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

Bangkok, Thailand, 1-4 October 2019

Items 3(b)i and 4(c) of the provisional agenda*

3(b)i: Reflections on and outcomes of the OEWG3: Co-chairs of the intersessional process to present the papers drafted at the request of the OEWG3

4(c): Development of recommendations for consideration by the fifth session of the Conference regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020: Mechanisms to support implementation

Additional measures to achieve multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement, prepared by the co-chairs of the intersessional process

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to submit to the intersessional process a paper on additional measures to achieve multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement developed by the Co-Chairs of the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (see annex). The Co-Chairs were requested to develop the paper by the third meeting of the Strategic Approach Open-ended Working Group held from 2-4 April 2019 in Montevideo, Uruguay.
2. Participants at this meeting may wish to review the proposed text and further develop it as an output of this third meeting of the intersessional process.

* SAICM/IP.3/1

Annex

Additional measures to achieve multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement, prepared by the co-chairs of the intersessional process

Introduction:

The third meeting of the Strategic Approach Open-ended Working Group requested that the Co-Chairs, with support of the secretariat, and in consultation with the Bureau, undertake further work on additional measures to achieve multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement.

The purpose of this paper is to provide further considerations on additional measures to support implementation and in particular on measures to enhance multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement to accelerate achievement of the objectives beyond 2020.

Strengthened engagement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders should include:

- Enhanced actions by members of individual sectors and stakeholders;
- Increased collaboration between and amongst sectoral and stakeholders groups where this collaboration is critical to successful results; and
- Increased and enhanced multi-stakeholder dialogue in the learning and policymaking process.

While this paper focuses on a number of ideas for measures to achieve multi-sectoral participation beyond 2020, the co-chairs also suggest that efforts to strengthen this engagement needs to start now, during the intersessional process to ensure all sectors participate in developing the beyond 2020 vision and framework and feel a sense of co-ownership in its implementation. This could form the basis for discussions toward a larger engagement strategy.

In preparing this paper, the co-chairs have taken into account input received at the seventh meeting of the ICCM5 Bureau held from 9-10 July 2019 in St Petersburg, Russia as well as written inputs received from stakeholders since the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

Section I: Proposed Text for the Beyond 2020 Instrument on Measures to Achieve Multi-Sectoral and Multi-stakeholder Engagement:

The international conference should:

- a) Approve the development of a strategy to achieve multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement in the Beyond 2020 [instrument], monitor its implementation, and periodically review and update the strategy as needed.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Governments, industry, IOMC, civil society organizations, academia and other sectors and stakeholders may wish to establish commitment milestones or pledges under various strategic objectives or more generally in support of implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The successes, challenges and opportunities for further multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral engagement should be a regular consideration in the undertaking of any activity. For example in establishing an issue of concern, stakeholders may wish to consider whether all of the relevant sectors or range of stakeholders with a stake in the issue have been engaged and seek their commitment to the goal of the issue work plan and to support its implementation.

The ICCM may wish to regularly review progress in implementation of the strategy and consider successes, lessons learned and any new challenges and opportunities on a regular basis.

Considerations:

Participants of the intersessional process may wish to consider a recommendation to ICCM5 for the development of a comprehensive strategy for sectoral and stakeholder engagement. The advantage of such a strategy would be to describe in one focused document, a complete package of mutually supporting initiatives to achieve multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement to guide future implementation. Such initiatives could then be tracked and monitored to ensure that sector and stakeholder engagement is optimally realized.

One option to develop this strategy could be a multi-sectoral workshop or meeting prior to ICCM5 that brings together governments and stakeholders to flush out draft elements of what such a strategy might look like.

Section II: Background and additional considerations

A note on the mandate: some feedback received through the consultation process requested definitions of stakeholders and sectors, and noted the paper speaks to multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement, as opposed to only multi-sectoral engagement as identified in the mandate. The Co-chairs deemed it appropriate to include stakeholders broadly to acknowledge those stakeholders whose work is inherently multi-sectoral due to the nature of their particular issue(s) of concern. The Co-chairs also operated under the understanding that actors/stakeholders within and across sectors are engaged, rather than sectors themselves. Consequently, it is not possible to discuss multi-sectoral engagement without also discussing multi-stakeholder engagement.

