

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

Nairobi, Kenya, 27 February – 3 March 2023*

Proposal on targets to support integrated chemicals and waste management

Submission by a group of NGOs¹

Note by the secretariat

The attached to the present note contains a submission by a group of NGOs¹.

It is reproduced as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

* The fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4) was held from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Bucharest, Romania. The meeting was adjourned on 2 September 2022 and will be resumed from 27 February to 3 March 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

¹ The following group of NGOs submitted this proposal: Health and environment justice support (HEJSupport), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), groundWorkSA

Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4)

Nairobi, Kenya, 27 February – 3 March 2023

IP4 Discussion Document: Proposal on targets to support integrated chemicals and waste management

Submission by a group of NGOs ¹

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During IP3, a group of NGOs proposed three new targets to advance implementation of activities in relation to Chemicals in Products as an issue of concern, as well as to support toxics-free circular economy. The targets were listed in the Table comparing the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1 “*Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020*” and the Outcomes of the Virtual Working Groups, SAICM/IP.4/INF/17 under SOB.

These targets include:

- New Target B.3: By 2026, a global minimum cross-sectoral transparency standard for chemicals of global concern in products is in place and used to support the work on Chemicals in Products internationally and in national implementation plans, as well as the transition to toxics-free materials flows, e.g. via circular economy.
- New Target B.4: By 2030, a publicly available global database administered by IOMC for chemicals of global concern in products is in place to support informed decision-making, and it will expand over time as needed when increasingly more countries report to it.
- New Target B.5: By 2030, stakeholders in the value chain ensure that reliable information on chemicals in [materials and] articles is available throughout their life cycle [including at the waste stage], to enable informed decisions and safe management of chemicals in a clean circular economy.

¹ The following group of NGOs submitted this proposal: HEJSupport, SSNC, groundWorkSA

In the IP Co-Chairs single consolidated document prepared for IP4.2 discussion, New Target B3 and B4 are missing and are not reflected in any other targets.

However, these targets are necessary to meet the Sustainable Development Goal target SDG12:4, which is referenced in the introduction of the co-chairs' consolidated text and is about sound management of chemicals and waste throughout the life cycles, including in materials and products. Transparency of chemical information in materials and products highlighted in the new Targets B3 and B4, is necessary to enable informed decisions for all life stages of materials, since chemicals are integral constituents of materials and products thereof.

Moreover, transparency of chemical information in materials and products is the basis for the efficient implementation of “Chemicals in Products” as an Issue of concern under the beyond 2020 instrument. It is also a prerequisite for a toxics-free circular economy that is the foundation for the efficient use of resources and sound management of chemicals and waste. Circular economy is now reflected in the scope of the new instrument, as well as in the proposed targets B2 and D2 in the co-chairs' consolidated document.

The proposed targets B3 and B4 suggest ways to achieve harmonized chemical transparency information across sectors at the global level by offering a standard for providing such information on how it should be collected and shared. The format of the standard could be based on the inherent hazard properties of chemicals prioritized for information disclosure in accordance with the Chemicals in Products Programme. This would give new impetus, also to the work with the Chemicals in Products Programme.

We would, therefore, like to request that the New Targets B3 and B4 are included in the IP Co-Chairs single consolidated document, Part IV Vision, strategic objectives and targets for the sound management of chemicals and waste so that the discussion can continue in connection with IP4.2.