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Strategic Approach
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**Intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach
and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020
Second meeting**

Stockholm, 13–15 March 2018

**Report of the second meeting in the intersessional process to
consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of
chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

Introduction

1. At its fourth session, held in Geneva from 28 September to 2 October 2015, the International Conference on Chemicals Management in its resolution IV/4 decided to initiate an intersessional process for preparing recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The process was to be open to all stakeholders.
2. The second meeting of the intersessional process was held from 13 to 15 March 2018 in Solna, Stockholm.

I. Opening of the meeting

3. The meeting was opened at 10.30 a.m. on 13 March 2018 by Mr. Jacob Duer, Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch, UN Environment, acting as master of ceremonies. Opening remarks were made by Ms. Karolina Skog, Minister of Environment, Sweden; Ms Ligia Noronha, Director, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UN Environment; and Ms. Gertrud Sahler (Germany), President of the International Conference on Chemicals Management¹.
4. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Duer noted the more than 250 participants present at the meeting representing all stakeholders of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). He expressed his gratitude to the Government of Sweden for hosting the meeting, adding that Sweden had demonstrated great leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels and had been a strong supporter of SAICM since its establishment in 2006.
5. In her opening address, Ms. Skog welcomed the participants to Solna and Sweden, and expressed her appreciation for work undertaken in preparation for the present meeting. She said that the issues to be discussed were crucial to protect the planet, children and common future. The ‘beyond 2020’ agenda provided an opportunity to include waste into the mandate of managing chemicals and to set them into the context of sustainable development. Stressing the need to raise political engagement, she said it was time for ambitious and concrete action; to broaden perspectives and be bold, with involvement from all concerned stakeholders; and to communicate, with a clear message. She said there was a need to cooperate nationally as well as globally, and urged that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be used as a model to create a vision for beyond 2020 that was both aspirational and understandable, with practical objectives and milestones that are achievable. She said all countries needed to act to manage chemicals and waste however, there were wide differences in the capacity of countries and therefore a

¹ Full texts of the statements can be found on the SAICM website:
<http://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/SecondIntersessionalmeeting>

need for transfer of capacity and knowledge. She noted that international trade of chemicals and articles was steadily increasing leading to a global spread of chemicals. With the ongoing shift in production patterns and increased number of substances there was also a need for enhanced cooperation for the generation and dissemination of knowledge and information in which industry was a key player with responsibility for chemicals produced and used. Companies needed access to information throughout the supply chain and consumers needed access to relevant and easily understandable information to make informed choices. She concluded by stating that no country alone could rely on national or regional efforts to safeguard human health and the environment, but that international cooperation was needed in addition to the development of national chemicals and waste management capacities.

6. In her opening statement, Ms. Noronha welcomed participants to the meeting on behalf of UN Environment and the Executive Director, Mr. Erik Solheim. She expressed her appreciation to the Government of Sweden for hosting the meeting, which reaffirmed its longstanding leadership and political commitment to the sound management of chemicals and waste. She also thanked the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Poland for hosting regional meetings that had taken place in preparation for the current meeting. Referring to SAICM's mandate, she said it had provided the space and opportunity for government and non-government actors alike, to discuss and deliberate on the management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle in an atmosphere of trust and cooperation. She said the present meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholders to continue to exchange views and share opinions, and to discuss the fundamentals of a future policy approach to address the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. She noted that the third UN Environment Assembly had, as its overall theme, "Towards a pollution free planet" at which a ministerial declaration was adopted by more than 120 ministers of environment containing important action points on how to advance the agenda towards a pollution-free world. Stating that pollution was the largest current environmental cause of disease and death globally, she said that chemicals and waste management was at the centre in addressing the pollution agenda and needed to be linked to sustainable development. Chemicals were an integral and very valuable part of current lives and lifestyles and their sound management was essential to protect the planet and people. She added that now was the time to look for medium and long term plans that would enable a shift to greener economies, sustainable chemistry, circular economies and cleaner development plans; it was the time to deepen approaches and widen the agenda, to strengthen cooperation and coordination across sectors in the chemicals and waste cluster, including enhanced linkages between legally binding and voluntary policy frameworks. She closed by noting that many technical solutions were available and leadership and commitment was needed to take them forward.

7. Ms. Sahler thanked the Government of Sweden for hosting the meeting, which underlined its commitment to the sound management of chemicals and waste as an important issue on the political agenda. The future shape of the chemicals and waste management cluster had been intensively discussed since the first intersessional meeting in Brasilia, Brazil and at subsequent regional meetings, offering an opportunity for stakeholders to share experiences made in the regions in the implementation of SAICM. She said the findings of the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach seemed to conclude that all efforts to date would not be enough to reach the 2020 goal. It was therefore important to know what had worked in the past and to identify the gaps in order to develop a future approach that was even better and broader in scope than the one currently in place. She noted three specific points: a need for an enhanced strategic approach beyond 2020 covering both chemicals and waste management; that the approach should remain a voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform; and that the sound management of chemicals and waste was essential for reaching many of the SDGs. She praised the multi-stakeholder approach as a successful element of SAICM and urged stakeholders to maintain and enhance their efforts. She also stressed the need for a strengthened multi-sectoral approach and for participation of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in particular, noting that highly hazardous pesticides was the most discussed issue in the regional meetings, and that occupational safety and health, and mainstreaming of sound chemicals and waste management into the broader development agenda were issues of deep concern. She said the World Health Organization (WHO) Road Map was an example for other UN organizations on how sound management of chemicals and waste could be used for pursuing the SDGs. Calling attention to divergent views from regional meetings on whether the framework 'beyond 2020' should remain voluntary, she said a voluntary strategic platform with elements from the legally binding conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster could form a relationship for a strong and successful global overarching approach to sound chemicals and waste management. She recalled that discussions at the current meeting would form draft elements to be negotiated at the Open-ended Working Group. She said it was important to reach better visibility for the chemicals and waste cluster, a precondition for more political and societal attention, for raising

awareness and obtaining the necessary financial resources. She added that, learning from other bodies, the vision must be strong and that there should be scientific support for issues under consideration. She concluded by thanking all stakeholders for their submissions and in general for the preparation of the meeting.

II. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda

8. The participants adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document SAICM/IP.2/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work.
3. Preliminary results of the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach 2006-2015.
4. Consideration for beyond 2020:
 - (a) Vision;
 - (b) Policy principles;
 - (c) Measurable objectives and milestones:
 - (i) Scope;
 - (ii) Taking stock of progress;
 - (d) Implementation arrangements:
 - (i) Responding to new and emerging issues;
 - (ii) National implementation;
 - (iii) Financing implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste;
 - (e) Governance:
 - (i) Promoting broader participation;
 - (ii) Science-policy interface;
 - (f) High-level political commitment and visibility.
5. Timetable for the process.
7. Any other business.
8. Closure of the meeting.

