

Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4)
Bucharest, Romania, 29 August – 2 September 2022

Proposed actions to facilitate sectoral engagement in the SAICM policy process

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the document entitled “*Proposed actions to facilitate sectoral engagement in the SAICM policy process*”. The document presented in the annex has been developed and submitted by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and has not been formally edited.

Annex: Proposed actions to facilitate sectoral engagement in the SAICM policy process

I. Introduction

SAICM texts and resolutions converge to emphasize the inter-sectoral nature and multi-sectoral structure of the Strategic Approach. However, recent evaluations and practical experiences reveal that sectoral contribution and expertise into the SAICM processes remain below the expectations raised by SAICM plans and strategies. The evaluations also reveal that all relevant sectors need to be engaged more effectively and at a higher level. This is particularly the case among the governmental representatives, where there is a significant imbalance between representatives of different national ministries. The SAICM independent evaluation from 2006 to 2016 highlights among weaknesses, the stakeholders' concern over lack of commitment at the highest levels of some UN agencies to formally commit to SAICM.

The intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 provides an opportunity to develop an ambitious and comprehensive global framework based on an increased engagement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders.

At its 56th meeting the IOMC, considered again how to strengthen an integrated approach to sound management of chemicals and waste and in this context how to increase the sectoral engagement in the in implementation of new international arrangements Beyond 2020.

This paper builds on the previous IOMC work on additional measures to achieve multisectoral engagement and the role that the organizations could play in this regard. It also builds upon earlier submissions from IOMC and IOMC POs to the intersessional process and t highlights the rationale and benefits of an increased sectoral engagement and proposes a limited number of concrete actions that could be considered when finalizing recommendations for ICCM5. The actions proposed are grouped in the following key areas:

- 1. Reflect sectors' priorities in the agenda of ICCM and other SAICM relevant meetings, and in SAICM's new targets and indicators framework**
- 2. Ensure balanced governmental sector representation in the governance arrangements, including the ICCM bureau, to increase ownership and participation**
- 3. Extend support for the different sectors through enhanced cooperation for sectoral engagement in the SAICM Secretariat**
- 4. Increase sectoral engagement at global, national and regional level**

It is proposed that actions in each key area is needed to achieve a more meaningful multisectoral engagement.

II. Rationale and benefits of an increased sectoral engagement in SAICM

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 did not automatically lead to stronger r multi-sectoral engagement in SAICM implementation. Additional mechanisms are obviously needed. The 2030 Agenda provides a renewed opportunity to integrate chemicals and waste considerations into development planning and sectoral policies and programmes.

To advance an ambitious and concerted commitment, a global collaborative framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste needs to create mechanisms and incentives to foster the

commitment and engagement of the various sectors and stakeholders that play a key role in promoting and implementing the sound management of chemicals and wastes. In this context there is a need to demonstrate that the benefits of sound management of chemicals and waste as a whole, and within sectors, can be achieved and maximized while costs and negative impacts can be prevented, reduced and minimized.

An increased sectoral engagement in SAICM:

- is of benefit to the different sectors in achieving both their own mandates and cross cutting sustainable development goal as well as to achieve policy coherence between sectors withing national government
- is essential to mainstream chemicals management into national public health and social and economic development programmes which yields significant benefits in term of economic development, poverty reduction, job creation and, crucially, reduced human health and environmental risks.
- Is essential for implementation of an integrated approach to international chemicals management
- to create additional benefits beyond ‘avoided costs’ in the form of improved production and resource efficiencies, trade and investment, innovation and employment impacts as well as broader health co-benefits. Cleaning the various waste streams of hazardous substances creates the conditions for safer recycling and, in turn, an effective circular economy.
- promotes comprehensive, preventive and proactive chemicals management strategies which brings benefits as it makes production and supply chains cleaner and safer and reduces the risk of costly accidents. Savings can be used to provide better health care to the whole population, shift to a more preventive health approach, extend the reach of health care systems, or be reinvested into other productive activities.
- increases political and financial support by “packaging” the issues in an attractive manner by associating the chemicals and wastes issue to higher priority causes e.g. through the link with human health, livelihoods, poverty reduction, and job creation.
- Creates an environment of “inclusiveness” and ownership for different stakeholders

III. Proposed Actions

In order to achieve sectoral engagement and commitment the following four elements are each required. (The term “sector” should be understood in this context in its broad dimension, as “area of work”, e.g. “labour sector” should be understood as the “the world of work” inclusive of cross cutting development and social issues):

