



## IPEN Quick Views: Asia-Pacific Regional SAICM Meeting

January 2018

Note that IPEN provided comments on the Co-Chairs Summary and proposal on objectives.<sup>1 2</sup> Additional policy papers relevant to the Beyond 2020 process can be found here:

<http://ipen.org/documents/ipen-beyond-2020-perspectives>

### Vision

- SAICM's broad scope<sup>3</sup> should be preserved since in its absence there would be no international forum or framework to address or discuss the vast majority of the world's most pressing chemical safety concerns.
- SDG12.4 has a 2020 date, but it also provides a solid vision for Beyond 2020 objectives, consistent with the inherent link between chemical safety and sustainable development.<sup>4</sup>
- UNEA1/5 also provides useful language for a vision.<sup>5</sup>
- An updated SAICM goal that combines the original goal and these other important consensus statements is: "Achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their lifecycle in ways that prevent or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment."

### Policy principles

- Current references to policy principles in SAICM should be maintained.
- During SAICM's negotiation there was strong support for naming additional chemical safety principles. These following principles should be explicitly highlighted in Beyond 2020: intergenerational equity,<sup>6</sup> precaution,<sup>7</sup> substitution,<sup>8</sup> polluter pays,<sup>9</sup> right to know,<sup>10</sup> good governance,<sup>11</sup> liability and compensation,<sup>12</sup> and full participation of women.<sup>13</sup>

### Objectives and milestones

- The ICCM4 resolution requires the Beyond 2020 process to, "develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."
- Chemical safety can make contributions to achieving SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17.

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<sup>1</sup> Co-Chairs' summary: <http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/IP-consultation/Jul-Sep-2017/IPEN.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Proposal on objectives: [http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/IP-consultation/Nov-2017/IPEN%20Comments%20Proposal%20on%20objectives%20and%20milestones\\_23%20October2017%20\(002\).pdf](http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/IP-consultation/Nov-2017/IPEN%20Comments%20Proposal%20on%20objectives%20and%20milestones_23%20October2017%20(002).pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The Strategic Approach has a scope that includes: a) Environmental, economic, social, health and labour aspects of chemical safety, b) Agricultural and industrials, with a view to promoting sustainable development and covering chemicals at all stages of their life-cycle, including in products.

<sup>4</sup> SDG12.4: "By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their lifecycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment."

<sup>5</sup> "To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development."

<sup>6</sup> Intergenerational equity: Take long-term impacts into account and sustain the Earth for future generations.

<sup>7</sup> Precaution: Decision-making tool in response to threats of serious or irreversible harm when full info not available.

<sup>8</sup> Substitution: If a chemical can cause harm it should be avoided if less dangerous products or processes exist.

<sup>9</sup> Polluter pays: Producing industries should internalize the true costs of their products.

<sup>10</sup> Right to know: Public access to information regarding harms to human health and the environment from chemicals.

<sup>11</sup> Good governance: Transparent, accountable, honest government operation is key to sustainable development.

<sup>12</sup> Liability: Responsibility and compensation for injury or harm.

<sup>13</sup> Rio Principle 20: "Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development."

- Objectives in support of Agenda 2030 should be clearly measurable, with adequate quantitative and qualitative indicators that facilitate a running assessment of successes and challenges.
- 5 new initiatives should be combined with current emerging policy issues/issues of concern to make 12 initiatives that contribute measurable objectives in support of Agenda 2030: lead in paint, highly hazardous pesticides, chemicals in products, hazardous substances in electronics, endocrine disrupting chemicals, nanomaterials and nanotechnologies, environmentally persistent pharmaceutical products, zero waste, workplace right to know, agroecology, plastics, and women and chemical safety.
- Examples of measurable goals that support Agenda 2030 are:  
By 2027, phase out lead in paint, varnishes etc. in all countries (SDG3, 16)  
By 2025, phase out the production and use of 20 highly hazardous pesticides in 50 countries (SDG2, 3, 8)  
By 2025, public data on 50 chemicals of concern in consumer products in 75 countries (SDG3, 8, 16)

