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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 (d) of the provisional agenda¹

Development of recommendations for consideration by the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management: Financial considerations

Draft proposal for a resource mobilization strategy

Note by the secretariat

1. The third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, which took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 2 to 4 April 2019, called upon the Strategic Approach secretariat to develop a proposal for a resource mobilization strategy to be presented to the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), to be held in Bonn from 5 to 9 October 2020.
2. The draft proposal for a resource mobilization strategy, as prepared by the secretariat, is set out in the Annex to the present note.
3. Participants may wish to review and consider the draft proposal during the related discussions on financial considerations.
4. Participants may further wish to provide feedback to the secretariat so the proposal may be further developed prior to the fifth session of the Conference.

¹ SAICM/IP.4/1

Annex

Draft proposal for a resource mobilization strategy

1. INTRODUCTION

The secretariat prepared this draft proposal for a resource mobilization strategy in response to a request made by the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 2 to 4 April 2019. The primary objective of the proposal is to identify methods to ensure that the funding required for the secretariat to fulfil its role and deliver on its future mandate emerging from ICCM5 decisions for the future instrument are available.

It has been highlighted in the recently published Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management from 2006 – 2015 (SAICM/IP.3/INF/3²) that despite approved budgets in past ICCM sessions, “there was an annual shortfall in the amount of funds donated (voluntarily) such that the agreed budget was never achieved, ranging from a 4% shortfall in 2013 to a 56% shortfall in 2009. The annual shortfall was at least 43% for six of the ten years (2006-2015)”. The Independent Evaluation also states that “the shortfalls in staff and resources affected the secretariat’s ability to deliver on number of functions. The most significant of which were the operation of the QSP and the information clearing house function.”

In this document, a strategy is proposed per sector based on the following anticipated increased functions expected to be implemented by the secretariat beyond 2020.

2. CURRENT STATUS OF SAICM SECRETARIAT FINANCING

The secretariat wishes to acknowledge with sincere thanks the financial and in-kind support provided by governments, institutions and associations towards the secretariat since SAICM’s inception in 2006. In reviewing these contributions, one can note that the secretariat has been receiving funds from a limited number of donors³.

Financial support has been dedicated mainly to the following:

- staffing;
- convening of meetings, including travel and DSA for meeting participants from developing countries and NGOs;
- consultancy contracts; and,
- communications materials and strategies among others.⁴

The figures set out below provide an overview of the secretariat financing from 2006 – 2019.

² http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP3/INF/SAICM_IP3_INF3_Final-IndependentEvaluation.pdf

³ <http://www.saicm.org/About/Donors/tabid/5512/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

⁴ Note: the SAICM GEF project - Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach is not reflected in the above figures. This project is a global project supporting implementation of SAICM and includes some funds in support of knowledge management services for SAICM implementation.