Stakeholders and sectors are identified in the beyond 2020 documentation, see the outcome of the contact group of OEWG3, and the OPS (Appendix A).

CONTEXT

Throughout the Intersessional Process, stakeholders have highlighted: (i) that the voluntary, flexible, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach that has been integral to the Strategic Approach should continue; (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) regional cooperation should be increased in order to share best practices and lessons learned among countries that are facing similar challenges.

The SAICM evaluation has highlighted the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder nature of the program as one of its strengths:

“SAICM is an ambitious initiative, is unique in its set-up as an inclusive multi-stakeholder, multi-sector voluntary global policy framework on sound management of chemicals and waste. It has provided a space and opportunity for government and non-government actors alike, to discuss and deliberate on the management of chemicals and chemicals in products throughout their life cycle and of waste within an atmosphere of relative trust and cooperation.

The multi-stakeholder approach character of SAICM has been maintained since the initial meeting in Dubai in 2006. A particular strength has been the participation of non-government actors in the SAICM process to the extent that they are represented in the decision-making bodies, allowing for their perspectives and priorities to be heard and considered as resolutions were framed and agreed. This participation has been made possible because of the voluntary nature of SAICM.”

However, the evaluation also notes some weaknesses and gaps:

“Despite the multi-stakeholder ambition of SAICM, several important groups of stakeholders are missing from the SAICM process and structure, in particular academia.

The role of National Focal Points (NFPs) is central for the delivery of the SAICM agenda at the national level. However, over 80% of NFPs are located within the environment sector with few representing the agriculture, health or labour sectors. A general lack of cooperation and collaborations between ministries is limiting the multi-sector ambition of SAICM.

Additionally, industry representation at SAICM is limited to the chemical producing industry. Many organizations with an interest in the SAICM agenda are absent. These include: downstream uses of chemicals, retailers, downstream users that have created labeling schemes often driven by consumer demand.”

Concerning the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, the evaluation concludes:

“Greater capacity and increased representation of the health, agriculture, finance and industrial sectors within government national and regional focal points will support efforts to mainstream the sound management of chemicals across government departments. Within non-government stakeholders, continued efforts to communicate with and reach out to downstream businesses and industries as well as civil society more broadly will further support the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach.

A particular strength has been the participation of non-government actors in the SAICM process, allowing for their perspectives and priorities to be heard and considered as resolutions were framed and agreed. Retaining this strength and character beyond 2020 will support the future mission.”

While one approach would be to describe a range of possible measures in different parts of the new adopted texts for the Beyond 2020 Framework where appropriate and where the linkages with specific targets and or milestones could be emphasized, there is also a risk that this would create piecemeal implementation through discretionary action.

One IOMC participating organization in its recent submission on this issue suggested the development of a “protocol” on multi-sectoral engagement that would be part of the adopted texts. The Co-Chairs have not had time to further explore what a ‘protocol’ may entail, but see merit in exploring the development of a focused package of initiatives on sector and stakeholder engagement. Whether it be a strategy or protocol or similar document, it could:

- be based on the lessons learned from the approach to date
- address the gaps and weaknesses identified in the evaluation
- include a combination of principles and suggested steps to take such as a checklist and or practical guidance procedures
- be included in an annex or standalone document that is referred to as such protocols may need to be changed after a few years.

