

Twenty-first meeting and Thirteenth teleconference of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management for its fifth session
Tuesday, 12 July 2022, from 14:00 – 16:30 CET

REPORT OF THE TWENTY FIRST MEETING OF THE ICCM5 BUREAU

1) Opening and welcome

The President of the Fifth Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), Ms. Anita Breyer welcomed all participants to the twenty-first meeting and thirteenth teleconference of the ICCM5 Bureau. She referred to the five SAICM regional meetings that took place between May and July 2022. She thanked the secretariat for its work and the delegates, IP-Co-Chairs, VWG co-facilitators and the Bureau members for their involvement. She welcomed Ms. Susana Andonova (North Macedonia, Central and Eastern Europe) and Mr. Santos Virgilio (Angola, Africa) as new Regional Representatives. The President gave the word to the SAICM Secretariat to explain recent developments and activities within the SAICM Secretariat. Mr. Pierre Quiblier focused on the five SAICM regional meetings and highlighted their positive outcomes. He provided an update on the planned UNITAR workshop on integrated chemicals and waste management, to be held on 26 August 2022, back-to-back with IP4. Before closing agenda item 1, the President highlighted that the primary focus of the teleconference is to discuss the preparations and support for the fourth meeting of the intersessional process.

2) Adoption of the agenda

Ms. Breyer noted that the provisional agenda for the meeting had been circulated to the Bureau on 24 May 2022. She invited Bureau members to raise additional points they may have under AOB. The President proposed that Regional Representatives provide some reflections on the regional meetings. Mr. Rory O'Neil, representing the Labour constituency, requested that the sectoral representatives also report back on the regional meetings.

The agenda was adopted without any further requests from Bureau members.

3) Adoption of the 20th meeting report of the ICCM5 Bureau, held on 15 March 2022

The ICCM5 Bureau adopted the report of its twentieth meeting and twelfth teleconference without additional comments from the Bureau members.

4) Preparations for and supporting the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste

a. Organization of work

Ms. Breyer proposed to start with reflections from the Regional Meetings.

Mr. Francisco Barbieri (Regional focal point for the GRULAC Region) and Ms. Valentina Sierra (Bureau member for the GRULAC Region) provided information on the main outcomes of the GRULAC regional meeting held in Montevideo, Uruguay on 6-7 May 2022. He noted that the key topic discussed during the regional meeting concerned financial considerations. Ms. Sierra informed that the GRULAC region considered

the outcomes of IP3 and the Virtual Working Groups as the basis for discussion at IP4. She informed that GRULAC requested the Secretariat to prepare a short questionnaire on capacity building, technical assistance and financing needs to gather information and inform further regional discussions prior to IP4. She noted that a further meeting in the region is needed to discuss this topic ahead of IP4. She highlighted additional issues considered important to the region, including the Science Policy Panel and further participation of the health sector in the IP process.

Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Bureau member for the CEE Region) provided his report on the CEE regional meeting that took place in Prague, Czechia, on 12-13 May 2022. He indicated that the Regional Focal point was not present at the meeting and standard procedures could not be followed. In this regard, the regional meeting took the opportunity to revise the terms of reference for Regional Focal Point for the CEE region. He noted that the revised terms of reference allowed a temporary Regional Focal Point to be appointed and allowed IP Co-Chairs to co-chair parts of the regional meeting. He noted that the group of CEE countries requested to appoint a new CEE Regional Focal Point. The region decided by consensus that the role of the new CEE Regional Focal Point should be entrusted to Ms. Andonova from North Macedonia. Mr. Domagalski highlighted that the CEE region welcomed the Virtual Working Group outcomes and found them a good basis for the discussion during the IP4 meeting. Ms. Andonova thanked the CEE region for supporting her as the Regional Focal Point.

Ms. Marie-Soleil Fecteau (on behalf of the Regional Focal Point for the WEOG region), noted that the EU-JUSSCANNZUK meeting took place online on 23 June 2022. She reported general support for using the outcomes of the Virtual Working Groups during the IP4 discussions. Ms. Fecteau noted key points for the region for the IP4 discussion, including waste, a common understanding or definition of terms such as circular economy, further work on targets and indicators, issues included in the VWG 2 outcomes under the Parking Lot, in particular, strengthening of multisectoral engagement and the need for a collaborative approach on financial considerations.