B. Organization of work

9. The meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho (Brazil) and Mr. David Morin (Canada), elected at the first meeting of the Intersessional Process.

10. In carrying out their work at the current meeting, the meeting participants had before them working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the agenda for the meeting (SAICM/IP.2/1) as outlined in the annotated agenda (SAICM/IP.2/2) and the scenario note for the meeting prepared by the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM/IP.2/3).

11. In accordance with a proposal by the Bureau, the meeting participants agreed that work would be conducted in plenary sessions and in discussions groups and agreed to meet in two sessions of plenary on Tuesday 13 March and on Thursday 15 March from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., subject to adjustment as necessary, and to take up the items on the agenda in the order in which they appeared.

12. The meeting participants further agreed to hold a series of discussion groups, focussing on agenda items 4(a) to 4(e), on Wednesday 14 March from 9.00 a.m. to 1.15 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. to support the work of the plenary, and to a short afternoon session of plenary starting at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday 14 March with the purpose of reporting back on the outcomes of the discussion groups.

13. The discussion groups were guided by the following co-hosts: Vision: Ms. Suzana Andavona (FYR Macedonia) and Mr. Bob Diderich (OECD); Policy Principles: Ms. Marie Ines Esquivel Garcia (Panama) and Mr. Yahya Msangi (Welfare Togo); Objectives and milestones: Ms Nina Cromnier (Sweden) and Mr Rico Euripidou (GroundWorks); Implementation: Mr Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan) and Ms Olga Speranskaya (IPEN); and Governance: Mr Mark Gordon (South Africa) and Ms Csilla Magyar (ICCA).

C. Attendance

14. The following governmental participants were represented: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

15. The following intergovernmental participants were represented: Africa Institute, Basel Convention Regional Centre (Egypt), the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, the Secretariat of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, Interstates Pesticide Committee for Central Africa, the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations Development Programme, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and World Health Organization.

16. The following non-governmental participants were represented: Adelphi Research, Apple, Africa Foundation, Associação Brasileira da Indústria Química, Association of Environmental Education for Future Generations, Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment, Asian Center for Environmental Health, Associated Labor Unions – Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, Balifokus Foundation, Center for International Environmental Law, Centre Africain pour la Santé Environnementale, Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement, Centre for Environment Justice and Development, Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development, ChemSec - International Chemical Secretariat, Coordinating Informational Center of CIS Member States, CropLife International, Eco-Accord, Ecowaste Coalition Philippines, Environment Invest-co., Europapolitik, Ex Research Institute, Greenpeace International, GroundWork, Friends of the Earth SA & Zero Mercury Working Group, Health and Environment Justice Support, International Chemical Trade Association, International Council of Chemical Associations, International Council on Mining and Metals, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, International Panel on Chemical Pollution, International Pops Elimination Network, International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Jagrata Juba Shangha, Land and Human to Advocate Progress, Lebanese Environment Forum, Les Amis de la Terre-Togo (Friends of the Earth – Togo), MSP Institute eV, Occupational Health & Safety Assistances Inc., Pesticide Action Network, Reunión de Administradores de Programas Antárticos Latinoamericanos – Uruguay, Red de Accion en Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas para America Latina / Centro de Analisis y Accion en Toxicos, Royal Society of Chemistry, Safer Chemicals Alternative (ALHem), Stockholm Environment Institute, Stockholm International Water Institute, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development, Thai Crop Protection Association, Toxics Links, Taxisphaera Environmental Health Association, Ukrainian National Environmental NGO Mama-86, USCIB / Aerospace Industries Association, US Council for International Business, Water Academy of France, Women Engage for a Common Future, and Welfare Togo.

III. Preliminary results of the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach 2006-2015

17. Introducing the item, the co-chair recalled ICCM resolution IV/4, paragraph 1 of which had requested the secretariat to contract for an independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the annex to the resolution. She noted that the evaluation would identify what had worked and what needed improvement. She then invited Mr. Robert Nurick, the independent evaluator engaged pursuant to resolution IV/4, to present an overview of the evaluation process and the results to date.

18. In his presentation Mr. Nurick outlined the objective of the evaluation and the approach used that he said was framed within a "theory of change" approach, mapping out pathways for the 2020 goal to be achieved, and factors that would affect those pathways. The evaluation had also used a review of documentation, an on-line survey, focussed group discussion and input from stakeholders. He said he would be presenting the key outcomes to date and encouraged further feedback that would be addressed in the final report for submission to the Open-ended Working Group at its 3rd meeting.

19. He described the institutional structure and governance of the Strategic Approach highlighting the voluntary, multi-stakeholder/multi-sectoral nature of SAICM that allowed for all voices to be heard in an open and transparent manner. He said the Strategic Approach strengths were addressing the integrated nature of chemicals management; its success in achieving knowledge sharing and information, risk reduction, governance and capacity-building objectives under the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS); its relative success in addressing lead in paint as an emerging policy issue; and developing the 20 indicators of progress. At the same time, the weaknesses of the Strategic Approach had been the limited capacity of the SAICM secretariat, mainly due to lack of resources; that most SAICM national focal points were from ministries of the environment, despite SAICM's multi-sectoral ambition; general funding constraints for SAICM implementation; lack of progress on illegal international traffic – identified as key in the OPS; limited progress on emerging policy issues (EPIs) other than lead in paint; the role of Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) agencies in support of SAICM implementation; and monitoring the effectiveness of SAICM implementation.

20. Mr. Nurick provided a detailed analysis of how the different pathways of the Strategic Approach interlinked and contributed to successes and weakness. Respondents to his survey had indicated mixed success in the achievement of the five overarching policy objectives of the Strategic Approach, with most indicating that success had been greatest with regard to knowledge and information sharing, with significant gaps nevertheless remaining, and least with regard to illegal traffic, which remained a serious threat for developing countries with regard to matters such as counterfeit pesticides, trade in mercury, e-waste dumping and the smuggling of banned chemicals, all of which were exacerbated by a lack of public awareness and a lack of training for customs officials.

21. He stressed the importance of national focal points and of IOMC organizations, and their role in promoting the implementation of SAICM. He also noted the crucial role of civil society in ensuring that information reached local and provincial areas. Further adjustment of the Strategic Approach indicators might be needed, he suggested, to reflect both emerging policy issues and the SDGs and to measure the effectiveness and impact of activities, which current indicators did not do, and efforts would be needed to ensure that indicators remained fit for purpose. He also highlighted the importance of increased and diversified funding, noting that over 70% of donor funding to date had been provided by a limited number of governmental participants, in particular the European Commission, the United States of America, Sweden, Switzerland, and Germany.

22. He concluded by noting that the evaluation demonstrated the interrelationships of SAICM across all sectors, and that establishing national legislation and implementation of that legislation was considered important for the sound management of chemicals and waste, as was developing common standards within and across countries. In addition, adaptive management regimes that analyzed technical capacity and monitored their impact was necessary as was integration across sectors and stakeholders, transfer of technologies and the role of stakeholders, transparent sharing of information and collaborative relationships and financing of SAICM, for which SDG 17 provided some basis for deliberation.