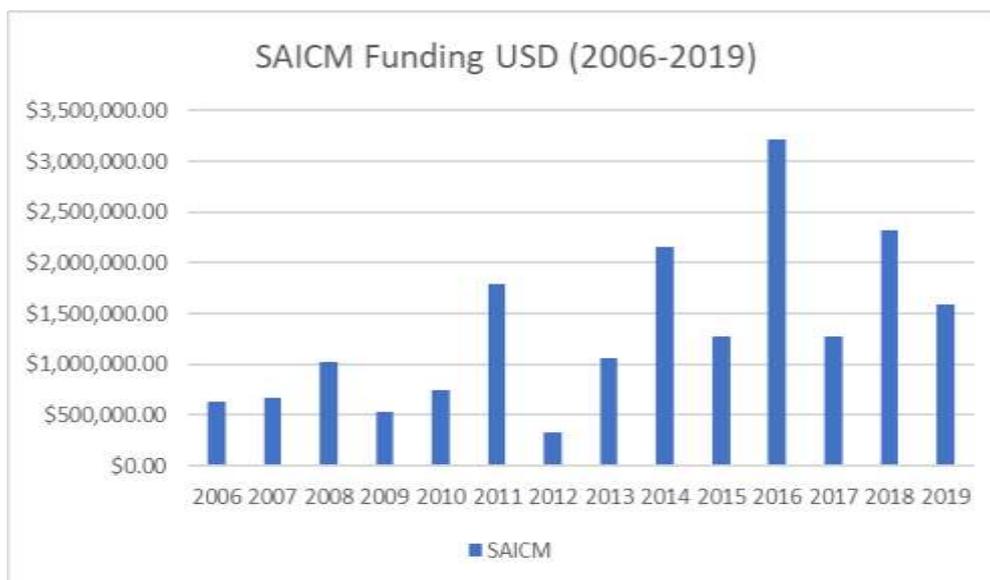


Figure 1. Funding of the SAICM Secretariat from 2006-2019.

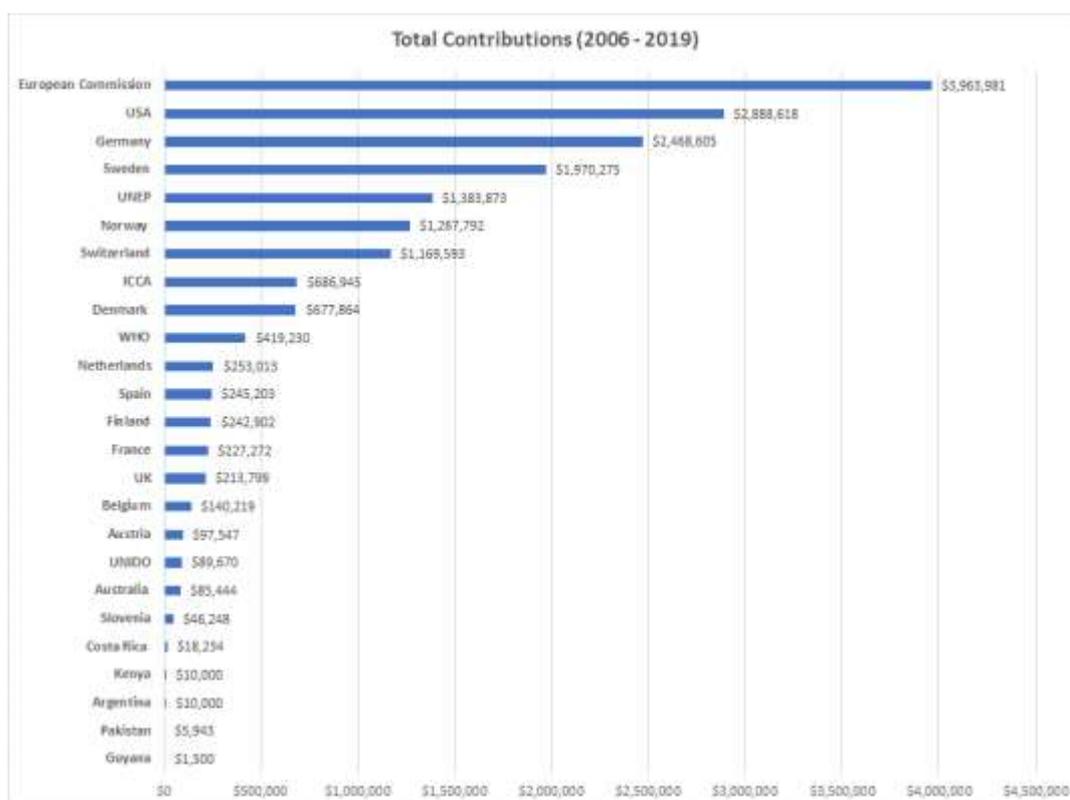


Figure 2. Overview of SAICM donors from 2006 to 2019.

