also be considered.

This paper includes the elements brought forward at the first meeting of the intersessional process and via the subsequent call for input from stakeholders². The paper is not intended to limit future discussions, but rather to provide an outline to support upcoming discussions at regional meetings and the second intersessional process meeting. It does not replace the Co-Chairs' summary paper.

The second meeting of the intersessional process will also be informed by the draft independent evaluation and the secretariat information papers developed for the second meeting of the intersessional meeting. In addition, the Second Global Chemicals Outlook report³ (GCO-II) is under development.

The timeline for meetings before the fifth session of the International Conference is limited. The regional meetings provide a further opportunity for discussions in preparation for the second intersessional meeting in March 2018 and at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) and the remaining intersessional meeting.

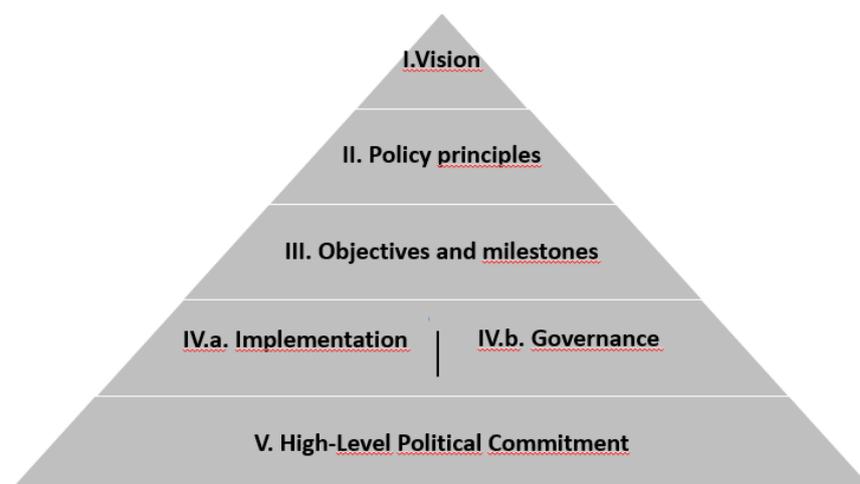
B. Structuring the future approach

This overview is aimed at assisting stakeholders' preparation for, and discussions at, the second intersessional meeting. Figure 1 sets out a proposed structure for developing the future approach. It considers:

- a) What will be addressed beyond 2020, including the need for a statement of the overall vision, policy principles and a list of objectives with related milestones and possible targets;
- b) How to identify key stakeholders and how stakeholders will work together to confront these issues, including the need for implementation and governance arrangements;
- c) How to obtain the necessary expression of high-level political commitment to underpin the process.

This overview paper discusses each layer of the proposed structure, starting at the top of the pyramid.

Figure 1: Proposed structure for developing the future approach



¹ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

² Stakeholder responses to the Co-Chairs' call for input have also been taken into account in the series of papers developed by the secretariat for the second intersessional meeting, to the extent possible.

³ <http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/what-we-do/policy-and-governance/global-chemicals-outlook>

(I) Vision

The overall vision will set the direction and inspire action. The vision should be aspirational and long-term and it should also be easily linked to measurable objectives and practical targeted actions, including qualitative and quantitative elements and milestones.

Participants at the first meeting of the intersessional process suggested that the vision could be built upon that set out in resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and referred to in resolution IV/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, 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”.⁴

In addition, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains a high level political commitment within target 12.4 to, “by 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimise their adverse impacts on human health and the environment”. This should be taken into consideration in developing the vision.

While the initial milestone could be 2030, to take advantage of the momentum and awareness created by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the vision may also be timeless (not limited to 2030), measurable and aspirational.

The vision, and the objectives and milestones to be attained, will benefit from a simple and direct narrative to promote a healthier world for all, facilitate communication and increase public and political awareness.

(II) Policy principles

The Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy currently provides broad policy guidance for the implementation of SAICM. It is structured around five overarching policy strategy objectives related to: risk reduction; knowledge and information; governance; capacity-building and technical cooperation; and illegal international traffic. The Overarching Policy Strategy also covers financial considerations, implementation and taking stock of progress.

Stakeholders may wish to define a set of limited core principles that guide all future efforts, taking into account current guidance set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other aspects such as the 11 basic elements⁵. Furthermore, stakeholders may also wish to reflect upon the long-term policy elements identified in the outcome document ‘Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term’ (UNEA resolution 1/5 annex),

The development of clear policy principles will guide stakeholder efforts in achieving the vision for chemicals and waste management beyond 2020. This will serve to highlight both the importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste for sustainable development as well as the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals at large.