23. Noting the importance of following up on omissions and clarifying any misconceptions in the evaluation report, the co-chair said stakeholders would have until April 16, 2018 to provide any input to the draft. In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Nurick was thanked for the useful and comprehensive evaluation report, many participants offering suggestions for improvement of the report that, they said, would be

conveyed to him. Some participants regretted the late completion of the report that had not permitted sufficient time for a full reading and analysis. The importance of the report to evaluate the progress of SAICM implementation was noted including that it would provide insights into how to strengthen the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

24. In the ensuing discussion, participants noted the following as issues that needed further focus beyond 2020: financing, including innovative approaches and how to increase and access resources; stimulating national funding; how to provide further assistance to developing countries, including the obstacles faced by some in terms of lack of analytical capacity, technical staff, technology, resources and information; how to further engage and bring the private sector on board; how to address highly hazardous pesticides; how to include an effective monitoring system for SAICM implementation; means and opportunities to increase stakeholder participation; inclusion of the eleven basic elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance for Achieving the 2020 Goal; how to include activities of IOMC organizations and convention secretariats that contributed to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including specific sector activities; how to further chemicals management implementation at the national level and how to increase information on national implementation; how to engage additional stakeholders, especially local non-government organizations; and how to include the science-policy interface and academia.

25. It was also suggested that the strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned should be further highlighted. Responding to some of the comments, Mr. Nurick said that, in developing a theory of change approach he wanted to demonstrate that there were many pathways to achieve the 2020 goal, with success requiring efforts on all fronts. He noted the challenge of measuring whether SAICM activities had had a positive impact on the ground for which additional data was needed and further recalled that the report only presented the SAICM status to 2015. He added that feedback had been limited and encouraged participants to submit their views and suggestions.

IV. Consideration for beyond 2020

26. Introducing the item, the co-chair invited opening statements from regional groups and stakeholder constituencies. All participants who took the floor expressed their gratitude to the Government of Sweden for hosting the meeting, and to the ICCM, Bureau, co-chairs and secretariat for their preparation of the session.

27. The representative speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States recalled their support of and engagement in the discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 from the outset. The “Beyond 2020 process”, he said, has provided an important opportunity to design a framework that could strengthen the institutional landscape on chemicals and waste and enable the scaling up of activities and policies by all stakeholders and sectors for the protection of human health and the environment. It also has provided an opportunity to enhance the effectiveness and complementarity of global action by all entities that dealt with the sound management of chemicals and waste, which is essential to meet the goals and targets of the 2030 agenda that depended on the sound management of chemicals and waste and those on which chemicals and waste have a direct impact. Global, regional and national action is needed to address hazardous substances throughout their life-cycle, with cost effective gathering and dissemination of information being an essential part of the process. Following on the success of the first meeting of the intersessional process, it was now time to move to direct dialogue among stakeholders on concrete issues in order to obtain a better understanding of each other’s views. He recalled that the mandate of the process did not limit it to chemicals only and that it concerns all relevant instruments, including, but not limited to the future of SAICM. He hoped that by the end of the present meeting there would be agreement on an overall vision and draft strategic objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for consideration by the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. An aspirational, easy to communicate vision was important to ensure continued political attention. The strategic objectives should also be agreed, underpinned by milestones that act as stepping stones to achieve the objectives, which should also be aspirational but limited in number. Those milestones, he added, should be measurable, achievable and time-limited, and identify specific responsibilities. He concluded by stating the importance of viewing the mandate and actions of all instruments, in particular the conventions on chemicals and waste, so as to foster complementarity and effectiveness and to address possible governance gaps.

28. The representative speaking on behalf of the African Group, underscored sound management of chemicals and waste, now and beyond 2020, as critical for the region, given Africa was on the receiving end of banned and restricted chemicals and wastes, products with restricted chemicals and evidence that populations continued to be exposed to hazardous chemicals through various exposure routes.

Acknowledging that the region had benefited from SAICM, he said it continued to be faced with many challenges related to implementation of agreed measures. He itemized that governments had entered into inappropriate contracts with multinational chemicals companies, ports of entries were porous, the legal frameworks weak, surveillance and monitoring mechanisms inadequate and institutional and enforcement capacities feeble. Suitable actions were necessary at the policy level to reduce the risk to chemical exposure and strengthen monitoring mechanisms. He stressed that the sound management of chemicals and wastes required adequate, predictable and sustainable financing to implement SAICM activities. Referring to 'beyond 2020' he expressed the region's wish to see past achievements strengthened and carried over to the future. To that end he noted the following: SAICM's multi-sectoral nature has to be sustained; SAICM's voluntary nature has to be blended with mandatory support to enable implementation of SAICM initiatives; knowledge transfer between multilateral environmental agreements and SAICM has to continue and the role of the secretariat as a clearinghouse has to be strengthened; technical guidance by regional bodies such as the Basel Regional Centers has to continue and be supported; predictability, and adequacy of financial resources has to be ensured given, in particular, the fact that the Quick Start Programme (QSP) has come to an end; a strengthened science-policy interface on chemicals management must be across all governance levels; and there was a need for better involvement of key actors such as the media. He added that it was the region's view that the private sector should do more and suggested that SAICM play an active role in the application of the extended producer responsibility principle to the chemical industry and encourage more transparency on information related to products. Further, the chemical industry could offer financial support for the effective implementation of relevant SAICM activities as well as support capacity building for mainstreaming of sound chemicals management priorities across governments and national development policies and plans for strengthening national chemicals management capacities. He said that goals for a future approach must be specific and include a timeframe for activities. Those goals, he concluded, must be intertwined with other targets such as those under the SDGs and Agenda 2063, the strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the African continent.

29. The representative speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group considered that the SAICM integrated and multi-sectoral approach, as well as its voluntary nature had been key to its success. She highlighted the benefits of having a global plan of action, which had provided an overview of what needed to be done and the specific financing mechanism of the QSP, open not only to governments but also to NGOs, that had facilitated implementation. She recommended that the QSP be renewed and enhanced in future financial arrangements and, stressing its success, considered that a future platform should include a similar mechanism that would prioritize continuity and sustainable funding. She said SAICM should develop its own mechanism for technical assistance, capacity building and transfer of technology through regional centres and emphasized that adequate, sustainable and predictable funding was crucial to address chemicals and waste management. She added that access and contributions to funding must be improved pointing to the need for an integrated funding system. She noted that SAICM had been instrumental in increasing access to information and obtaining technical support, the benefits of which had led to improved implementation. Further, awareness of chemicals and waste issues has been raised across agencies, encouraging multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation, and had promoted collaboration among stakeholders both regionally and globally. Regarding the task ahead, she said states of the region prioritized the establishment of a common goal and simple framework and promoted the development of a generic model, with guidelines and a template able to be adapted for specific country conditions. It was also fundamental to demonstrate the benefits of action and costs of inaction, as valuable indicators to support the work on chemicals and waste. She said it was key the beyond 2020 process should include sustainably funded national action plans with agreed-upon measurable actions that could contribute to implementation of Agenda 2030. In addition, chemicals and waste management in the future could only be ensured through commitment at the highest level and among all the relevant sectors particularly through raising the visibility of the issue, which, she said, had been done in the region at the 20th Forum of Environmental Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean held in March 2016, through resolution 8 on Chemicals and Wastes.