3. PROPOSED ROLE OF THE SAICM SECRETARIAT BEYOND 2020

In the beyond 2020 deliberations, the following functions have been identified for the secretariat:

- (i) To promote the establishment and maintenance of a network of stakeholders at the regional, national and international levels;
- (ii) To promote and facilitate the implementation of the [beyond 2020 instrument] [sound management of chemicals and waste], including capacity-building and technical assistance;
- (iii) To continue to strengthen working relationships with participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and their networks, other United Nations bodies and the secretariats of relevant international agreements in order to draw upon their sectoral expertise;
- (iv) To facilitate and promote the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information, including the development and dissemination of guidance materials to support stakeholder implementation, as well as provide information clearinghouse services;
- (v) To facilitate the meetings and intersessional work of the international conference as well as regional meetings, and to disseminate the reports and recommendations of the international conference, including to relevant global and regional organizations and institutions;
- (vi) To support the functioning of technical, policy and scientific subsidiary and ad hoc expert bodies established by the international conference;
- (vii) To promote, enhance and support the participation of all sectors and stakeholders in the international conference and the programme of work, including in meetings of the international conference and regional meetings;
- (viii) To report to the international conference on implementation by all stakeholders of the beyond 2020 instrument.

With the above text in mind from the beyond 2020 deliberations, it is anticipated that the role of the secretariat will be enhanced in a number of ways beyond 2020.

Possible and proposed enhanced functions include:

- (i) Organisation of the International Conference every two years;
- (ii) Enhanced and wider participation in meetings organised by the secretariat; and
- (iii) Increased staffing to support:
 - a. Knowledge management and outreach (as per above functions).
 - b. Scientific bodies, if established and if supported by the SAICM Secretariat will require funding and likely additional staffing.
 - c. Capacity-building and technical assistance and support to implementation of the integrated approach to financing.

4. LOOKING AHEAD - PROPOSED STRATEGY AND MAPPING OF STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

This section maps the various stakeholder groups the secretariat currently works with and proposes actions for enhancing engagement with them in moving beyond 2020. This mapping exercise recognizes that there is no single approach that can be applied to all groups.

Overall in moving forward, the SAICM secretariat must showcase its relevance in such a way as to ensure that its work is easily distinguished from the other environmental actors and has relevance.

The resource mobilisation function needs to be adequately resourced as well. The SAICM secretariat requires adequate staffing levels and funds for activities, including from liaising with funding partners to funding communication products.

In moving forward, donors are encouraged to work with the secretariat and assess how any earmarking of funds could be lessened so that secretariat needs, and requirements can be met with flexibility and predictability, while enabling the secretariat to retain independence and neutrality.

STAKEHOLDER
<p>DEVELOPED COUNTRIES</p> <p>The secretariat has largely relied on bilateral financial contributions from developed countries for fulfilling its mandated activities. This support is much appreciated and should continue. The aim is for longer-term and sustained financial support to be increased for effective planning, programming and delivery.</p> <p>Developing longer term partnerships with member states, and groups of member states, may be strengthened to bring more coherence and impact. The target would be to gain additional new commitments (political or financial) from high and middle-income countries that have not yet contributed.</p> <p>Proposed Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Retain top donor member states by demonstrating continued appreciation, continuing regular contact and providing updates on results and achievements; b) Gain new commitments from high and middle-income countries that do not yet contribute in line with the voluntary scale by engaging them at highest level possible with focus on their priorities, legal commitments and results delivered; c) Encourage all countries to provide support, in cash or in kind, open or earmarked, towards specific projects or the work programme;

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Since 2006, contributions from developing countries and countries with economies-in-transition have been mainly secured through in-kind support to SAICM processes and projects. There is currently limited means of recognizing and acknowledging such contributions.

Proposed Actions:

- a) Properly recognize and acknowledge continued and/or increased in-kind contributions in the future. Such contributions could come in the form of organization of meetings, formal contributions to projects or recognition of self-funded participants. This would encourage continued support and demonstrate that even small contributions can make a difference and show political support for the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- b) Encourage governments to engage at a country level to enhance mainstreaming contributions towards the sound management of chemicals and waste.

