

7 June 2019

**Inputs to the Beyond 2020 Process
on Additional Measures to Achieve Multisectoral Engagement**

Submission by the Participating Organizations of the IOMC

In preparation for the next meeting of the intersessional process on Beyond 2020, a number of inputs were requested by SAICM stakeholders at OEWG-3, including:

- For follow-up by the co-chairs of the intersessional process, inputs on “additional measures to achieve multisectoral engagement”.

The following inputs reflect the views of the IOMC Participating Organizations at this stage on additional measures to achieve multisectoral engagement and the role that the Organizations could play in this regard, noting that in some cases high level approval might be required on final proposals from the intersessional process.

SAICM was conceived as a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach. Integration across sectors is a key factor to achieving the 2020 goal. Greater capacity and increased representation of the health, agriculture, labour, 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. For example, the SAICM platform today recognizes and supports the implementation of international legally binding instruments such as the ILO Conventions on chemical safety and the International Health Regulations, as well as the BRS Conventions and the Minamata Convention.

At OEWG-3, the IOMC made a statement included as an annex to this input. In follow up to OEWG-3, the IOMC organizations would like to share the following thoughts and propose the below measures, which are a package of mutually supporting initiatives, with no one measure sufficient on its own to achieve multi-sectoral engagement. Measures would be included/addressed in the instrument that establishes the platform and/or related resolutions.

- In order to achieve meaningful, multi-sectoral engagement, the platform will need to be of interest to, and useful for, the work of the different ministries at the country level. Different sectors will need to be equally supported to participate in the new platform which will need to be clearly seen as a shared space for all.
- It is acknowledged that efforts and stronger commitment by different organizations is required to ensure information flow, national engagement and funding.
- The IOMC was a co-convener of ICCM-1, and each of the IOMC organizations endorsed or otherwise formally acknowledged support for SAICM, but this was not sufficient for multi-sectoral engagement in SAICM implementation.

- Specific mention of the ILO Conventions on Chemical Safety¹ needs to be included in order to promote engagement of the relevant sectors.
- The IOMC will actively consider its role moving forward. During the next phase of the intersessional process, the IOMC and its POs will discuss the elements of this role and how they can be operationalized.
- Visibility of the key sectors (e.g. agriculture, environment, health and labour) needs to be ensured in the objectives, targets and milestones/indicators, to create shared ownership and accountability including by the development of sectoral as well as stakeholders road maps or action plans, as appropriate, to facilitate implementation of the targets. The IOMC POs look forward to contributing to the planned intersessional work on this issue.
- In addition to ministries of labour that represent the labour sector, multi-stakeholder engagement needs to be expanded to include key tripartite actors in the world of work, namely employers from various economic sectors, worker representatives and other occupational safety and health bodies.
- Meetings need to include balanced representation of the different sectors and stakeholders, including agriculture, environment, health and labour (this may require a change to the normal approach of funding one person per country for most meetings, depending on the make-up of national focal points and a stronger involvement and commitment of intergovernmental organizations to share information, fundraise and promote the new platform so that it becomes relevant to the stakeholders involved in implementation and decision making).
- Agendas of the International Conference and other relevant meetings and events need to be designed to attract the participation of different sectors, including themed discussions on a rotational basis and dedicated time slots for “sectoral forums” to coordinate (currently this is only stakeholder-based, i.e. regions, NGOs, etc).
- The IOMC POs be invited to engage their sectoral networks in the beyond 2020 platform.

¹ Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129)
Benzene Convention, 1971 (No. 136)
Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 (No. 139)
Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977 (No. 148)
Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No.155)
Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162)
Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988 (No. 167)
Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170)
Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174)
Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176)
Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184)
ILO List of Occupational Diseases, Recommendation, 2010 (No. 194).

- The IOMC POs be invited to associate relevant sectoral events, scientific conferences etc with the Beyond 2020 work.
- The Bureau needs to be reformulated to ensure sectoral representation, including from governments (at present only established for NGOs).
- National and regional coordination in preparing for international meetings and the role of inter-ministerial collaborative mechanisms should be strengthened and promoted, for example via identifying clear institutional arrangements and settings at national and regional levels. Guidance should be provided to national focal points as well as to the regional focal point in fulfilling their role.
- Arrangements for financing need to support balanced sectoral access and participation. The text should call on all stakeholders, including intergovernmental organizations, to lead fundraising to ensure implementation as well as balanced sectoral access and participation.

The above measures need to be complemented by additional measures at the national and regional levels and the IOMC organizations look forward to the proposals from national stakeholders. However, measures should include:

- Having a closer look at the responsibilities of the national focal points and regional focal points, which was also recommendation in the Health Sector Strategy adopted by ICCM3.
- Putting National Coordination mechanisms in place to ensure implementation and meet the goals and targets. An option to support coordination can be to use the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes and that UN reform is identified as instrumental to support and assist governments and stakeholders to make the SDGs a reality within their roles and profiles, tailored to the context and circumstances.

Annex 1 IOMC statement at OEWG3

- *In order to achieve meaningful, multi-sectoral engagement, the platform will need to be of interest to, and useful for, the work of the different ministries at the country level. Different sectors will need to be equally supported to participate in the new platform which will need to be clearly seen as a shared space for all.*
- *In order to assist to achieve that objective, the IOMC would like to consider further options that promote joint ownership as well as joint responsibility.*
- *IOMC was a co-convenor of ICCM-1, and each of the IOMC organizations endorsed or otherwise formally acknowledged support for SAICM but this was not sufficient for multi-sectoral engagement in SAICM implementation. This is likely to require a package of mutually supporting initiatives. For example, one idea would be to provide the possibility for intergovernmental organizations to convene technical and scientific conferences formally associated with SAICM. Another proposal would be for sectors to propose milestones that they identify with in order to take more ownership of their implementation.*
- *IOMC believes additional proposals are needed to enable multisectoral engagement, specifically at the regional and national levels.*