30. The representative speaking on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group said the region had made all efforts to progress in activities towards the goal of SAICM and were doing their utmost to establish coordination mechanisms among different national stakeholders. The region was also working to provide accessible information to the public on hazardous chemicals and waste as well as to persuade all stakeholders to get involved in the relevant programmes. Noting success in achieving some of the SAICM goals, he said that to realize a comprehensively desired result it was necessary to address the needs of all developing countries in terms of financial assistance and technology cooperation and transfer. Capacity building and knowledge sharing were of utmost importance. He expressed his region's appreciation for contributions received to date and urged that efforts be continued to mobilize

existing and new, predictable, sustainable, and adequate sources of financial support for the implementation of the Strategic Approach in the region. He said that technology transfer and easy access to technology, including green technologies were key elements in helping the region to achieve the 2020 goal and were a prerequisite to proceed forward. Women and children, youth and indigenous people were among those who needed attention in any policy making and strategy planning with regards to chemical safety and gender, and chemicals was one of the issues that were important to address beyond 2020. Full participation of vulnerable groups in relevant consultations and implementation was also crucial in achieving SAICM goals and the SDGs. He said the Asia-Pacific region recognized the existing gaps on sound management of chemicals and emphasized the need to pay appropriate attention to existing challenges. He raised the issue of common but differentiated responsibilities as a guiding element in developing relevant policies and to extended producer responsibility throughout the life-cycle of chemicals. He concluded by underlining the importance of the SDGs and of regional and international cooperation.

31. The representative speaking on behalf of the Eastern European Group noted that significant steps had been made on the future of the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020. He believed the present meeting would be instrumental to further develop ideas discussed at the first meeting of the intersessional process and further developed at regional meetings and a renewed vision could be built on existing elements that had worked well. In that regard he noted the importance of holding regional meetings on a regular basis to discuss the SAICM agenda and its implementation beyond 2020. He added that regional meetings furthermore provide a platform to review progress in regional implementation and, as at the last meeting, address regional priorities for the future. He drew attention to an information document that summarized the region's views on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020 as concluded at the regional meeting in Lodz in February 2018 for which he thanked the host country, Poland, and briefly reiterated the key messages from that report. He stressed that the sound management of chemicals was not a stand-alone issue but relevant to many cross-cutting issues. There was a need to forge links with Agenda 2030 and relevant areas such as climate change, water, biodiversity, food security, and policy concepts of sustainable consumption and production and sustainable chemistry. A future approach, he said, should complement Agenda 2030 and reaffirm core Strategic Approach documents such as the Dubai Declaration. He added that as global trade of chemicals increased and chemical production was moving to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, it was necessary to ensure that all were well prepared to face future challenges and that no one was left behind. He concluded by stating that the opportunity to develop the beyond 2020 framework also brought great responsibility and that while the vision should be ambitious, long term and easy to understand it was important to remain realistic and to determine how to realize the vision.

32. The representative speaking on behalf of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) recalled that the organization had been a part of SAICM since its inception and had adopted 'a toxic-free future' as the Network's vision for accomplishing SAICM's goals. It was essential to enhance political awareness, commitment and effective implementation at all levels in order to meet that vision. She noted that advancing chemical safety was a necessary component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and chemicals management was referenced in many of the SDGs. As production and use of chemicals increased, she said SAICM should be upgraded to meet the challenge of health, environmental and economic effects brought on by that increase. She said it was important to recognize that the Agenda 2030 goals and targets could not be reached without the sound management of chemicals and wastes. She added that the beyond 2020 process should develop recommendations on measurable objectives that are clear and minimize harm associated with chemicals and waste in support of Agenda 2030. She noted the importance of financial mechanisms that guaranteed sufficient and sustainable funding for implementation of emerging policy issues and other issues of concern as well as of national implementation plans. She said a key to securing sustainable funding was the internalization of costs within relevant producer industries. She concluded by stressing the importance of civil society action for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

33. The representative of the Pesticide Action Network of Asia and the Pacific said it was necessary to learn from past experiences to move forward on the beyond 2020 agenda. She praised the recognition of highly hazardous pesticides as a new emerging policy issue. She noted that, however, little had been done on the issue and poisonings from such substances continued, particularly affecting vulnerable populations, women and children. She said that thus, the cost to human health, the environment, communities and society had escalated. Quoting from a case in one country she said large numbers of farmers were exposed to hazardous pesticides through occupational exposure and the crop yield was not commensurate with the use of such pesticides. She referred to information papers submitted for consideration of the present meeting, including options for a legally binding instrument on pesticides

where she said the voluntary approach appeared to have had limited success and a paper related to agro-ecology and highly hazardous pesticides.

34. The representative of the IOMC said the strength and uniqueness of SAICM was its multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder character but noted that in practice, the participation of the different sectors and stakeholders was uneven resulting in some sectors and stakeholder groups being more strongly represented in SAICM than others. He therefore reiterated the importance of rethinking how to ensure a stronger multi-sector and multi-stakeholder engagement in the beyond-2020 framework. He drew attention to recent documentation that IOMC had developed and particularly to the IOMC document submitted to the present meeting, SAICM/IP.2/7 - IOMC plans for future actions to implement the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to several information documents submitted by IOMC organizations. He said the purpose of the beyond 2020 framework should be to improve the health of people and ecosystems, and take into consideration national and regional priorities, which was in line with the IOMC objective to strengthen international cooperation and to increase the effectiveness of organizations' international chemicals management. He added that there should be continued global efforts to identify issues of concern while continuing to address those that still needed efforts. He concluded by noting that IOMC had updated its indicators of progress in implementing SAICM, and developed an interactive version of the brochure on the SDGs.

35. Following the statements, the co-chair introduced the overview paper, document SAICM/IP.2/5, and described the process followed in developing the paper. She said the paper was a co-chairs' document, taking into account stakeholders' views from the first meeting of the intersessional process and follow-up input and submissions received.

36. The representative of the secretariat went on to introduce documents prepared in response to requests made at the first meeting of the intersessional process, SAICM/IP.2/6 Gender and the sound management of chemicals and waste, SAICM/IP.2/8 Proposal on objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda and related milestones, SAICM/IP.2/9 Financing the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and SAICM/IP.2/10 Review of existing governance models of potential relevance to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including science-policy interfaces.