## Governance

- SAICM's multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach should continue.
- Key SAICM institutions should be preserved Beyond 2020 including ICCM, Bureau, and the secretariat.
- The Beyond 2020 framework should include funded national action plans with agreed-upon measurable actions that contribute to implementation of Agenda 2030. The plans should be combined with periodic reporting and evaluations of progress. National actions should be scaled up periodically every three years. ICCM should review progress of implementation, funding needs, measures to scale up actions, and new issues of concern.
- There are important synergies between Beyond 2020 and the process to establish a Global Pact for the Environment launched in September 2017 by France at the UN General Assembly, and which is set to include chemical safety principles and scheduled to be adopted in 2020.<sup>14 15 16</sup>
- The Asia-Pacific region should request the Beyond 2020 Co-Chairs and SAICM Bureau to send a representative(s) to negotiating meetings of the Global Pact to ensure agreed upon SAICM text and chemical safety principles are considered.
- The Asia-Pacific region should request the secretariat to periodically update SAICM focal points on the negotiations of the Global Pact for the Environment.
- The Beyond 2020 framework should include the possibility to establish binding mechanisms for enhanced implementation of SAICM commitments.

## High-level political commitment

- At the Rio+20 summit, governments agreed on the need for, "*heightened efforts to increase the political priority accorded to sound management of chemicals and waste.*"<sup>17</sup>
- As chemical use and production continues to expand, SAICM should be upgraded in importance to match the growing challenge of health, environmental, and economic injuries associated with the production, use, and disposal of toxic chemicals and wastes. Recognition that Agenda 2030 goals and targets cannot be reached without sound management of chemicals and wastes is key in that respect.
- Further formalizing and funding the national coordination of the multi-stakeholder, inter-ministerial committee recommended in the SAICM agreement would increase the political priority of SAICM.
- One way to do this would be to create synergies at the national level by broadening the mission of national ozone units to serve as chemical safety units. If funded, these units could serve a role in coordination, regulation, financing /mainstreaming, compliance, needs assessment, reporting and others.

<sup>14</sup> The Global Pact has three objectives: 1) To include in a legally binding treaty the fundamental principles of environmental law, already included in universal political declarations, so as to make them enforceable before internal courts; 2) To make universal the main provisions of legally binding conventions that are not universal; and 3) To add new principles, in view of new challenges.

<sup>15</sup>

<http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22458/Global%20Pact%20for%20Environment%20Concept%20Note.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

<sup>16</sup>

<http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22458/Draft%20Resolution%20on%20the%20Global%20Pact%20for%20the%20Environment.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>17</sup> United Nations (2012) Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2012: 66/288. The Future We Want, Para 223, A/RES/66/288 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

- Female Ministers of Environment, Health, and Agriculture, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, should develop a report for SAICM on women and chemical safety for release at ICCM5 in 2020 that includes case studies and concerns from all UN regions and a declaration focused on women and chemical safety and based on the recommendations of the report.<sup>18</sup>

## Financing

- Sufficient, predictable funds are needed for SAICM implementation.
- Funding should be accessible to all relevant SAICM stakeholders.
- Donor government development assistance agencies should substantially increase visibility and financial support for chemical safety, particularly since SAICM links sound chemicals management to sustainable development and will develop measurable objectives in support of Agenda 2030.
- A SAICM clearing house mechanism should publicly track development aid for sound chemicals management.
- The Special Programme should be supplemented to enable access by all relevant SAICM stakeholders and the financing of concrete toxic reduction measures.
- The key to securing sustainable funding for chemical safety is the internalization of costs within relevant producer industries.
- The global chemical industry has an annual turn-over of approximately USD\$4.1 trillion per year; a 0.1% levy would yield USD\$4 billion annually for sound chemicals management.<sup>19</sup>
- UNEP should execute a study on how to implement market-based instruments to internalize, within relevant industries, the cost to governments of implementing robust programs for sound chemicals management. The overwhelming majority of the funds generated should be directed to assist chemical safety activities in developing and transition countries. The study should include input by stakeholders and include global or regional approaches consistent with Rio Principle 16.

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<sup>18</sup> A multi-stakeholder women and chemical safety working group should be established by 2020 to develop recommendations for actions related to women and chemical safety that are included in workplans guiding SAICM emerging policy issues and issues of concern.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations Environment Programme (2012) Global Chemicals Outlook