Mr David Kapindula (Bureau member for the Africa Region) reported back on the Africa regional meeting that took place in Accra, Ghana, on 27-29 June 2022. He noted that Mr. Santos Virgilio (Angola) was elected as a new Regional Focal Point for Africa. He highlighted that the financial considerations are of great importance for the region and noted that the meeting discussed the need to increase chemicals and waste financing, especially by industry. He noted an existing proposal to implement a 0.5% tax or fee on the chemical industry. He noted the need for strengthening the SAICM Secretariat, critical to SAICM implementation and for ensuring it can meet the needs of stakeholders. He indicated the region will bring to the IP4 discussions the need to adopt a code of conduct for industrial chemicals, building on the existing one for pesticides. Finally, he stressed the importance of the entry visa to Romania for the Africa region and called for providing visa on arrival and clarifying if a Schengen visa can be used to enter Romania. Mr. Virgilio intervened confirming all previously said by Mr. Kapindula and commented that the Africa region will present a proposal for the code of conduct at IP4. He also noted that the Africa region suggest having an Open-Ended Working Group between IP4 and ICCM5.

Ms. Breyer invited to report on the Asia Pacific regional meeting that was held on 5-7 July 2022 in Dead Sea, Jordan, but no regional representative was attending the meeting at this point.

Mr. Rory O'Neill (Bureau member for the labour constituency) mentioned that there is a great increase in interest in the topic of health and chemicals and raised the need for better communication between IOMC Participating Organisations, like the WHO, ILO and OECD, labour organizations and NGOs sector. Further concerns and request for clarification were raised on the closed sessions at SAICM Africa and Asia-Pacific regional meetings, arguing they were limited to only governments, which was considered to be in direct contrast to the multisectoral nature of SAICM. This was answered by Mr Kapindula, who expressed that stakeholders were allowed to participate in the closed session at the Africa meeting. Ms. Sarah Brosché (Public Interest Organizations) confirmed that labour union members participated in all sessions at the Africa meeting but remarked that there were some problems with NGO's participation in the Asia-Pacific meeting due to visa issues. The floor was then given to Ms Servet Goren (Industry), who agreed with the feedback provided on the regional meetings and expressed a wish to have further bilateral discussion on the code of conduct for industrial chemicals. Mr. Domagalski and Ms. Sierra indicated that they have been approached by WHO to recommend funded IP4 representatives from the health sector. Ms Susan Wilburn (Health) took the floor and

mentioned that the health sector was represented at GRULAC and EU-JUSSCANNZUK meetings only. She also noted that the WHO is organizing a meeting to discuss the implementation of the WHO Roadmap to assisting with reporting to the World Health Assembly from the health sector on 20-21 July 2022. Mr. Santos confirmed being contacted by WHO but reflected on how adding new people, not familiar with the process, might affect the intersessional process leading up to the ICCM5 process. The session on reporting on the regional meetings Agenda Item 3 was then closed by the President.

The President informed that the IP4 Provisional Agenda was sent to SAICM stakeholders together with the invitations to the IP4 meeting on 6 July 2022 and was posted on the SAICM website. She noted that the Annotated Provisional Agenda and IP Co-Chairs Scenario note were circulated to the Bureau members on 8 July 2022. The President invited IP Co-Chairs, Ms. Judith Torres and Ms. Kay Williams to provide an introduction to their scenario note and the expected flow of the IP4 meeting.

Ms. Williams introduced herself and provided her reflections from the SAICM regional meetings. She indicated that it was a rich experience and that each region differs in terms of experience and needs. She noted that several new initiatives were raised during the meetings, like the IOMC work on integrated chemicals and waste management or the proposal from Africa on the code of conduct for industrial chemicals, as well as other developments like the Science Policy Panel and the Plastics treaty.

Ms. Williams presented a draft diagram on the Beyond 2020 framework instrument containing suggestions on how the elements of the future framework, including the Strategic Objectives, could fit together and be linked to the chemicals and waste MEAs and other international work relevant to chemicals and waste, like the Science Policy Panel and the SDGs.