37. The co-chair acknowledged with appreciation submissions from stakeholders that were compiled in document SAICM/IP.2/INF.3 noting the importance of those submissions and reiterating that the intersessional process was one driven by stakeholders. She then provided an opportunity for those wishing to do so to inform the meeting on their submissions. Several stakeholders provided details on their submissions, and it was noted that some issues, as raised at the first meeting of the intersessional process and in subsequent submissions by stakeholders, had not been addressed in the co-chairs' overview paper.

38. As noted above, on Wednesday 14 March, a day of discussion groups was held to exchange views and foster an inclusive dialogue among participants. Five discussion groups were formed, comprised of approximately 40-60 participants, each taking due consideration of stakeholder, geographical, gender and sector distribution. Each discussion group covered the same 5 topics: (i) vision, (ii) policy principles, (iii) objectives and milestones, (iv) implementation and (v) governance. Each topic was facilitated by two co-hosts, as given in paragraph 14 above. Following the conclusion of the discussions, the co-hosts reported back, orally, to plenary. Thereafter, they prepared a summary paper laying out the main outcomes of the discussions under each topic. The results of those summaries, as prepared by the co-hosts for each topic, are provided in the annex to the present report.

39. At the end of discussions on the agenda item, the co-chair informed participants of the timetable for finalization of the report of the meeting and, confirming that the results of the discussion groups would be annexed to the present report, said that participants would be given one month to provide factual comments that the co-hosts would incorporate into a final version.

A. Vision

40. Introducing the sub-item, the co-chair suggested that sub-items 4a - vision, 4b - policy principles and 4c - objectives and milestone be addressed collectively, noting that these elements all referred to what needed to be done beyond 2020. He said input from the discussions would be submitted to the third session of the Open-ended Working Group for their consideration.

41. He said that the vision would ultimately set the direction and inspire action and that it should be a simple, direct narrative to promote a healthier world and be easy to communicate, with the goal of increasing public and political awareness. The vision should be aspirational and long-term, easily linked to measurable objectives and practical target action and could be built on UNEA resolution 1/5 and refer to ICCM resolution IV/4.

42. In the ensuing discussion participants proposed key elements that should be incorporated in a vision for ‘beyond 2020’. These included that it should be: based on elements in UNEA resolution 1/5 and ICCM resolution IV/4; ambitious, aspirational and inspirational; short, strong and easy to understand and communicate to and by decision-makers and the public; timeless; inclusive to allow for joint action towards its achievement; and provide visibility.

43. Participants also suggested that the vision should include three important elements: lifecycle, prevention of adverse effects and the 3 dimensions of sustainable development, adding that Agenda 2030 should be the foundation for the future framework of sound management of chemicals and wastes. Further, it was suggested that it should take on board the concept of stakeholders working across sectors and encompass cooperation and linkages across different agendas. It was also suggested that the vision should be flexible to accommodate changes and take into account the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

44. Several participants proposed wording for a vision that, they said, could be further elaborated in the discussion groups, some suggesting that such a vision should be supported by or reflected in a short, clear motto or slogan or overarching vision.

B. Policy principles

45. Speaking to the sub-item, the co-chair said that clear policy principles would guide stakeholder efforts in achieving the vision for chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 and might take into account the Dubai Declaration, the Overarching Policy Strategy, the list of fundamental and basic elements in the annex to UNEA resolution 1/5 and the 11 basic elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance.

46. In the ensuing discussion, some participants suggested that there was no need to develop new policy principles but that existing ones could be reaffirmed. It was also suggested that policy principles might not be required and that there could simply be concrete objectives and milestones developed with opportunities for moving forward on an agreed vision, noting that the negotiation of agreed policy principles could be a lengthy process.

47. Other principles that some participants suggested could be included to integrate the holistic thinking required by the 2030 Agenda and look on more than chemicals safety, and to broaden and support the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 were: intergenerational equity, non-regrettable substitution, promotion of agroecology, extended producer responsibility, the polluter pays principle, precautionary principle, right to know, liability and compensation, full participation of women and indigenous people, human rights, lifecycle management, risk reduction, access to information, green chemistry, sustainable chemistry and the circular economy. One participant suggested that only multilaterally agreed principles or concepts consistent with sustainable development and not those such as green chemistry and the circular economy should be included. At the same time, another participant noted that policy principles were important in guiding actors to achieve the vision and should not only cover environment and health but also social and economic needs that could be covered appropriately under sustainable chemistry.

C. Measurable objectives and milestones

48. Speaking to the sub-item, the co-chair said that early progress in establishing measurable objectives and milestones would help clarify the needs and priorities for the ‘beyond 2020’ process and might serve to guide the development of implementation and governance arrangements in moving forward. He highlighted the secretariat paper SAICM/IP.2/8 Proposal on objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda and related milestones, as an important contribution to this agenda item. He suggested that the objectives be limited in number with achievable and measurable milestones. The programme of work should be realistic but ambitious and should be established in a way that progress to achieve the vision could be tracked. Further, he noted that different organizations and stakeholders were at different capacity levels such that the objectives should be scalable and designed for multi-stakeholder participation including governments, industry and non-governmental organizations.

49. In the ensuing discussion, several participants said the secretariat document SAICM/IP.2/8 was a good basis on which to begin discussions and referred to the Global Plan of Action and the Overarching Policy Strategy objectives, as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which, they said, was a good model on which to base the development of objectives and milestones for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Some of the key features of the Aichi targets that could be relevant included the global nature of the goals and targets that could be applied and adopted at national level; a strong science policy interface and a limited number of targets that allowed for focus on communication. Noting that national

reports on biodiversity focus on Aichi Targets and form the basis of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, it was suggested that, the Global Chemicals Outlook could become the cornerstone for chemicals review at the global level. One participant, speaking on behalf of a group of governmental participants, noted that they had developed preliminary input with concrete ideas on possible objectives and milestones for distribution to and consideration by all participants. It was also noted that the objectives and milestones could act as an umbrella for enhancing chemicals and waste management for all stakeholders by creating a joint approach to implementation of programmatic activities.

50. In general, participants considered that there should be a limited number of objectives and that they should be strategic, high-level, ambitious and concrete, underpinned by clear targets and deadlines with time-limited milestones that were measurable, specific, achievable and realistic. It was suggested that the objectives be focused on risk prevention and reduction, targeted, designed to enhance benefits to all from chemicals production and use throughout their lifecycle, and allow for effective management of issues of global concern, including, when necessary, phasing out or restricting hazardous substances, substitution, as well as improved implementation through better knowledge management, capacity building, information dissemination and cooperation. Mobilising resources for implementation of those goals would be a challenge to all and required joint efforts. Hence, strategic goals should focus on urgent needs and be easy to comprehend by decision-makers and the public.