MULTILATERAL ENTITIES, UN PARTNERS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

SAICM relies on active partnerships with IGOs to support its implementation and provides technical and policy guidance at regional, national and global levels. UN agencies often have specific expertise, outreach capacities and/or regional and national presence that can support SAICM processes.

Multi-lateral entities are changing the way they deliver their work. To adapt to this transition, the secretariat also should transform its partnerships with multi-lateral financing mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and other smaller funds (Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund) and key UN sister organisations, especially those of the IOMC. In doing so, engagement must focus on what will enable our partners to achieve transformational impact with us. This means identifying areas within our programme that can support the seeds of a more strategic portfolio.

Proposed Actions:

- a) Encourage contributions such as human resources in the form of secondments (general or for specific tasks), organization of meetings, supporting sector participation at meetings, awareness campaigns or formal contributions to projects. Properly recognize and acknowledge any continued and/or increased in-kind contributions in the future.
- b) Shift from small to medium-scale initiatives that fund individual parts of our programme of work to identifying multilateral partners that will allow us to bring more impact and complement our core resources.
- c) Develop a new mutual collaboration with partners for global impact: the SAICM Secretariat must deepen its relationships with key entities such as the World Bank, IMF and Regional Development Banks and other UN sister organisations. Our engagement must focus on what value our partners will gain from working with us together to have a bigger combined impact.

UNEP

UNEP, as the current host of the secretariat, has traditionally financed the position of the Principal Coordinator of the secretariat, as well as provided office space and administrative support. UNEP has also provided legal support and specific financial support, specifically during the shortfall that took place in 2015.

Proposed Actions:

- a) Retain staff support assigned to the secretariat beyond 2020 organigram.
- b) Continue providing office and administrative support and full dedicated administrative staff support.
- c) Continue supporting the secretariat at political levels through the UNEP Executive Director and high-level managers.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are key partners in advocating for action, supporting information exchange as well as assisting with aspects of SAICM's implementation at national and regional levels. CSOs could support engagement with non-traditional sectors such as youth and offer a wide range of contacts and networks.

Proposed Action:

- a) Strengthen or create partnerships with CSOs to potentially save resources in areas like communications, data collection and education.
- b) Properly recognize and acknowledge any continued and/or increased in-kind contributions in the future. CSOs could make specific case-by-case basis contributions, e.g., hosting meetings, secondments, maintaining databases, etc.

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES

SAICM relies on chemical industry leaders to promote corporate social responsibility. Industry is also a key pillar in the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals.

Private sector entities beyond the chemical industry should also be engaged. Such private sector actors be they multinational corporations, state-owned enterprises or small and medium scale companies, all have a stake in better environmental governance and could deploy resources in this area.

While governments strengthen policies and regulatory frameworks, the private sector is critical for implementing them, promoting innovation, creating new green jobs, and fostering sustainable economic development.

Proposed Action:

- a) Explore and find creative approaches to leverage continuous improvement of corporate and social responsibility.
- b) Increase the direct financial contributions coming from private sector.
- c) Map current sectors and themes of engagement to identify priority sectors, markets and industries and therefore allow the organization to take a strategic and focused approach to private sector resource mobilization.
- d) Create clear business cases for partnerships at both sectorial level and thematic level and engage as partners providing options for partnerships, including public-private partnerships.
- e) Establish practical options for the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the new

instrument with in-kind contributions and their attribution. Private sector companies may provide human, logistical, and other resources to programmes and projects implemented by partners.

- f) Properly recognize and acknowledge any continued and/or increased in-kind contributions in the future. Industry support could be provided in various ways, including but not limited to financial contributions, short term secondments of staff to support particular projects, or other in-kind support like supporting meetings, compiling information, or supporting the production and dissemination of SAICM outputs through their media channels.