In the ensuing discussion, Ms. Eigenmann (IOMC Bureau member) gave her support to the diagram proposed by Ms. Williams and informed that IOMC is considering sharing its work on integrated chemicals and waste management as an INF document for the IP4. This was complemented by Ms. Brosché, who asked for further clarification on how this proposal is expected to be used, considering a lot of time has been spent under the intersessional process to negotiate text. Ms. Goren gave her support, commented on the added value of this proposed diagram, but asked for further work to be done for instance on incentivizing stakeholders to contribute. Mr. O'Neill said that the proposed diagram is disconnected from the previous discussions held during the intersessional process. He noted that pollution should be considered as a consequence of chemicals use and that the proposal is not balanced, putting too much emphasis on the environmental aspects, and the need to include elements on labour and health. Due diligence and human rights also are lacking, as well as the SDGs. Ms. Wilburn supported comments from Mr. O'Neill and highlighted that clear reference to the health sector should be included. Ms. Sierra complimented the proposal but echoed previous comments that references to other elements than environmental elements are needed. She also noted a lack of reference to waste. She underlined that there is a need to be ambitious but realistic, and following IP4 there is a need to review how much can be advanced at ICCM5.

Ms. Williams explained that the diagram proposed will be presented at the "Briefing on scene setting for beyond 2020", to be held on 27 August 2022 in Bucharest, Romania, just prior to IP4. It would complement the information on the developments under the intersessional process as well as the discussion on the Virtual Working Groups outcomes at the regional meetings. It is expected to support IP4 participants, including newcomers, in understanding where we are and where we are going. Ms. Torres highlighted the usefulness of the diagram presented by Kay in explaining the elements of the new framework. She mentioned the need to work on the language that could address many comments received.

Subsequently, Ms. Torres introduced the Co-Chairs scenario note for IP4, with an overall objective of having a single document for consideration at ICCM5. She introduced the thematic groups proposed to be held at IP4 and that informal dialogues will be held at IP4, including the involvement of different sectors in the new framework. She noted the need to remain flexible on the timetable and that no more than two thematic groups will be held in parallel. She also noted that the UNITAR workshop on integrated chemicals and waste management to be held on 26 August 2022 should also facilitate discussion at IP4.

In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Virgilio (regional focal point for Africa) took the floor and expressed that discussing financial issues is one of the key elements of the IP4 meeting and should be addressed with enough time. Ms. Williams responded that it will be addressed by one of the thematic groups. She stressed that many

interesting ideas in this regard have appeared, and she encouraged stakeholders to bring forward textual suggestions. The President highlighted the importance of having the text on the table to enable the work on the single document for consideration at ICCM5. Ms. Fecteau asked for clarification on the timing of posting the IP4 documents, the IP4 briefings, the scope of IP4 thematic groups and the IP Co-Chairs consultation meetings at IP4. The SAICM Secretariat responded to the meeting documents under agenda item 4b. Ms. Williams provided clarifications on the expected scope of the thematic groups at IP4. She noted also that small informal groups are expected to address the issues where a lot of progress has been achieved. The President clarified that the IP Co-Chairs consultation meetings at IP4 will not be Bureau meetings as such. While led by IP Co-Chairs, all Bureau members are expected to participate in these meetings.

Ms. Brosché (NGO Bureau representative) asked when the decision to have an additional OEWG prior to ICCM5 will be taken by the Bureau. Mr. Domagalski inquired if resources have been secured for the additional OEWG. The President stressed that the focus should be advancing as much as possible during IP4 and the additional OEWG will be decided at the Bureau meeting on 2 September 2022. Ms. Goren supported the message from the President. Ms. Williams encouraged all the Bureau members to go back to regions and underline the need for good preparations for constructive discussions at IP4.

Mr. Kapindula (Bureau member for Africa) raised the issue of the need to sort and group targets under the proposed objectives, as well as separating targets acting as indicators to limit the overall number of targets. Ms. Williams supported this proposal to sort out targets following the discussion on strategic objectives and noted that the discussion on further rearranging them to better reflect the elements of the future framework might also be needed. Mr. Kapindula also asked how the brackets are expected to be reflected in the single IP4 outcome document. Ms. Breyer, Ms. Torres and Ms. William highlighted the need to have a single comprehensive document as the outcome of IP4 that covers all the necessary elements and will likely include brackets. Ms. Breyer closed the Agenda Item 4a.

b. Logistical arrangements

The President invited the SAICM Secretariat to provide logistical information regarding the IP4 meeting.

Mr. Brykowski presented information on the IP4 venue (Conference Centre Romexpo), the registration process, the COVID 19 restrictions, the posting of IP4 meeting and information documents, the schedule, the visa requirements, accommodation, and the nominated regional representatives for IP4.