51. Several participants drew attention to the 11 basic elements developed in the Overall Orientation and Guidance document, with some suggesting that the 11 basic elements serve as the basis for the objectives, and others suggesting that strengthening and going beyond those elements would be relevant for the beyond 2020 framework. Many participants said the objectives and milestones should complement and be linked to and in support of Agenda 2030 and its targets. It was suggested that, to take advantage of the revision process for the SDGs, the objectives should be reviewed in 2020 even if a longer deadline had been set.

52. The importance of having clear and ambitious objectives and targets related to means of implementation was stressed, given that implementation, as per the SDGs, was an objective in itself. Some participants suggested that objectives and targets for all sectors pertinent to the sound management of chemicals and waste were necessary, not only environment and health but also on occupational health and safety, agriculture and other relevant sectors.

53. Some participants recommended that the process to develop objectives and milestones should be consultative and take into account the special circumstances of countries and regions and be matched with finance and technical arrangements to enable countries to reach objectives. It was suggested that the framework of the future platform should enable a circular economy and accordingly the set of objectives and milestones should advance a circular economy across the value chains and throughout the entire lifecycle. In specifying issues that could be milestones, two were mentioned by several participants, promotion of the Globally Harmonized System for Labelling and Classification (GHS) and phasing out of highly hazardous pesticides.

54. Some participants mentioned the need to distinguish between national implementation and objectives needed at the global level and international cooperation, both being of importance to achieve sound management of chemicals and waste. It was suggested that mainstreaming the objectives and milestones might be a positive influence for achieving SDGs and targets.

55. Further suggestions to take into consideration were: the inclusion of all stakeholders, including local stakeholders, to take ownership for delivering specific milestones; clear allocation of tasks to different stakeholders and different sectors; milestones to be linked to legally binding instruments, thereby creating a link between the post 2020 framework and multilateral environmental agreements; flexibility to allow for adaptation to new information; regional objectives and targets; quantitative and qualitative indicators; avoiding duplication and overlap with work of other bodies; and the inclusion of new and existing issues of concern. Regarding the latter, it was important to assess progress in those issues, including how to close on an issue or transfer it to a more suitable or competent body.

(ii) Taking stock of progress

56. It was suggested that there be a clear reporting and review mechanism based on national reports focussed on a set of objectives and milestones that should be developed for consideration by ICCM5. Biodiversity governance offers a model with useful elements. Reporting should not be a burden and was only useful if it provided added value to national governments and stakeholders. Hence assessment to monitor progress was a good approach. It was further suggested that there should be voluntary national and stakeholder reporting and the sharing of good practices in SAICM's activities beyond 2020 as well as options for reaching objectives through a stepwise process.

D. Implementation arrangements

57. Speaking to the sub-item, the co-chair said that implementation arrangements, along with governance addressed the “how” in terms of moving beyond 2020. The sub-item was set out in three parts: responding to new and emerging issues, national implementation, and financing implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste. She also suggested participants take into consideration relevant elements set out in the secretariat document SAICM/IP.2/9.

(i) Responding to new and emerging issues

58. Some participants suggested that emerging policy issues be renamed ‘issues of concern’ reflecting that this would encompass new issues and other issues that were no longer emerging. It was suggested that a mechanism to address issues of concern should be maintained in the beyond 2020 framework. Some suggested that a work plan for each issue should be developed and progress measured against specific criteria, such as the “smart” criteria, i.e., specific, measurable, achievable, resource based and time-bound.

59. Some participants recognized the importance of addressing issues of concern but stressed the need of establishing an action plan that prioritized activities in order to comply with the objectives to be defined under SAICM to ensure that efforts and resources were focused and efficiently used. It was also suggested that criteria be developed to prioritize issues of concern, based on the current criteria, and to determine how to phase out action when a given issue is sufficiently addressed.

(ii) National implementation

60. Participants said national implementation systems should allow for governments and other stakeholders to set their own priorities and means to measure progress. It was suggested that agreed upon objectives and milestones should allow for national priority setting within a broad framework and that any such framework should be flexible enough to account for different national situations and allow for transparency and easy communication. It was noted that many countries had national action plans and were committed to implementing them.

61. Acknowledging the usefulness of national action plans, some participants stressed that countries needed support to implement them and that they were a useful tool if sustainably funded. It was noted that national plans should have agreed upon actions in support of Agenda 2030 and means to measure progress that would promote accountability of the implementation of chemicals and waste management work beyond 2020 and should also take into account the 11 basic elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance. Periodic reporting and evaluation of progress would permit adjustment of financial support and action and allow for flexibility as new issues of concern emerged.

62. Some participants noted the need to discuss the linkages and relationships between legally binding instruments related to chemicals and waste and the beyond 2020 framework, which should be voluntary but ensure stakeholders were seriously committed to meet targets and milestones. Such commitment could be reflected through a set of common goals and objectives and a streamlined review system for national action plans and progress reports. It was suggested that there could be global industry wide standards and codes of conduct to which industry publicly committed to adhere.

63. It was also suggested that mentoring programmes could be established whereby able countries, with the support of stakeholders such as industry, could support countries in need to establish and implement national actions, such as GHS implementation. It was noted that the World Health Assembly had recently approved a ‘Road map to enhance the health sector engagement in SAICM towards the 2020 goal and beyond’ to assist member states and other health sector stakeholders to identify priority activities and to develop their own implementation plans.

64. Some participants noted that regional centres were considered key actors in facilitating technical assistance, transfer of technology and capacity building and suggested using existing ones or establishing new ones as a tool for implementation. It was urged that implementation arrangements clarify how the 2020 framework would support the establishment of chemicals management regimes in all countries.

(iii) Financing implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste

65. Many participants thanked the secretariat for document SAICM/IP.2/9 on financing the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Many participants emphasized the need for adequate, sustainable, accessible and predictable funding at all levels for chemical management beyond 2020, also emphasizing the importance of addressing all aspects of the integrated approach to financing and ensuring its implementation. Several participants praised the QSP that had played a fundamental role in

ensuring funding and having outstanding results, some suggesting that such a programme or fund, consistent with new objectives and milestones, would be useful beyond 2020 and would support national implementation efforts. The involvement of financial institutions that are part of IOMC could be key to building a new process.

66. Regarding SAICM specifically, one participant noted that only a small percentage of the total GEF chemicals envelope was allocated to SAICM activities. The future implementation could not rely solely on funding from external international donors, he said, and added that the industry component of the integrated approach to financing was largely underexplored. One participant also highlighted the need to ensure sufficient and sustainable funding for the SAICM secretariat in whatever form that secretariat might be established to support beyond 2020.

67. One participant said that funding from donors should not be time limited and proposed the establishment of a specific fund for chemicals and waste management that could also examine industrial reconversion and assist in the application of best available technologies and best environmental practices. Further, some suggested that the development of specific guidelines on alternatives for fiscal reforms, tax incentives or subsidies that could provide resources at the national level, also reflecting the cost of inaction to engage higher political commitment, would be valuable and would necessarily engage the private sector within their social and environmental responsibility strategies. Some stated that the cost of inaction although acknowledged as high, was still not well documented and the costs related to chemicals management and use was largely borne by society.

