
Nineteenth Meeting and Eleventh Teleconference of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management for its fifth session
15 February 2022 from 14:00 – 16:30 CET

SAICM ROADMAP TOWARDS IP4 AND ICCM5

This document provides the roadmap towards IP4 and ICCM5, including the next steps for decision by the ICCM5 Bureau. The document also includes information on progress made since the third meeting of the intersessional Process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste (IP3) held in October 2019 to date.

I. Road map towards IP4 and ICCM 5

A. Timeline

At present IP4 is tentatively scheduled to take place from 4 – 9 September 2022. Discussions are ongoing with the Government of Romania to ascertain if IP4 can be convened earlier than September 2022 and an update will be provided during the Bureau meeting. The dates for ICCM5 will then be reconsidered. A period of 12 weeks is required between IP4 and ICCM5 to finalise, translate and distribute the ICCM5 documents.

Regional consultations will be organised back to back with the BRS COPs in June 2022 if feasible. Regional consultations will also be organised back to back with IP4 and ICCM5 as appropriate. In addition a twenty minute slot has been provided during the BRS Regional Preparatory meetings that will be held between end March to early May 2022.

B. Next steps towards IP4

Step 1: Compile the outcomes and recommendations of the VWGs into one document. The compilation document starts with brief information on the process and mandate of each of the VWGs followed by textual recommendations from the VWGs for review and proposed next steps. The compilation document is available as SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/2.

Step 2: Invite written inputs from stakeholders to the single outcome document of the VWG. Written inputs should not open new discussions but the opportunity to include views that may have been raised in the VWG process but were either not incorporated or accurately included in the outcome document. A template will be provided to facilitate the written inputs.

Step 3: Face-to-face regional meetings prior to IP4 will be organized. The goal of these meetings would be to discuss and prepare for the IP4 meeting.

Step 4: In addition to face-to-face meetings, virtual briefings and online discussions could still be considered. Online discussions can be facilitated, for example, through SAICM Communities of Practice Portal: <https://saicmknowledge.org/topic/community-practice>.

Regional briefings could be an opportunity to further advance on reaching a common understanding on key issues from the VWGs topics as requested by stakeholders.

C. Preparation for IP4

It is recognized that the starting point for discussion is the SAICM/IP4/2 “Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020”.

The work done under the following working groups should be considered within the above-mentioned compilation document: a) Technical Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; and b) 4 Virtual Working Groups. The outcomes of these working groups will be appended to the compilation document as decided by the 11th meeting of the ICCM5 Bureau – Teleconference that was held on 9 September 2020.

Meeting documents

The primary meeting document for consideration at IP4 will be SAICM/IP4/2 “Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020”.

As agreed at the 11th ICCM5 Bureau meeting, **the VWG outcomes** will be included as addenda to this meeting document. In addition, the stakeholder’s inputs to the VWGs compiled document (stakeholder review process); and outcomes of the Regional briefings before IP4 in 2022 can be included as information documents.

A number of the working documents prepared for IP4 when scheduled in March 2020 have been considered through the Virtual Working Group process or overtaken by events, such as the discussion on the science policy interface for chemicals and waste currently being considered by UNEA-5 Part 2 scheduled for February 2022. The following documents will therefore be provided for consideration at IP4:

Document symbol	Document name
a) SAICM/IP.4/1	Provisional agenda
b) SAICM/IP.4/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
c) SAICM/IP.4/2	Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (<i>to be updated with current information</i>)
d) SAICM/IP.4/2/Add.1	Outcome of the Virtual Working Group 1 on Targets, Indicators and Milestones
e) SAICM/IP.4/2/Add.2	Outcome of the Virtual Working Group 2 on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation
f) SAICM/IP.4/2/Add.3	Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Issues of Concern
g) SAICM/IP.4/2/Add.4	Outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Financial Considerations
h) SAICM/IP.4/3	Proposals for the name of a new instrument

D. Expected Outcomes of IP4

In terms of the expected outcomes of IP4 as a milestone towards ICCM5, the following approach will be taken:

IP4 considers (i) Strategic Objectives and Targets, Indicators and Milestones; (ii) Governance and mechanisms to support implementation; (iii) Issues of Concern (and emerging policy issues); and (iv) Financial considerations. Depending on the progress made at IP4, ICCM5 considers the areas where satisfactory progress has been made at IP4 and/or considered as priority issues to be addressed by ICCM5.

