

It is my pleasure to transmit the general comments from Argentina's focal point on the Bureau documents on the intersessional process considering SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

SAICM-ICCM5-Bureau-7.4.1 Other-mechanisms-support-implementation

Part a) Mechanisms for Taking Stock of Progress

Argentina requests to include the proposed targets presented at the Open-ended working group that were part of the outcome document N° 3 included as a footnote. These targets are not reflected on Annex A of Part b.

We would also like to see reflected in the Mechanism for taking stock of progress a clear definition of the base line, taking into account the different realities of the countries, regions and stakeholders.

A comment from the IP1 reflected in the document implies that *"The [Strategic Approach] stakeholders need to prioritize efforts to ensure the basic elements of sound management of chemicals and waste exist in all countries"*. In this regard, we believe that is very difficult in this context to establish a common understanding among the basic elements needed for a SMCW, considering the different stage of development among the stakeholders.

Part b) Capacity Building to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste

Within the proposed text it should be clear that beneficiaries of capacity building can be other stakeholders and not only government authorities in order to really enhance the implementation of the strategic objectives.

Part c) Mechanisms for Updating the Beyond 2020 [SAICM]

In the proposed text there are several possibilities mentioned with regard to the potential mechanism to updating the future SAICM. Argentina considers that the best mechanism is a subsidiary body or working group, which should be formed with representatives from all the stakeholders' groups and all the UN regions, with the support of the Secretariat.

SAICM-ICCM5-Bureau-7.4.2 Measures-Achieve-Multisectoral-Engagement

During the last Open Ended Working Group Argentina and other countries raised their concern regarding the inclusion of other sectors within the SAICM structure and activities, in terms of cost and time effectiveness. We understand the intersectoral participation should be driven within the country level through one National focal point (from environment, health or foreign affairs agencies) that coordinates internally with all the other relevant sectors, without a necessity of changing this figure in the future approach. This concept has a clear implication on the different elements addressed under this document.

Similar to the above mention position, Argentina considers that the nomination of the governmental representatives of the Bureau is a national decision, and it should not be influenced by the necessity of involving a specific sector.

SAICM-ICCM5-Bureau-7.4.3 Addressing-Issues-Concern

A scientific body coordinated by governments considering the science to policy aspects of sound management of chemical could provide a great input for the evaluation and identification of new Emerging Policy Issues and the assessment of the existing ones. Roles and

requirements for proponents of new EPIs should be revised since countries, especially developing countries, and other organizations may not have the necessary resources to fulfill all aspects of the evaluation process. The assistance from a science to policy arrangement would facilitate the process and give more transparency by taking science-based decisions.