68. One participant said that there should be a good resource mobilization system at global, regional and national levels without which a beyond 2020 framework might not reach its goals. There should be support from the private sector and extended producer responsibility throughout the lifecycle management of chemicals and waste, including through take-back schemes. At the same time, it was noted that efforts to further increase external funding should reflect what industry already provides in terms of financial contributions to chemicals management through taxes, fees, and other cost-recovery instruments.

E. Governance

69. Introducing the sub-item, the co-chair said the agenda was set out in two parts: promoting broader participation and the science-policy interface. She proposed that a broad discussion take place on governance, including the sub-items specified in the agenda.

70. In the ensuing discussion, many participants noted the challenge to attract attention to the issue of sound management of chemicals and wastes. One participant also emphasized that addressing the issue of multilateral governance, which is not limited to the governance of SAICM, was a concrete outcome that could result from the intersessional process.

71. Some participants suggested that ICCM should be more prominent, and organized every 2 years, perhaps alternating with the conferences of the parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and itself alternating with a multi-sectoral ministerial conference to enhance high-level engagement.

72. Many participants noted that SAICM's strength lay in its flexibility that allowed for addressing a wide group of chemical substances and waste in a broad and open structure that brought together all sectors and stakeholders. Several participants stressed the importance of including vulnerable groups in discussions and in awareness raising, especially women and youth. Enhancing such participation and establishing new multi-stakeholder partnerships would be the best way to serve the new framework beyond 2020. It was suggested that the involvement of key sectors in the beyond 2020 framework, such as WHO, ILO and FAO should be encouraged, in addition to increased participation of downstream industry. It was noted that a stakeholder day and an exchange forum for multi-stakeholder partnerships at ICCM would enable mutual learning and promote collaborative action.

73. Several participants urged a level of commitment from the industry sector, and emphasized the need to promote public involvement and awareness raising if the sound management of chemicals and waste was expected to be part of the political agenda and call attention to funding. To that end the development of a simple and effective marketing and communication strategy that would engage the broader public was suggested.

74. Many participants stressed the need to integrate science in the beyond 2020 framework and to increase the science policy interface and engage academia in activities related to sound management of chemicals and waste. It was noted that the effects of chemicals and waste mis-management must be appreciated by government officials and a good way to achieve that was by raising the profile of the

science-policy interface. While some participants proposed the establishment of a stand-alone scientific panel similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, others recalled the high costs involved in establishing and running a new body, one suggesting that UNEA would be the forum to take such a decision.

75. One participant encouraged the development of a strong mechanism that could support access to scientific information. He noted that in low-income countries, scientific information was not available in a manner that might convince the public of the potential dangers posed by chemicals and of waste. The science-policy interface and strengthening the link between science, public health and policy in chemicals and waste governance was a necessity and should ensure an open and transparent dialogue, including through engaging national scientific bodies in the discussion process.

76. Some participants urged caution that the work of existing scientific bodies established under the chemicals conventions and other international bodies should not be undermined nor duplicated. While there was a need for improved integration of scientific advice and policy making in the area of chemicals and waste, these should address the gaps and issues that went beyond existing bodies.

77. One participant suggested examining ways to optimize and supplement existing scientific panels including through the possible creation of small groups of experts for specific issues of concern. She further suggested exploring new approaches to tackling issues of concern including the possibility of structuring activities under the beyond 2020 framework around themes such as plastics or electronics, covering the entire lifecycle and targeting actions to the most appropriate stakeholders.

78. It was suggested that the Global Chemicals Outlook could serve as the main means of measuring progress in the future. Further it was suggested to avoid duplicative work and, instead, to use existing reports including those from civil society. Where scientific information was lacking, specific reports should be commissioned, for example on the cost of inaction on chemicals and waste. It was noted that gathering lacking information might need some time and hence requires a long-standing engagement of academia and policy-makers.

F. High-level political commitment and visibility

79. Many participants stressed the importance of raising the profile of chemicals and waste management at the global, regional, national and local level, to attract political attention, will and engagement by governments and all stakeholders. Many noted that the success of sound management of chemicals and waste was dependent on such political commitment at the national level and that actions related to chemicals and waste management should be incorporated into national strategy plans.

80. Participants noted that Agenda 2030 provided an opportunity to consider the sound management of chemicals and waste in the broadest context, and which engaged all sectors at the highest level. It was suggested that a broader forum than that of ICCM be considered as a way forward with involvement, ownership and commitment of all sectors and identification of the appropriate multilateral forums in which to address the issue. It was suggested that a high-level ministerial conference be convened to address all relevant issues with all stakeholders present. At the same time, an ambitious framework was needed going forward to ensure the participation of ministers in such high-level forums. Further, ministers from all sectors, not just environment and health, should be encouraged to participate in high-level meetings to ensure a trickle down of the outcomes of international gatherings to all sectors of government.

81. It was suggested that the beyond 2020 framework be endorsed, *inter alia*, under ICCM and UNEA in order to gain commitment and ownership and could be undertaken in the context of Agenda 2030. Some participants suggested the possible role of a high-level political forum linking with the SDGs and the UN General Assembly to encourage cross cutting attention. Furthermore regarding SAICM, several participants urged increasing the profile of the ICCM to gain political attention.

82. Many participants emphasized that the sound management of chemicals and waste was a cross-cutting issue and it was key to get political attention. Attention to it should not only be focused through the ICCM or similar conference but also through governing bodies of all sectoral intergovernmental organizations dealing with the sound management of chemicals and waste, within their own governance structures. One participant said it was important to have commitment from governments to implement Agenda 2030 and that industry could support national governments in that endeavor. One participant, providing details on different options for raising the profile of sound management of chemicals and waste, said that in the beyond 2020 framework, formalization and funding of multi-stakeholder committees at the national level would increase the political priority of SAICM and should also include representation from ministries of finance, economy and trade.

83. It was noted that the beyond 2020 framework should have visibility that matched the growing challenges associated with the production, use and disposal of hazardous chemicals and waste. Knowing Agenda 2030 goals cannot be reached without sound management of chemicals and wastes was key.

V. Timetable for the process

84. The co-chair drew attention to meeting document SAICM/IP.2/INF.1 that provided information on the timetable for the intersessional process moving towards the Open-ended Working Group, tentatively scheduled for February 2019 and the subsequent final session of the intersessional process.

85. Ms. Sahler informed the meeting that she would chair the third session of the Open-ended Working Group in February 2019 and noted, with appreciation, the active engagement of all stakeholders and many sectors in the intersessional process, including at the regional meetings. Drawing attention to the need to make further progress at the Open-ended Working Group, she said that all regions and sectors had agreed to request the co-chairs to develop a paper for submission to the Open-ended Working Group to be used as a basis for discussion. The co-chairs would develop the paper in consultation with the Bureau and with the support of the secretariat and it would be based on the outcomes of the first and second intersessional meetings and take into account stakeholder submissions and the outcomes of the recently convened regional meetings.