IP4 is expected to generate one compiled document, without annexes, if appropriate, to provide the basis for discussion and further negotiation at ICCM5. In addition, IP4 is expected to:

- a) Continue implementing ICCM4 mandate, possibly by agreeing on further intersessional work including the possibility of convening an OEWG meeting if issues cannot be addressed by IP4.
- b) Recommend the forwarding of any pending OEWG3 and IP3, issues for consideration if not already addressed in the SAICM/IP4/2 “Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020” document. The Bureau at its 15th meeting requested the SAICM Secretariat to provide a rationale on the proposal to reconvene IP4 and an additional OEWG meeting prior to ICCM5. The rationale can be found [here](#). The Bureau concluded at its 18th meeting to keep the decision to have IP4 as decided by OEWG3 and take a decision following IP4 if an additional OEWG4 is needed or helpful for a successful outcome of ICCM5.
- c) Recommend actions and timelines for intersessional work if needed and agreed upon.
- d) Confirm or elect by acclamation the IP Co-chair vacant position.

E. Logistics: Proposed timing and organization for IP4 and ICCM5

The Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 was tentatively planned for September 2022, and ICCM5 in 2023. Yet, the challenge still exists that the risk of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect the ability to convene physically, a request from some key stakeholders. The Government of Romania have expressed their continued willingness to host IP4 in Bucharest, while the Government of Germany have expressed their continued interest to host ICCM 5 in Bonn.

OPTION 1: IP4 held in face-to-face mode

The Government of Romania have expressed their continued willingness to host IP4 in Bucharest. Options such as UN Headquarter venues could be explored in view of availability of conference services and facilities as well as representation of missions that can represent their respective Governments thus avoiding unnecessary travel. Based on previous experience, IP meetings usually have a total of 250 participants.

OPTION 2: To be developed as a fall-back

Whilst an IP4 in face-to-face mode is an absolute priority, another priority is to conclude the intersessional process and decide on the future international chemical and waste management framework/instrument. For this reason, it is necessary to consider possible restrictions that may arise due to the pandemic. The IP Co-Chairs, ICCM5 President and Secretariat in close cooperation with the Bureau and thus, all stakeholders, will elaborate on potential variations for handling such a situation if the pandemic results in additional/new travel restrictions, and considering the experiences with other

international negotiation processes that have been undertaken. The final decision on convening IP4, including in modalities other than an inclusive face-to-face mode remains with the stakeholders.

ICCM5

A face-to-face ICCM5 in 2023 in Bonn is planned. Options for a concrete date will be elaborated by the ICCM5 Presidency and the Secretariat, considering the decision on whether to hold an OEWG4 prior to ICCM5, and considering other international conferences on chemicals and waste.

II. Progress report to date since IP3 and subsequent activities (October 2019 to December 2021)

A. Recommendations for the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

The third meeting of the Intersessional Process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP3) held in October 2019 in Bangkok established four thematic groups to advance on certain areas of key importance.

The thematic groups considered the outcomes of Open-ended Working Group reflected on the results of the finalized Independent Evaluation for 2006-2015. The thematic groups were mandated to develop further recommendations. IP3 focused on issues not yet finalized at the OEWG3 with a view to achieve its finalization at the fourth meeting of the intersessional process and its submission to the Conference at its fifth session for consideration and possible adoption.

Following IP3, the Secretariat, in consultation with the co-chairs of the intersessional process and the ICCM5 Bureau prepared for the consideration of the participants of IP4, the document SAICM/IP4/2 “**Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**”. The document can be found [here](#).

With restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the postponement of the [fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 \(IP4\)](#) and the [fifth session of the International conference on Chemicals Management \(ICCM5\)](#), the ICCM5 Bureau and the co-chairs of the intersessional process proposed a series of interventions to allow SAICM stakeholders to continue deliberations on document SAICM/IP4/2 online through the establishment of virtual working groups and regional briefings.