Participation from currently under- and non-represented stakeholders could be improved by demonstrating synergies between achievements of sound management of chemicals and waste objectives and the overarching visions, mandates and strategies of these stakeholders, and in achieving cross-cutting sustainable development goals and targets, e.g. under biodiversity and climate change. This approach, could be conceptualized as “how engagement in the Beyond 2020 Framework would be of benefit to the different sectors in achieving their mandates” to foster buy-in and facilitate mainstreaming of sound chemicals and waste management practices into existing programmes and policies of stakeholders across sectors, while also helping achieve multiple organizations’ goals. Examples include: the expected increase in demand globally for chemicals will bring with it new opportunities for decent work. Sound chemicals and waste management plays a key role in occupational health and safety policies and programming across occupations (not just the chemicals industry), which is an integral criterion of decent work. Sound chemicals management is also key to

efficient manufacturing and production practices among many industries other than industrial chemicals. In the agricultural sector, for example, sound management of chemicals and waste is critical to make harvests more resilient or improve harvests which is key to meeting objectives in IOMC participating organizations and SDGs related to nutrition and health, reducing world hunger, etc. Examples of how this can be achieved are included in the section below.

POSSIBLE MEASURES FOR ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT

Based on the input we heard from stakeholders on this issue, the following are some areas which could be examined for increased action. The nature of the action at the sub-national, national, regional, or international level and who should lead will depend on the specific activity. Sectors and stakeholders are encouraged to develop roadmaps, work plans, pledges of action, or articulated milestones to demonstrate how they will achieve targets and objectives. These elements are suggested as possible starting points for further discussions on this issue which should include participation from currently under and/or non represented stakeholders.

Possible starting points for further consideration:

- Visibility of the key sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) needs to be ensured in the strategic objectives, targets and milestones/indicators, to create shared ownership and accountability
- Approve and monitor implementation of a multi-sectoral engagement protocol
- Convene thematic sector conferences or meetings before, during or immediately after the international conference. Thematic sessions could include how sound chemicals and waste management plays a role in achieving organizations' visions, priorities or goals of those organizations
- Set up agendas of meetings and events to the interest of stakeholders and sectors to attract participation of different sectors where more engagement is desired, for example, "sectoral forums" and / or themed meetings
- Establish a new bureau structure or extended bureau to strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement
- Increased funding for multi-sectoral governmental and NGO participation to include a more balanced representation
- Examine opportunities for funding for multi-sectoral activities
- Support the development of roadmaps or action plans (e.g. Labour)
- Strengthen engagement of all sectors in the development of milestones and activities to achieve the strategic objectives
- Consider multi-sectoral collaboration in selection of issues of concern that warrant global action

- The international conference could establish a system to issue awards and recognition for groups making efforts to implement the sound management of chemicals and waste and/or strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement
- Support project activities on building national capacities in multi-sectoral management
- Review the role of national focal points and regional focal points with respect to multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement; build capacities of national focal points to enhance their work with stakeholders and in multi-stakeholder processes.
- Consider the development of a communication plan to raise awareness at all levels of important issues and developments in the sound management of chemicals and waste (e.g. Themed campaigns on specific issues, together with stakeholders)
- Consider the development of a “showcase” element of the international conference and other related meetings or showcase conference in the intersessional years to highlight best practices and evidence of the benefits of multi-sectoral action on the sound management of chemicals and waste (e.g. “partnership days”; exhibition; workshops; trainings; an award for ground-breaking partnerships on chemicals and waste; inviting relevant SEED winners; etc.)

Governments:

Develop and build on existing cross-sectoral arrangements at the national level, enhanced effort is needed to understand and address institutional barriers and to share successes with regard, but not limited to:

- To garner high level support - Clear communication of the need, within national borders for sound management of chemicals and waste as a cross-cutting issue and identification of how the sound management of chemicals and waste supports sustainable development and is relevant to economic, social and environmental benefits (link to mainstreaming)
- Inter-ministerial committees and efforts to raise political awareness and sustain efforts across levels of government to support implementation domestically
- Develop and disseminate guidance for national focal points to enhance working with stakeholders and multi-stakeholder processes
- Domestic policy priorities and solutions that include cross sectoral considerations and implications
- Domestic engagement of multiple sectors and stakeholders relevant to these sectors as well as public consultation and outreach as part of the development and implementation of national chemicals management legislation and programs
- Selection, appointment and engagement of National Focal Points from multiple ministries (environment, natural resource, industry, health, agriculture, labour, development, social, education, economic/finance ministries) in SAICM activities and meetings as well as in meetings related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements, sectoral governing bodies (UNEA, WHA, ILO, etc.) (possibly having an alternate National Focal Point from a different department);
- Nomination of a broader number of sectors as country members to the bureau;

