



4th Meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2022

(Bucharest, 29 Aug - 2 Sep 2022)

EU+MS statement on the agenda item 3 in plenary:

Development of recommendations for consideration by ICCM-5 for the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2022: General statement

Distinguished co-chairs of the intersessional process, Excellencies, Delegates, ICCM president, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The EU and its Member States thank the government of Romania, the SAICM Secretariat, UNEP and the co-chairs of the intersessional process for the preparation and organisation of this fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Multilateral cooperation, based on mutual respect, is crucial to address the huge environmental challenges ahead of us. We therefore recall our deep concern and condemn Russia's unprovoked and unjustified act of aggression against Ukraine with the complicity of Belarus, which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter, and undermines international security and stability. We demand that Russia immediately ceases its military actions, withdraws all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respects Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders.

We are very happy to meet again in person here in Bucharest. to pursue our joint commitment to protect human health and the environment by further developing recommendations for a global framework for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

We have made important progress in the past 2 years and we would like to start by thanking the co-facilitators of the virtual working groups and all colleagues who engaged in that work and produced helpful outputs. Through this joint effort, we have made a significant advancement in all four thematic areas identified in the co-chairs report on IP3. We believe the virtual consultations were valuable in providing inputs from stakeholders. We also acknowledge efforts of the SAICM secretariat, ICCM5 president bureau, and IP co-chairs to arrange regional meetings to enhance our preparations.



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The EU and its Member States arrive to this meeting with the objective to make significant progress in the preparations of the “beyond 2020” framework and pave the way for a successful ICCM5 next year.

We believe that the vision, strategic objectives and targets for the sound management of chemicals and waste require further work, to make them easy to understand for all, policy makers in particular, so that everyone sees the high level of ambition. Such high ambition is crucial to improve the implementation of SAICM and ensure the necessary contribution of the chemicals and waste cluster to achieving the 2030 agenda.

We are of the view that the five strategic objectives should be kept. However, revisions could be considered to make them more ambitious and more understandable. Further, for each strategic objective we should agree on a limited set of targets that are clearly linked to the respective objective and provide a crucial contribution to its achievement.

We also believe that addressing “issues of concern” by establishing an effective mechanism for their identification and management is a central element of the framework and thus needs to be reflected in the strategic objectives.

We welcome the outcomes achieved in the discussions on the issues of concern. Further discussions are needed regarding the implementation and reporting modalities as well as the linkage to the process launched by UNEA resolution 5/8 on a science policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention. We furthermore believe that the eight adopted emerging policy issues and other issues of concern will benefit from the new modalities and that workplans and the follow-up of their implementation will lead to significant progress in coping with them.

The EU&MS are prepared to further discuss the institutional arrangements based on the compilation document reflecting the discussions at IP3, including the annexes and the outcomes from the virtual working groups. We consider that adjustments should be made only to ensure that the institutional arrangements are fit for purpose in the context of the new agreed vision, strategic objectives and targets.

We are convinced that the multisectoral and multistakeholder approach is key to the success of the new framework. We are ready to discuss further the submitted proposals and outcomes of vWG2 and are open for concrete text proposals for all themes during IP4. To enhance the involvement of the IOMC organisations, all relevant sectors and stakeholders are central in our view so that we all together contribute our utmost to achieving the objectives and targets of the future framework.



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For the EU&MS the integrated approach to financing is the leading principle for financing the international chemicals and waste cluster and continues to be essential to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are aware of the results of the evaluation of the integrated approach to financing and open to further deliberate opportunities to improve its implementation.

We wish us all a successful and productive meeting and we look forward to discussing the important topics that are on our agenda with you all.

Thank you.