Ms. Breyer opened the floor for questions. Mr. Domagalski asked if document IP.4/2 will be the same as the one presented at the IP4 meeting in March 2020. Mr. Brykowski confirmed that it is the same document but clarified that “Rev.1” was added due to document management requirements. Mr. Domagalski proposed a new potential co-facilitator from the CEE region for IP4, Ms. Claudia Dimitru from Romania. Ms. Brosché asked if there will be any space for side events and Mr. Kapindula (supported by Mr. Virgilio) raised a question regarding visa to enter Romania (i.e. asking about the possibility to obtain visa upon arrival or using a Schengen visa). Mr. Brykowski stated that no side events are expected at IP4 and confirmed that the SAICM Secretariat will be in contact with their Romanian counterparts regarding the visa process but highlighted that the Romanian authorities are fully independent in this area. Mr. Virgilio also asked for a possibility of interpretation into French at IP4 and increasing the number of funded participants. Mr. Brykowski clarified that both holding the IP meetings in English only and the number of funded participants has been decided at the outset of the intersessional process. Ms. Wilburn asked if the comparison table will be provided as an IP4 document. Ms. Breyer mentioned that it will be an information document IP.4/INF/17 and confirmed that the meeting documents for IP4 have been agreed in the SAICM Roadmap towards IP4 and ICCM5.

Ms. Fecteau asked if there will be any COVID protocols put in place. Mr. de Mesa, explained that the Romanian government has not requested any measures to be put in place, but the SAICM Secretariat is looking into implementing some if the infection rate increases. He also confirmed that IP4 is expected to accommodate 250 delegates in total. The President highlighted the need to ensure that regional representation at IP4 is balanced. Ms. Torres underlined that there is a need to ensure that all ICCM5 Bureau members actively take part in the discussions.

Mr. Brykowski clarified that formal credentials (as for ICCM meetings) will not be needed for IP4. He also confirmed that, as a standard practice, IP4 information documents can still be provided and will be posted on the IP4 webpage. Mr. Domagalski asked about the possibility to participate online in IP4 and Ms. Breyer responded that IP4 will be a face-to-face meeting.

Participants requested the slides from the Bureau to be made available and the meeting report to be circulated to participants. The SAICM Secretariat confirmed that the presentation and the draft report will be posted and circulated as soon as possible.

Ms. Breyer then closed the agenda item and thanked all participants for their willingness to cooperate and find consensus.

5) Next teleconference of the Bureau

Following a brief discussion on the date for the next teleconference of the Bureau, it was agreed that it will be held in the margins of IP4 on 2 September 2022 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

6) Any Other Business

The President opened the floor for AOB but there were none.

7) Closure of the meeting

The ICCM5 President thanked the SAICM Secretariat for organizing and participating in the Twenty-first meeting and Thirteenth teleconference of the ICCM5 Bureau.

Annex

Participants

Bureau Members: Ms. Anita Breyer (Germany, ICCM5 Bureau Member Western Europe and Others Group), Mr. Szymon Domagalski (Poland, ICCM5 Bureau Member Central and Eastern Europe), Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia, ICCM5 Bureau Member Africa), Ms. Valentina Sierra (Uruguay, ICCM5 Bureau Member Latin America and the Caribbean) and Mr. Dinesh Runiwal (India, on behalf of the ICCM5 Bureau member Asia and the Pacific).

Regional Focal Points: Mr. Santos Virgilio (Angola representing Africa), Ms. Suzana Andonova (North Macedonia, representing Central and Eastern Europe), Mr. Francisco Barbieri (Argentina representing Latin America and the Caribbean), and Ms. Marie-Soleil Fecteau (Canada representing Western Europe and Others).

Representatives of non-governmental participants and the IOMC: Ms. Sara Brosché (Public Interest Organizations), Mr. Rory O'Neill (Labour), Ms. Servet Goren (Industry), Ms. Susan Wilburn (Health), and Ms. Gabriela Eigenmann (IOMC).

SAICM Secretariat: Mr. Pierre Quiblier, Mr. Rafal Brykowski, Mr. Jose de Mesa, Mr. Oleksandr Nazarenko, Mr. Eduardo Caldera Petit, Ms. Cristina Palacio Cano and Mr. Ricardo Dunn.

Observers: Ms. Judith Torres (Co-Chair of the Intersessional Process), Ms. Kay Williams (interim Co-Chair of the Intersessional Process), Ms. Jutta Emig and Mr. Matthias Wolf (German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection).