



# STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT



**7<sup>th</sup> Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Prague, Czech Republic, 12-13 May 2022**

**AGENDA ITEM 4 c) i. Virtual Working Group 1: Targets, indicators and milestones**

**Presenters: Ms. Silvija Kalnins (Latvia) and Mr. Wajira Palipane (Sri Lanka - online)**

- **One and a half hours** dedicated to VWG1 discussion
  - **30 min. presentation:**
    - Introduction of VWG1;
    - Methodology and process;
    - Outcomes; and
    - Key issues.
  - **One-hour discussion**
    - Further explanation and clarification;
    - Seek stakeholders' views;
    - Reach a common understanding on VWG1 outcomes.

# Reference Documents for today's discussion

- **SAICM/RM/CEE.7/INF.1:** *Table comparing the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, document SAICM/IP.4/2 “Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020” and the outcomes of the Virtual Working Groups*
- **SAICM/RM/CEE.7/4** *Outcome of the Virtual Working Group 1 on targets, indicators and milestones*
- **SAICM/IP.4/3:** *Proposed targets prepared by the Technical Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020*
- **SAICM/IP.4/INF/15:** *Supplementary information on proposed targets prepared by the Technical Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020*

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- Strategic Objectives A-E (**Pg.14-25**)
- Annex A: *Targets* (**Pg.68-79**)
- Appendix A: *SAICM/IP.4/3 Discussion on new proposed targets under Proposed Strategic Objectives A-E during IP3* (**Pg. 80-81**)
- Appendix B: *New targets that were proposed during VWG1 and are not included in Annex A* (**Pg. 82-85**)

# VWG1 Mandate

Make proposals that progress work on this topic in lead-up to IP4, building on the outcome of the Technical Working Group as presented in meeting documents SAICM/IP.4/3 and SAICM/IP.4/INF/15.

Specific tasks include:

- (i) Finalize the targets proposal currently set out in SAICM/IP.4/3, with a view to enable multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral commitment and action, where appropriate;
- (ii) Develop a set of recommendations for a process to establish indicators and milestones for finalized targets.

- Participation open to all interested stakeholders.
- 209 participants registered for this VWG from all SAICM stakeholder groups, different sectors and all UN regions.
- Between 2 November 2020 and 1 February 2021, the VWG1 held five virtual meetings and four rounds of electronic feedback. 64 written submissions were received.
- Document SAICM/IP.4/3: *Proposed targets prepared by the Technical Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020*, served as a basis for textual deliberations during the virtual meetings and for the electronic feedback sought.
- The intention of VWG1 outcome document is to build on meeting documents SAICM/IP.4/3 and SAICM/IP.4/INF/15.

**IP2 Meeting**  
March 2018

- Co-chairs paper was discussed (identification of Strategic Objectives and target formulation).
- Outcome document was annexed to the meeting report and submitted to the OEWG3 meeting for its consideration.



**OEWG3**  
April 2019

- Introduction of co-chairs paper and proposal on SO and targets.
- No discussions on targets, discussion on vision, scope and SOs. Introduced brackets.
- Outcome document was annexed to the meeting report and submitted to the IP3 meeting for its consideration.



Technical Expert  
Workshop on  
Indicators  
September  
2019

**IP3**  
October 2019

- Partial discussions took place on vision, scope and the strategic objectives.
- Discussions on targets, principles and approaches were not sufficiently considered within the contact group.
- Outcome document was annexed to the meeting report.



**Technical Working Group**  
January 2020/**Virtual Working Group 1**  
November 2020-February 2021

- **Technical working group** established and mandated by IP3. Outcome to be used in IP4 for further considerations.
- Development of outcome documents SAICM/IP.4/3 and SAICM/IP.4/INF/15. Used as basis for discussions of VWG1.
- **Virtual working group on targets and indicators** established and mandated by SAICM Bureau.
- Co-facilitators outcome document.

# Outcomes in February 2021

- Formulations of targets based on points of convergence of views expressed by stakeholders
- Two options for moving forward:
  - **Option 1)** continuation of work on targets, indicators and milestones by a policy expert group;
  - **Option 2)** combines work of a policy expert group with work by a subgroup more technical in nature, which would prepare specific work on indicators.

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Strategic Objectives

~ 25 targets

Over 30 sets of brackets

Over 80 different  
indicators

proposed by stakeholders  
during the process



# Structure of the Output Document

More information on how the group worked.

- In response to the group mandate, the output document is divided in two parts:
  - I. Possible formulation of targets based on points of convergence of views among stakeholders; and
  - II. Set of recommendations for a process to establish indicators and milestones for finalized target recommendations.
- The output document includes one annex with new targets proposed by stakeholders that are not included in the main text of the output document. These targets are reflected exactly as they have been submitted by the proponents.
- The output document reflects areas of convergence by the group and is not intended to be presented as agreed text.
- VWG1 requested that the Bureau take into consideration the options laid out in Part (ii) of the outcome document in selecting a way to move forward on targets, indicators and milestones.

# Objectives of discussion today

- Further explanation and clarification;
- Seek stakeholders' views;
- Reach a common understanding on VWG1 outcomes.

# Discussion: Considerations on moving forward

- No substantive discussions on the formulation of the Strategic Objectives since before the OEWG3 in April 2019, thus a need for further discussion and agreement
- The VWG identified a need to consider targets together with the strategic objective formulations to establish a comprehensive indicator framework for the new global framework
  - Balance of process and outcome targets;
  - High-level targets or impact indicators, are they necessary if yes where in the target framework or high-level declaration;
  - Do they cover all that needs to be covered/addressed? Gap identification needed.
- Target consideration in a reiterative process and together with the indicators, in order to capture and develop a comprehensive indicator framework for the instrument including considerations of resources and capacities for monitoring implementation
  - Technical input needed on data collection, sources, available data;
  - Linkages with SDGs, avoid duplication;
  - Targets and indicators as a necessity for tracking progress, reporting, communication.

The following issues, as identified in SAICM IP.4/3 were not deliberated by VWG1.

These issues include:

- The term ‘waste’ and how it would be reflected;
- Reference to ‘countries’ or ‘governments’;
- Elaboration of timeframe for targets such as “by 20xx”;
- Definitions and glossary- some terms, though broadly accepted and used, may need defining or referenced in a glossary, e.g. “circular economy”, in order to avoid vague elements of targets
- The name of the future framework;
- Clarifying the definition of sustainable alternatives and a need to reference a definition for sustainable and green chemistry.

# Discussion - Issues identified by VWG1

During its deliberations, the VWG further identified the following issues:

## Process

- The group identified a need to consider targets together with the strategic objective formulations to establish a comprehensive indicator framework for the new global framework.
- As the development of the indicator framework progresses, there is a need to limit the number of targets.
- Targets need to be considered in a reiterative process and together with the indicators, in order to capture and develop a comprehensive indicator framework for the global framework including considerations of resources and capacities for monitoring implementation.

## Substance

- There have been no substantive discussions on the formulation of the Strategic Objectives since before OEWG3 in April 2019, thus through discussions, participants identified a necessity to reflect upon them in the future.
- Comments related to confidential business information are to be considered by the group developing the high-level declaration.
- Targets need to capture all 11 basic elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance.
- Some targets such as A1, Ayy, NEW B3, E5 may be considered as higher-level targets or indicators, or in the high-level declaration.
- The concept of accident prevention and response needs to be considered under SOA targets (A1-A3).
- Include gender disaggregated data.

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