1. Reflect sectors’ priorities in the agenda of ICCM and other SAICM relevant meetings, and in SAICM’s new targets and indicators framework. Some of the actions in this regard could include:

- SAICM secretariat to reach out to IOMC POs to ensure sectors feedback from their relevant constituencies on their priorities and challenges in the development of ICCM agenda and other relevant meetings;

- Design agendas of the International Conference and other relevant meetings and events to attract the participation of different sectors. Thematic discussions should be held on a rotational basis and dedicated time slots for “sectoral forums” should be coordinated in addition to the currently stakeholders-based ones, (i.e. regions, NGOs, etc);
- Co-convening of conferences in cooperation with IOMC POs with reflection of logos in the organization and banner of the conferences as was done for ICCM1; Co-conveners to invite representatives drawn from a range of different sectors with an interest in international chemicals management and chemical safety issues, such as environment, health, labour, agriculture, finance etc...
 - ✓ Increase number of Ministers/senior planning officials from Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to receive financial support to attend the conferences. Aim to secure funding for more than one representative;
 - ✓ Ensure balanced representation in conferences and meetings of the different sectors and stakeholders by organizing hybrid meetings to facilitate full virtual participation of all relevant sectors.
- Ensure sectoral priorities are included in the beyond 2020 targets and indicators framework and invite the development of sectoral plans or roadmaps to help achieve them.
- Increase outreach to other governing bodies/forums, including attendance, organizing events, providing updates at these “other” meetings

2. Ensure balanced governmental sector representation in the governance arrangements, including the ICCM bureau, to increase ownership and participation. Some of the actions in this regard could include:

- Include senior government officials drawn from a range of different sectors with responsibility for, or an interest in, international chemicals management and safety issues, such as agriculture, health, labour and finance, in addition to environment, into the ICCM Bureau (nomination could be facilitated by IOMC POs); This may be achieved by one or more of the following:
 - Establish an expanded bureau to provide advice to the President on possible avenues for consensus with regard to the outstanding SAICM negotiating issues and on planning for the future ICCMs.
 - Consider applying rule of procedure in Rule 15.a. “the President may, in consultation with the other members of the Bureau, invite such participants and others as he or she deems appropriate to discuss specific matters concerning the work of the Bureau that he or she considers would benefit from such considerations. Inviting sectoral representatives to the Bureau in an ad hoc manner could contribute to the sectoral engagement but this may still be unsatisfactory in term of a consistent, coherent and long-term engagement.
 - Amend the rules of procedure
 - Encourage/decide that one of the two representatives for each region in the ICCM Bureau belong to different Ministries;
- Consider sectoral balance in selection of chairs/co-chairs of subsidiary bodies.
- Countries to consider rotating the SAICM National Focal Point role between different ministries, or to have multiple focal points as is the case for the Rotterdam Convention.

- Donors to provide sufficient support for more than one representative per supported developing country to attend SAICM meetings, with representatives required to come from different ministries.

3. Extend support for the different sectors through enhanced cooperation for sectoral engagement in the SAICM Secretariat. Some of the actions in this regard could include:

- Leverage the sectoral advantages of the IOMC organizations, by linking to their established networks of ministries and plans. Develop an operational procedure to put this into effect.
- Explore the circumstances by which IOMC POs could contribute to the work of the SAICM secretariat
- Another option is to strengthen the IOMC Secretariat and SAICM Secretariat by co-locating them to ensure full representation of IOMC concerns and priorities into the SAICM Secretariat's work and reflect IOMC partner organization's ownership and logos.
- Establish an international integrated joint-working mechanism between SAICM secretariat and IOMC (for example similar to FAO code of conduct mechanism).

4. Increase sectoral engagement at global, national and regional level

- The SAICM Secretariat to develop a public consultation process to reach out and engage Government, civil society and the private sector stakeholders from relevant sectors throughout the SAICM process
 - Establish a trust fund/International financial mechanism or enhance an existing mechanism that would support sectoral priority issues that contribute to integrated approaches to sound chemicals management.
 - Enhance and promote national and regional coordination capacity and inter-ministerial collaborative mechanisms.
 - Prioritize capacity building support in close cooperation with the respective IOMC PO to enable clear institutional arrangements and settings at national and regional levels.
 - Charge the national inter-ministerial 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.
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