(III) Objectives and milestones

In line with paragraph 10 of resolution IV/4, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the secretariat has been requested to develop a proposal for objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda and related milestones, with the vision to be aspirational in nature, objectives limited in number and achievable and measurable milestones centred on the 11 elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance and the paper to be developed through an intersessional working group open to all stakeholders. This document⁶ is available to stakeholders and will be a helpful starting point.

Regardless of the form of the future approach, measurable objectives will be needed. It is important to provide a practical program of work that is measurable, to make and track progress toward achieving the vision, noting that not all countries and stakeholders are starting at the same level.

The Aichi targets for biodiversity⁷ were referenced as a potential model approach. The international governance of the biodiversity cluster, similar to the chemicals and waste cluster, includes autonomous legally-binding multilateral environmental agreements as well as voluntary approaches. Biodiversity, as chemicals and waste management,

⁴ Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its first session (A/69/25), annex I, resolution 1/5, para. 7.

⁵ <http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/OOG%20document%20English.pdf>

⁶ This document is also currently available for consultation with the Bureau.

⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

requires action in many sectors of government (environment, agriculture, industrial development etc.), by different key actors, and at various levels of governance (i.e. international, regional, national, sub-national and local). The approach taken in the biodiversity cluster through the Aichi targets 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 biological diversity conservation.

Early progress in establishing objectives and milestones and in identifying specific stakeholders will help clarify the needs and priorities for the beyond 2020 context, and may serve to guide the development of implementation and governance arrangements moving forward.

Taking stock of progress

Once more detailed and measurable actions and indicators are agreed, it will be important to reflect upon an effective and appropriate approach to reviewing implementation and advancement of the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

It would be desirable to start considering how to ensure appropriate review and follow-up, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda and without creating additional mechanisms or reporting obligations. In principle, the information and reporting mechanisms already existing under the various relevant organizations and instruments, as well as implementation of the 2030 Agenda, should be used to gather the necessary information.

If appropriate, voluntary peer review processes, focusing on the objectives and milestones could be considered. While this would be subject to further discussion, these would be open to non-governmental stakeholders and provide an opportunity for information exchange and learning.

Furthermore, any review process should be linked to national action plans, if such an approach is agreed upon in moving forward.

Scope

The platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 could be broader than the current Strategic Approach, including waste sectors and prevention initiatives. Further discussion is needed on which aspects of chemicals and waste and the circular economy should be prioritized in the beyond 2020 context.

(IV)(a) Implementation arrangements

Implementation arrangements for the current Strategic Approach are set out in Conference Resolution I/1.

Through the intersessional process, stakeholders have highlighted: (i) the voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach that has been integral to the Strategic Approach should continue, without prejudice to the approaches under other relevant, existing or future, voluntary or legally-binding instruments; (ii) the need to promote complementarity and foster coordination with the work of other multilateral environmental agreements or frameworks, whether legally binding or voluntary, while avoiding duplication and overlap; (iii) collaboration and networking, including at regional level, should be increased in order to share best practices and lessons learned among countries that are facing, or have faced, similar challenges.

It has also been noted that it will be necessary to take into account capacity-building, technical cooperation and technology transfer as independent issues besides being including in the five overarching policy strategy objectives.

Working groups could be established that are responsible for advancing individual or groups of objectives, supporting stakeholders to meet the milestones and to report accordingly.

We will be in a better position to consider where attention needs to be focused for the future implementation arrangements once draft objectives are established and the independent evaluation is available.

At the same time, a number of areas relevant to implementation arrangements are listed below that have been raised in the discussions to date. Further discussion in these areas is needed to help advance the overall discussions.

National implementation

Strong political ownership through commitments in particular from national governments to implement agreed objectives and milestones as well as the 2030 Agenda have been highlighted by many stakeholders.

National action plans were noted as a possible tool for addressing the sound management of chemicals and waste, focusing in particular on building in-country capacity to address the 11 basic elements, issues of concern and fostering multisectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement. National action plans should build on any existing efforts under Strategic Approach, the multilateral environmental agreements and other voluntary efforts such as the WHO "Road

map to enhance health sector engagement in the strategic approach to international chemicals management towards the 2020 goal and beyond”.

New and emerging issues and issues of concern

Collaborative actions should be fostered on issues of concern, in particular issues not currently covered under existing policy frameworks and agreements and those identified through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some stakeholders noted that there may be a need to clarify terminology related to emerging issues and issues of concern, as well as a clearer definition of the requirements for designating such issues. The independent evaluation will review the current process of identifying and taking action on new or emerging issues and issues of concern within the Strategic Approach and will inform discussions in this area.

The future framework could focus on scientific and technical capacity building for issues of concern issues that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals, taking into account different needs at regional level.