The following topics were considered by the thematic groups during IP3, the expert working group in February 2020 and the virtual working group process between October 2020 – February 2021:

(i) Targets, milestones and indicators

At IP3 the thematic group on targets, milestones and indicators identified a way to progress in the formulation of targets and their respective indicators prior to the fifth session of the Conference.

A technical working group was established and tasked to advance work on targets, indicators and milestones in preparation for the fourth meeting of the intersessional process. The outcome of the group: meeting document (SAICM/IP.4/3) and an information document (SAICM/IP.4/INF/15) were made available for consideration by IP4. More information on the Technical Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones for SAICM can be found [here](#).

The outcome of the Virtual Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones is available [here](#).

(ii) Governance and mechanisms to support implementation

During IP3, the group managed to achieve some clean text with brackets. The Secretariat was requested to develop a paper summarizing known obstacles and possible incentives to multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation, considering any input received from stakeholders.

The outcome of the Virtual Working Group on governance and mechanism to support implementation is available [here](#).

(iii) Issues of concern

During IP3, a number of diverging views emerged during the deliberations on issues of concern, specifically defining an issue of concern, the degree of significance of adverse effects, the criteria for nomination of an issue of concern, and the procedure to be followed. In addition, there were diverging views on existing emerging policy issues and some participants considered it important to continue the work on those topics with the view to reaching their original targets, including a review of progress made to date to identify achievements made and assess areas requiring further work. Finally, the thematic group had not sufficient time to deliberate on the analysis of modalities to assess progress. The group agreed that the document would be further deliberated at the fourth meeting.

The outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Issues of Concern is available [here](#).

(iv) Financial considerations

During IP3, the group deliberated on revised paragraphs drafted on mainstreaming, private sector involvement, including involvement of the financial sector, and dedicated external financing. Discussions took place on the need and means for additional fund raising for the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste. The thematic group addressed the conference room paper put forward by Switzerland and Norway on financing the secretariat. There was a brief exchange of views on capacity building and how to reflect that in the outcome document as capacity building was an important tool to implement the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The outcome of the Virtual Working Group on Financial Considerations is available [here](#).

B. High-Level Declaration Informal Drafting Group

The ICCM5 President established a process for the development of a possible ICCM5 High-level Declaration with guidance from the ICCM5 Bureau. A High-level Declaration informal drafting group was established in September 2020 to compile, organize and synthesize input, views and proposals from SAICM stakeholders that could inform the scope, structure and content of a possible High-level Declaration on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. These proposals will inform (among other proposals) the work of an envisaged drafting group to be formally established at the rescheduled IP4 (or ICCM5, as the case may be) for consideration by the envisioned ICCM5 High-level Segment.

Information related to the High-level Declaration informal drafting group, including the Co-facilitator's final report is available [here](#).

C. Survey on stakeholders' experience of the virtual working group process (June to July 2021)

On 16 June 2021, the SAICM secretariat launched a survey on stakeholders' experiences of the virtual working group process conducted between October 2020 and February 2021. The survey is available in six official languages of the United Nations.

The responses to the survey can be found [here](#).

The summary of survey responses on stakeholders' experience of the virtual working group process (*revised by 27 August 2021*) can be found [here](#). This document includes a list of topics that can be discussed in future regional briefings or webinars.

D. Regional Briefings held on 7 and 8 September 2021

The ICCM5 Bureau at its meeting held on 21 July 2021 agreed to convene regional briefings in early September 2021 with the following objectives:

- To inform the regions on the results of the survey on the design of the future virtual work;
- IP Co-chairs to present a way forward in the intersessional process;
- To give regions the opportunity to provide feedback to the SAICM Secretariat and IP Co-chairs; and
- To give regions the opportunity to discuss their perspectives amongst themselves.

The regional briefings were well received, and future regional briefings were proposed to be held prior to IP4. Participants considered it a useful exercise in building up common understanding and consensus, sharing information on key issues in preparation to IP4. More information on the regional briefings can be found [here](#).

In conclusion, 2021 provided the opportunity for broad engagement through the technical and virtual working groups, regional and other stakeholder consultations, as well as the survey. These events enabled the development of tangible outcomes, including notes identifying gaps, compromise text proposal and new or alternate text, as appropriate. These will feed into the compilation of recommendations, which will become the focus going forward in 2022.