IPEN Quick Views: 1st Beyond 2020 Intersessional Process Meeting

February 2017

Note that policy papers relevant to the Beyond 2020 process can be found here:
http://ipen.org/documents/ipen-beyond-2020-perspectives

Vision, scope, and looking ahead

- Currently, industrial production and use of chemicals is shifting to developing and transition countries; this shift is accompanied by continued or increased use of pesticides and increasing use of products containing hazardous chemicals.[1]
- SAICM addresses virtually all sources of toxic chemical exposure not covered by the chemicals conventions – and in many cases the harms caused by these other sources disproportionately affect developing and transition countries and can be just as serious as POPs, mercury, etc.
- SAICM's broad scope should be preserved since in its absence no participatory international framework would exist for addressing the 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.[2]

Non-legally binding, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach

- SAICM's multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach has enabled government officials, public interest NGOs, UN agencies, the private sector, health sector, trade unions, and other relevant actors to interact and collaborate with one another in support of sound chemicals management objectives.
- Going forward, there should be stronger multi-sectoral work within SAICM. For example, Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Labor are largely absent; this also relates to funding.
- Multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral efforts are agreed components of Agenda 2030 (e.g. SDG16).

Financing

- A specific financial mechanism is needed for SAICM implementation with sufficient, predictable funds that can be accessed by 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.
- 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 for sound chemicals management.[3]
- 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 share of the funds generated should be directed to assist

[1] UNEP's Global Chemicals Outlook notes that one-third of all chemical consumption may be in developing countries by 2020 and that, *"the prospect for widespread and multifaceted exposures of communities and the environment to chemicals of high and unknown concern also increases."*

[2] 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."*

[3] United Nations Environment Programme (2012) Global Chemicals Outlook

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.

Raising SAICM's political priority

- 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."*[4]
- 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.
- Further formalizing and funding the 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.

Responding to new and emerging policy issues

- Current emerging policy issues and issues of concern should be carried forward and further advanced: lead in paint (SDGs 3, 16), highly hazardous pesticides (SDGs 2, 3, 8), chemicals in products (SDGs 3, 8, 16), hazardous substances in electronics (SDGs 3, 8, 12), endocrine disrupting chemicals (SDGs 3, 16), nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials (SDGs 3, 16) and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (SDGs 3, 7).
- Please see this reference for measurable indicators for current and new SAICM initiatives.[5]

Agenda 2030

- Chemical safety can make contributions to achieving SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17.
- 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]
- 5 new initiatives should be developed in support of Agenda 2030: zero waste (SDGs 11, 12, 13), workplace right to know (SDGs 3, 8, 16), agroecology (SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13), plastics (SDGs 11, 12, 14), and women and chemical safety (SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17).[5]

Women and chemical safety

- Adopting women and chemical safety as an issue of concern would be a key contribution to achieving many SDGs within Agenda 2030 (SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17).[5]
- SAICM, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions all note the importance of reducing chemical exposure impacts on women.
- 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.
- 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 in 2020 that includes case studies and concerns from all UN regions and a declaration based on the recommendations of the report.

Green chemistry and sustainable chemistry

- Both green chemistry and sustainable chemistry are useful in the Beyond 2020 process but neither concept replaces the need for sound chemicals management or dealing with legacy issues.[5]

[4] 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

[5] http://ipen.org/documents/ipen-beyond-2020-perspectives

- Green chemistry is focused on hazard reduction[6]; sustainable chemistry is most frequently associated with efforts to achieve resource efficiency. Both concepts are weak on non-chemical alternatives, which are very relevant to both industrial uses of chemicals and implementation of agroecology.
- Green chemistry should be an obligatory part of sustainable chemistry so that hazard reduction is fully incorporated into the sustainable chemistry concept.
- The social aspects of sustainable chemistry should include decent, safe working conditions and respect for human rights and labor rights, including the ILO Core Labour Standards.

Partnerships

- Partnerships are not a substitute for a functioning financial mechanism or the need to internalize costs within the chemicals-producing industry.
- Partnerships should: Serve the implementation of internationally agreed goals; be coherent with national law, development plans and strategies; respect international law and be in line with agreed principles and values; be transparent and accountable; provide an added value, and complement rather than substitute commitments made by governments; have a secure funding base; and be multi-stakeholder driven, with clear roles outlined for the different partners. [7]
- According to the UN Secretary General's principles: *"Cooperation with the business sector must be transparent. Information on the nature and scope of major cooperative arrangements should be available within the concerned United Nations entity and to the public at large."*[8]
- Partnerships should only be operating with businesses that are consistent with UN Guidelines including UN Global Compact and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. These include relevant chemical safety principles such as, *"Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges."* and *"Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining."*
- Partnerships should not redesign public policies according to private interests rather than public needs.[8]
- National-level partnerships that have implemented the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP) are a good model for partnerships within SAICM.[9]

Science – policy interface

- For a possible subsidiary body to be useful, precise terms of reference would be needed to ensure that all appropriate stakeholder groups are able to fully participate and that the full spectrum of scientific and public health disciplines related to chemical safety are actively engaged.

[6] The definition of green chemistry is *"the utilization of a set of principles that reduces or eliminates the use or generation of hazardous substances in the design, manufacture and application of chemical products."*

[7] Beisheim M, Simon N (2016) Multi-stakeholder partnerships for implementing the 2030 Agenda: Improving accountability and transparency, Analytical Paper for the 2016 ECOSOC Partnership Forum – March 11, 2016

[8] UN Secretary General (2015) Guidelines on a principle-based approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector, The Guidelines were first issued in 2000, revised and reissued in 2009, and revised in 2015 as requested by GA Resolution A/RES/68/234

[9] GAELP characteristics include: participation of all stakeholders to accomplish meaningful change by obtaining mandatory legal limits, not voluntary approaches; hazard-based; opportunities for broader engagement during the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action and Regional Workshops; some funding for coordination; only responsible industry stakeholders that remove lead from paint are given a seat at the table.