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

Bucharest, Romania, 23-27 March 2020

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda¹

Development of recommendations for consideration by the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management: Governance and implementation

Possible guidelines for National Focal Points

Note by the secretariat

1. The Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/IP.3/9) notes that National Focal Points were constrained in their ability to fulfil their role by a number of factors. One element that was highlighted is that little guidance was provided to National Focal Points in fulfilling their functions.
2. The Africa region presented a proposed set of guidelines (job description) for National Focal Points at the second session of the International Conference in 2009. However, this was not formally approved by the Conference and remained a proposal, annexed to the meeting report of that meeting (SAICM/ICCM.2/15). The proposed guidelines were prepared in light of experiences within the African region and as part of efforts to strengthen and prioritize national chemical management capacities.
3. The ICCM5 Bureau, at its eighth meeting in January 2020, noted the important role of National Focal Points for the success of the beyond 2020 instrument. In this context, the Bureau requested the secretariat to make the proposed guidelines, presented to the second session of the International Conference, available to participants at the fourth meeting of the intersessional process.
4. Participants may wish to review and consider the possible guidelines, annexed to the present note, during the discussions under the relevant agenda item.

¹ SAICM/IP.4/1

Annex

Possible guidelines for SAICM national focal points

These guidelines were proposed for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session.

They were prepared in the light of experience within the African region and as part of efforts to strengthen and prioritize national chemicals management capacities.

The proposed guidelines are set out below.

The responsible national focal point should:

- (a) Establish a national desk for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management with the provision of an annual budgetary allocation;
- (b) Act as an effective conduit for communications on the Strategic Approach at the national and regional levels, and ensure synergies with the focal points of chemicals and wastes-related multilateral environment agreements;
- (c) Establish an inter-ministerial and inter-institutional committee for implementation of the Strategic Approach, including representatives of non-governmental organizations;
- (d) Facilitate Strategic Approach implementation efforts at the national and local levels;
- (e) Solicit and organize input from sectors and actors relevant to the Strategic Approach;
- (f) Establish communication with subregional and regional focal points to facilitate coordination and cooperation in implementation of the Strategic Approach;
- (g) Support the development of regional positions for presentation at sessions of the Conference;
- (h) Facilitate the submission of progress reports to the regional focal point and the Conference on implementation of the Strategic Approach.