- Share tools, experiences and lessons learned in and provide incentives (awarding best practices) for multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement and public outreach and consultation in national programs;
- Develop or promote the development of standards and tools to mainstream sound chemicals and waste management for governments and industry in a multi-stakeholder effort
- Develop and enforce legislation and regulations as needed

Industry

- Increased engagement of industrial stakeholders across the supply chain (producers including generics producers, formulators, major user groups, retailers, disposer and recyclers of chemicals and products containing chemicals of potential concern and containers and other waste streams)
- Engagement of a broader number of industrial sectors (agriculture, manufacturing, food production/distribution, electronics, textiles, plastics, etc.)
- Active support for initiatives promoting the strategic objectives, including high level public pledges and commitments, and/or ‘road maps’ indicating actions to be taken from associations or key industry players
- Increased sectoral and lifecycle representation on an extended bureau of the international conference
- Commit to targets or milestones and develop roadmaps, which are shared and reported against
- Commit to achieving sector specific targets
- Develop and implement mentoring programmes

Non-governmental (NGO) stakeholders

- Increased engagement of NGO stakeholders across sectors, regions, and segments of society (women, consumer groups, children’s health advocates, development charities, academia, etc.);
- Active support for initiatives promoting the strategic objectives, including to develop roadmaps, work plans, pledges of action, or articulated milestones from key associations and or groups on key areas of action that NGOs will take to further engage and or raise awareness of their constituents and communities;
- Increased NGO sectoral representation on an extended bureau of the international conference

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) and their Secretariats

- Resolutions negotiated at MEA Conference of Parties (COPs) supporting the new Beyond 2020 framework and committing to support its strategic objectives in areas within their own mandate

- In making funding decisions for its own activities and in supporting other funding initiatives for activities relevant to the MEAs (e.g. Special Program, GEF), consider the potential for also meeting the strategic objectives for beyond 2020
- Regular reporting and side events at the international conference and MEA COPs on activities of mutual interest and opportunities for collaboration when appropriate; explore areas of reporting synergies/ sharing reporting data/ information where appropriate to avoid duplication and minimize the burden on stakeholders for reporting to multiple fora
- Consider opportunities for joint meetings of the secretariats and/or bureau meetings to discuss common areas of work;
- Participate on an extended Bureau of the international conference

Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)

Note: while the two are connected, this section is intended to address actions needed in each (individual) intergovernmental organization rather than the IOMC as a body (addressed later in the paper)

- Resolutions, formal support or endorsement governing bodies meetings of key IGOs (UNEA, WHA, ILO, FAO, ...) supporting the new Beyond 2020 framework and committing to support its objectives in areas within their own mandate
- As in 2006, a joint statement by the heads of IOMC IGOs supporting the Beyond 2020 framework
- Dedicate the necessary funding to meeting the strategic objectives that fall within its mandate in line with decisions from the relevant governing bodies
- Support efforts to find new sources of funds to support implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste at the domestic and international level
- Develop and implement with member countries sectoral work plans/road maps, implementation plans to support implementation
- Connect between existing sectoral networks
- Regular reporting at international conference and IGO meetings on progress of activities of mutual interest and opportunities for collaboration.
- Consider opportunities for joint IGO/SAICM secretariat and/or bureau meetings to discuss common areas of work
- Develop tools to support sectoral outreach
- Participate on an extended bureau of the international conference
- Mainstream sound chemicals and waste management into programming to achieve organizational goals, such as ending world hunger, achieving universal health care, decent work for all, etc.