5. INVESTING IN EFFECTIVE OUTREACH AND REGULAR COMMUNICATION

The SAICM Independent Evaluation states that building the capacity and skills of national focal points to engage with all types of stakeholders while raising their profile and allocating adequate resources, will enhance SAICM's effectiveness at contributing to the intermediate goals of strengthened capacity, technical knowledge and political will to implement SAICM.

Limited resources have been available or dedicated to outreach and communication. In moving the "beyond 2020" instrument forward, there is a definite need to dedicate more resources to ensure effective outreach and regular communication to support national focal points so they may effectively deliver on their mandates.

The secretariat is currently executing a full-size GEF project which includes a component on knowledge management. This project could be a key medium to build on beyond 2020 by building more effective links between the chemicals and waste agendas of the different stakeholders and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Proposed Actions:

- a) Telling our story - new and improved ways of presenting our results: what we do; how we do it; why we do it. Emphasis placed on showing the impact of work through compelling, human interest stories that speak to our comparative advantages, at the same time. In this regard INFORMEA could be used as an additional platform to shape and disseminate our work.
- b) Improve the visibility and public recognition of our funding partners in communication products and in meetings such as the UN Environment Assembly and in other public fora. There is a need to share information with decision makers about the impacts of the work they fund including more visual and narrative reporting. This will also need to consider the role of brand association, particularly with private sector partners.
- c) Regularly confirm (e.g., via surveys) that the communication reaches the target audience.

Furthermore, the secretariat could benefit from a tailored communications strategy that is supportive of resource mobilization efforts. This new strategy for communication for "beyond 2020" could be developed in support of resource mobilisation and utilise a wide range of media, ranging from knowledge management software, written materials and even social media. The implementation of this strategy would be founded on three core elements:

- a) Demonstrating the value of investing in the new instrument;
- b) Highlighting the impact that investment has made which implies tailoring communication to various groups; and,
- c) Informing partners of progress and activities through regular updates.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED IN MOVING FORWARD

In developing this proposal for resource mobilization, the secretariat has drawn out several lessons learned for consideration by stakeholders:

- a) It is expected that the future secretariat will require an annual budget that is equal to or higher than the current budget allocations. Current allocations are based on the budget approved at OEWG3, i.e., \$2,366,457 for 2019 and \$3,613,884 for 2020. This will be required to service the enhanced functions currently under deliberation, including potentially hosting the ICCM every two years.
- b) The secretariat's financing has been dependent on a small number of core donors. The funds provided by these countries represent around 81% of the Total budget of the SAICM secretariat over the years (2006-2019).
- c) There is a need for an agreed resource mobilization plan for "beyond 2020" to maintain sustained and increased secretariat financing.
- d) The SAICM Independent Evaluation (2006-2015) highlighted that lack of resources was a weakness for the secretariat's ability to deliver on SAICM's mandate, in particular for knowledge management and outreach.
- e) Currently there is limited, or no tracking or value given to in-kind contributions (convening meetings) or self-paid ticketing made by stakeholders to SAICM processes. Increased tracking of such contributions may encourage increased support to SAICM processes.
- f) Industry enhanced its contributions, through the ICCA, in 2015 with annual contributions to SAICM in line with an established Memorandum of Understanding. This has been welcomed and has served as a consistent increase in resources. Efforts should continue to keep involving industry beyond 2020.
- g) As part of the Integrated Approach to Financing, there is a need to enhance mainstreaming of the funding of sound management of chemicals and waste into the policies and approaches of countries and industries.
- h) Holding a donor meeting could be an opportunity for donors to exchange views on possible strategies and means for strengthening the financial base for SAICM implementation in moving forward. It would also provide an opportunity for donors to provide feedback on the proposal presented to ICCM5.
- i) Outreach and communication tools have been shown to be an essential part of resource mobilisation. The secretariat is well set to widen its outreach through the knowledge management platform that is under development in moving forward.