

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

Submission by the World Health Organization, 7 June 2019

In preparation for the next meeting of the intersessional process on Beyond 2020, a number of inputs were requested by SAICM stakeholders at OEWG3, including:

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

In follow up to OEWG3, the World Health Organization consulted with the WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network of health ministries as well as being part of a parallel consultation among the IOMC Participating Organizations. The inputs from the WHO Network were collected by the WHO Secretariat: the process did not allow for formal endorsement as such of the Network.

Regarding the measures subject to parallel consultation among the Network and the IOMC, it was not feasible nor appropriate to bring together the inputs received into one submission, however the following elements received support from both. These are a package of mutually supporting initiatives, with no one measure sufficient on its own to achieve multisectoral engagement:

- 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.
 - *Feedback from the WHO Network included the proposal to have a milestone, e.g. Target A.4: Stakeholders have incorporated the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and waste into their planning, policies and practices, thereby supporting the development and implementation of chemicals management systems and other sector-appropriate mechanisms.*
- Meetings need to include balanced representation of the different sectors, including agriculture, environment, health and labour.
- Agendas of the International Conference and other relevant meetings need to be designed to attract 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).
 - *NOTE: at OEWG3 there was a suggestion to create a “subsidiary body” on health. However feedback from the WHO Network supported the view that health should not be subsidiary to other sectors, instead the sectors should be on equal footing.*
- Invite the IOMC Participating Organizations to engage their sectoral networks in the beyond 2020 platform.

- Invite the IOMC Participating Organizations 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.
 - *Feedback from the WHO Network included the proposal to have a milestone, e.g Target A.2: Countries have sufficient capacity to address chemicals and waste issues nationally, including appropriate inter-agency coordination and stakeholder participation mechanisms, such as national action plans.*
- Arrangements for financing need to support balanced sectoral access and participation.
 - *Feedback from the WHO Network included the proposal to have an additional target under Strategic Objective E: Identify and mobilize the financial and non-financial resources needed to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste in all sectors, by and for all stakeholders. (as reformulated in contact group at OEWG3) In addition to address this under the financial arrangements section of the texts being developed and to relate this to work at all levels, national, regional and international.*

In addition, WHO specifically invited its Global Chemicals and Health Network to suggest additional measures for the national and regional levels and the following were proposed:

- Building capacity of specific sectors to engage in chemicals and waste dialogue (eg. Support participation of different sectors to participate in sector specific and multisectoral chemicals and waste policy forums, conferences, briefings at national, regional and or global level).
- Opportunities and mechanisms for routine multisectoral collaboration, for example, could “requiring multisectoral collaboration” be one of the criteria for issues warranting global action?
- Sufficient resources and time allocated for effective multisectoral collaboration (facilitate processes to sustain multisectoral collaboration).
- A policy process and policies shaped and influenced by multisectoral inputs.
- Evidence generated and shared on the cross-sectoral benefits of achieving a specific sector goal through a multisectoral response; evidence and communication of shared benefit.
- Arrangements for the platform need to recognize that countries make different arrangements for management of chemicals at national level. Implementation efforts

would be strengthened if those involved in enforcement are included in inter-ministerial arrangements.

- Regarding financing:
 - Support short project activities on “building national capacities in multisectoral management of chemicals”. Feedback from QSP projects mentioned enormous interest among public health professionals to make steps forward in building capacities for intersectoral cooperation and communication when managing chemicals.
 - Prioritize multisectoral national projects from developing countries where the health sector plays a leadership role.
 - Sharing resources between sectors is essential to multi-sectoral involvement at the national level.
- Equal involvement of the health sector with other sectors was described as the only way to achieve the objectives of SAICM.
- Regarding the national interministerial collaboration mechanisms:
 - Charge the national interministerial mechanisms with coordinating the intersection of the sectoral road maps to result in national plans.
 - Establish the mechanisms at senior level to give the issue high level political priority.
 - Promote sharing experience in inter-sectoral cooperation in countries with different leading agencies in sound chemicals management.
- Increase international cooperation in order to strengthen local capacities in countries for a multisectoral approach.
- Solutions at national level should be implemented at regional level where appropriate especially balanced sectoral representation as this is influential on what then flows to the country level.
- Link the platform with the health and environment ministerial processes in Europe, Africa and Asia Pacific, which address chemicals. Means to achieve this need further discussion.

In conclusion, WHO proposes that consideration be given to the development of a protocol (or similar) on multisectoral engagement that would be part of the adopted texts. The protocol would describe the package of mutually supporting initiatives to achieve multisectoral engagement, in order to guide future implementation. If the measures to achieve multisectoral engagement are not described in one place, there will be a range of measures in different parts of the adopted texts with some being optional/discretionary. This would create the risk of piecemeal implementation as sight is lost in future of the complete picture and purpose of those measures, with the result that multisectoral engagement is not fully realized.