Financing

The implementation of the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste is essential for financing in the long term.⁸ Overall, it will be necessary to provide for sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long-term with emphasis on the role of developed countries. This is especially important as financing through the GEF and the Special Programme is limited and the Quick Start Programme is ending.

In response to a request made at the first intersessional meeting, the secretariat has developed a document for the second intersessional meeting reflecting on the integrated approach to financing that aims to identify potential sources of financing resulting from Agenda 2030 and to map the indicative basic cost of implementing the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020. This information will help inform the intersessional process in this area, in addition to other elements such as the Quick Start Programme (QSP) Impact Evaluation (2015). Furthermore, experiences from the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM will need to be taken into account.

We will be in a better position to assess costs once draft objectives are established and there is an understanding of the programme of work for the beyond 2020 framework.

(IV) (b) Governance

Within the current Strategic Approach structure, decision-making rules and other rules of procedure, including those applicable to stakeholder participation, have been established through various resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The following table sets out the establishment of a number of the current governance structures and mechanisms of the Strategic Approach.

Table 1: Core governance of the Strategic Approach

International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM)	Established in section VII of the Overarching Policy Strategy Rules of procedure set in Conference Resolution II/1
Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management	Established in section VII of the Overarching Policy Strategy Rules of procedure set in Conference Resolution II/1
Open-ended Working Group	Established in Conference Resolution II/6
Regional coordination	Established in Conference Resolution II/2
Strategic Approach secretariat	Established in Conference Resolution I/1
Rules of Procedure for the ICCM	Established in Conference Resolution II/1

Once the objectives are drafted and the independent evaluation is available, we will be able to reflect better on and consider the desired form of the future governance arrangements.

At the same time, discussions should not be limited to the governance of the current Strategic Approach, as the subject matter requires the active involvement and action by many organizations.

⁸ The integrated approach to 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 resolution 1/5).

The continued and improved implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as well as implementation of the Minamata Convention will also be essential in implementing elements of the beyond 2020 framework.

Promoting broader participation

Stakeholders have expressed that, functionally, the design for an approach beyond 2020 should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sectoral participation at all levels (national, regional and global), along with a targeted approach as an essential means of promoting impact, effectiveness, accountability, involvement and commitment.

Involvement of the private sector is not only about the chemical industry. The role and responsibility of the chemical industry is essential and should be extended to and complemented by an equally important role of downstream users within the value chain (textiles, toys, furniture, food, packaging, building etc).

Science-policy interface

The need to explore opportunities to strengthen the link between science, public health, socio-economic information and policy in chemicals and waste governance has also been identified, with particular emphasis on decision-making at the national level and, at the multilateral level, without interfering with the tasks of existing mechanisms for the provision of reliable, scientifically valid and evidence-based advice on chemicals and waste management by intergovernmental and international bodies such as UNEP, WHO, OECD and the chemicals and wastes conventions.

The secretariat was requested to develop an information document on the science-policy interfaces in other clusters such as climate change, biodiversity and other relevant areas for the second meeting of the intersessional process. In addition, the WHO, UNEP, and chemicals and wastes secretariats are planning a paper on the science-policy interface on chemicals. In considering options in this area, stakeholders should consider both the functions and the value-added of any new mechanism or body.

(V) High-level political commitment and visibility

Political commitment is an essential element of this process to ensure on-going and enhanced awareness and support, at the highest levels, to achieve the future vision beyond 2020. It should promote policy coherence at all levels and be linked to the vision and policy principles.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed to by political leaders in 2015 and which identifies chemicals and waste management as contributing to the three dimensions of sustainable development, could help provide incentive and generate additional political attention for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Due consideration is required for establishing a high-level of commitment at the fifth session of the Conference in 2020 and maintaining high-level commitment and engagement of all sectors and stakeholders, including the IOMC organizations, in the long-term.

Once the objectives are articulated and the future direction is better established, we will be in a position to consider how to pursue the necessary high-level political commitment and visibility required as an underpinning to the process.

C. Co-chairs' desired outcomes of the second meeting

In closing, we should remember that commitment, cooperation, awareness and ownership among all stakeholders will be key to achieving the future we need for the global sound management of chemicals and waste.

At the second meeting, we should aim to articulate a draft vision, consider the need for possible policy principles as well as identify measurable objectives and milestones, for consideration by the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

There is a significant task in front of us all. We, in our capacity as Co-Chairs, intend to continue to promote collaborative and constructive engagement for the intersessional process.

We urge all participants to prepare themselves to conduct our work in a collaborative and constructive manner. We very much look forward to working with you at the second intersessional meeting to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.