IOMC

- Strengthen the role of the IOMC and its Participating Organisations in supporting the strategic objectives and the beyond 2020 framework within their sector and collectively
- Lead and or Co-lead those initiatives where their competence is needed for success
- Co-facilitate meetings under a themed approach [for example, an international conference session may be dedicated to have a special theme and additional discussion on a certain sector]
- Organize sectoral meetings/ forums/ networks on margins of the international conference or in support of development of positions for international conference meetings
- Undertake a study to compare the beyond 2020 strategic objectives and targets against the work plans and commitments in the various IGOs with a view to highlight areas for synergies;
- Develop tools to support public, sectoral or stakeholder outreach
- Participate on an extended bureau of the international conference
- Generate evidence of the cross-sectoral benefits of collaborative efforts

Regional collaboration

- Build up any existing regional structures to support chemicals and waste management, in particular multi-sectoral venues
- Engagement of regional stakeholders across sectors in activities
- Development of regional action plans (incorporating milestones into these plans), which include multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder considerations and support the overall stakeholder strategy
- Regions may also consider the development of communication strategies or plans for their region as well as ‘showcase’ events to share lessons learned at the regional level
- Meetings to promote harmonized legislative and regulatory systems in line with the strategic objectives and any standards or guidelines adopted by the international conference

Secretariat

- Upon request of the international conference, monitor and provide guidance to stakeholders on implementation of the strategy and pro-actively seek opportunities to engage with IGOs, industry associations, downstream stakeholders, international sectoral events, and other stakeholders to increase awareness
- Consult with national focal points to understand institutional barriers to multi-sectoral collaboration at national level with a view to determining if common tools could be developed

- Examine opportunities for funding for multi-sectoral activities
- Establish a welcoming entry point on the website for stakeholders interested in engaging on the sound management of chemicals and waste
- Maintain an information clearinghouse with multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement in mind, for example sharing information on the cross-sectoral benefits of achieving a specific goal through a multi-sectoral response; elements of multi-stakeholder processes and partnerships at relevant meetings
- Make every effort to ensure meetings do not conflict with those of MEAs or other meetings related to sound management of chemicals and waste.

APPENDIX A: Text from the OEWG3 outcome document and OPS defining stakeholders and sectors

OPS I.2

The main stakeholders in the Strategic Approach are understood to be Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals involved in the management of chemicals throughout their life-cycles from all relevant sectors, including, but not limited to, agriculture, environment, health, industry, relevant economic activity, development cooperation, labour and sciences. Individual stakeholders include consumers, disposers, employers, farmers, producers, regulators, researchers, suppliers, transporters and workers.

OEWG3 outcome document

5. The involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders across the life cycle at the local, national, regional and global levels is critical to the sound management of chemicals and waste. Stakeholders include [but are not limited to] Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, industries, businesses, the financial sector, development banks, academia, workers, retailers and individuals. Sectors are understood to include, but not be limited to, agriculture, environment, health, education, finance, development, construction and labour.

APPENDIX B: Relevant insights from the Global Chemicals Outlook-II

<p>Key actor groups include: key economic and enabling sectors; companies, industry groups, and trade associations; workers’ organizations; civil society groups; academic and research community; donor, investor and financial community; leaders in media and general public.</p> <p>The beyond 2020 intersessional process provides an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - link and create synergies between chemicals and waste management and other international policy agendas, including health, the world of work, climate change, biodiversity, agriculture and food, sustainable consumption and production, and the international pollution agenda; - facilitate commitment, ownership, mutual accountability and collective tracking of progress, stakeholders could develop, implement and share internationally results-based action plans and roadmaps; stakeholders could pledge and showcase their action plans and roadmaps within the beyond 2020 framework and benefit from the input of other stakeholders. Pledges could be reviewed globally against agreed goals and targets, with adjustments made, as appropriate; - collaborative action to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through the integration of 	<p>Synthesis Report: p. 10, 15, 73-79</p> <p>GCO-II Full report: introduction; Part V, Ch. 2, 3</p> <p>Options for action: 1, 10</p>
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<p>chemicals and waste considerations into relevant sector policies and action plans; to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms and integrate chemicals and waste considerations into relevant sectors, including enabling policies and actions</p>	
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