VI. Any other business

86. No other items of business were raised.

VII. Closure of the meeting

87. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 3.20 p.m. on Thursday, 15 March 2018.

ANNEX

Co-hosts' paper on the results of the discussion groups

Introduction

On Wednesday 14 March 2018, a day of discussion groups was held to exchange views and foster an inclusive dialogue among participants. Five discussion groups were formed, comprised of approximately 40-60 participants each, taking due consideration of stakeholder, geographical, gender and sector distribution.

Each discussion group covered the same 5 topics: (i) vision, (ii) policy principles, (iii) objectives and milestones, (iv) implementation and (v) governance. Each topic was facilitated by two co-hosts from the five United Nations regions as well as the five sectors represented in the Bureau (public interest organizations, the health sector NGOs, the labour sector NGOs, industry and the IOMC).

Following the end of discussions, the co-hosts reported back, orally, to plenary. Thereafter they prepared a summary paper laying out the main outcomes of the discussions under each topic. The results of those summaries, as prepared by the co-hosts of each topic, are provided hereafter.

I. VISION

Methodology on gathering the views from discussion groups

All groups were invited to propose concepts relevant to be reflected in the vision. The resulting list is outlined under section 1 below.

Groups 1-3 were invited to propose wording for a vision. The resulting proposals are outlined in section 2 below. It quickly emerged that many proposals contained a short (4 to 5-word) overarching vision, which could also be used as a slogan, and in some cases a longer sentence describing the overall goal of the framework. The co-hosts extracted the existing elements into two tables. Subsequently Groups 4 and 5 added to the list and expressed their preferences. The resulting lists, reflecting the preferences of the groups in decreasing order, are outlined in section 3 below. Based on the discussion in all the groups, the co-hosts felt that the wording in section 4 received most support from stakeholders and may be used for further discussions.

1. Initial discussion ideas proposed by the co-hosts in line with the previous discussion at the plenary

- Timeless
- Aspirations
- Bold/balanced
- Linkages to SDGs 2030, 3 dimensions of Sustainable Development
- Inclusive
- Flexible
- Simple
- Positive
- Motivate to take joint action
- Reference to chemicals and waste
- Ability to easily communicate
- Attract political attention
- Prevention
- Based on existing resolutions (UNEA), Rio+20
- Life cycle
- Multi-sectoral approach (stakeholders)
- Voluntary and mandatory nature
- Equity and justice
- Overarching vision
- Slogan

2. Compilation of some of the discussion ideas proposed by the participants from discussion groups 1-3:

- Shape a healthy future: Healthy environment, healthy people by protecting human health and the environment through sustainable management of chemicals and wastes
- Together for a healthy planet
- Together for a healthy planet without harm from chemicals and waste
- Together for a toxic free future
- Safer chemicals, healthier life
- Protect the health and environment from toxic chemicals and waste
- Together/united for sustainable management of chemicals and waste
- Together to minimize the environmental health impacts of chemicals and waste
- Sound management of chemicals and waste towards a toxic free world
- United in shaping a healthy future, healthy environment and healthy people through sustainable management of chemicals and waste
- Maximise benefits from sustainable management of chemicals and waste
- United/together to build a pollution free planet/healthy planet
- Sustainable chemicals and waste management: together for a safer future
- Working together to use and dispose of chemicals safely and wisely
- Work together to prevent harm from chemicals and waste
- Healthy, clean, safe, wise
- Together for sustainable chemistry
- 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

3. Summarized/structured ideas into two groups comprising the short (catchy) vision message accompanied by the second group of ideas explaining more closely what is expected to achieve as developed by groups 4-5

Short vision messages

- Healthy [environment] [planet], healthy people
- Together for a [pollution-free] [safe and] healthy planet
- [Shape a] healthy future
- Safer chemicals and waste, healthier life
- Together for a toxic free future
- Healthy, clean, safe, wise
- Together towards a toxic free world
- Preventing pollution together
- Shape sustainable development
- Living in a harmony with nature [chemicals and waste]
- Detoxified future for all
- Sound chemicals and waste management today. Toxics-free world tomorrow.
- Non-toxic environment for a healthier life.

Longer descriptions

- [United] [Working together] [committed] to prevent [reduce] [against] harm from chemicals and [associated] waste [throughout their life-cycle]
- By protecting human health and the environment through sound [sustainable] management of [hazardous] chemicals and [associated] wastes
- Preventing harm through sound management of chemicals and [associated] waste
- Without [no] harm from chemicals and [associated] waste

- Protect the health and environment from toxic chemicals and waste
- Together/united for sustainable management of chemicals and waste
- Together to minimize the environmental health impacts of chemicals and waste
- Maximise benefits from sustainable management of chemicals and waste
- Working together to use and dispose of chemicals safely and wisely
- Manage chemicals and waste responsibly for a safer future
- -Committed to prevent harm from chemicals and waste throughout their life-cycle
- Note: need mention of capacity building
- No harm from chemicals

4. Wording of a vision that received the most support from groups

Healthy [environment] [planet], healthy people!

[United] [Working together] [committed] to prevent [reduce] [against] harm from chemicals [and [associated] waste] [throughout their life-cycle]

II. POLICY PRINCIPLES²

During the discussions, a variety of views were expressed regarding policy principles:

- Existing agreed principles are still relevant and should be retained.
- There are certain principles that need to be adopted, e.g., principles that shall ensure the participation of women and vulnerable groups, human rights based principles and the principle of a lifecycle approach in the management of chemicals and waste.
- The 5 objectives from the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy: risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity building and technical cooperation, and illegal international traffic are still very relevant and should be retained as far as a possible future SAICM is concerned.
- UNEA Resolution 1/5 contains good principles that should be included in the new framework

Divergent views were also expressed regarding how and whether policy principles should be included:

- The future framework of the sound management of chemicals and waste should include a list of principles versus the future framework should continue to refer to other instruments.
- New principles are needed versus new principles are not needed or only critical new principles are needed.
- Proposed new principles (e.g. circular economy, sustainable chemistry, agroecology) fall under means of implementation versus proposed principles can be viewed as principles or means of implementation.
- Policy principles should not be included.

Based on this, the co-hosts identified the following scenarios that should be taken into consideration in carrying forward the outcomes of the groups' discussions and the outcome of the 2nd intersessional meeting:

Scenario 1: A number of stakeholders expressed the need for the future framework to have its own principles spelled out in the framework.

Rationale (i) The principles that SAICM currently refers to have gaps that need to be addressed.

Scenario 2: Some stakeholders expressed their willingness to uphold already agreed principles and focus attention on development of the vision, objectives and milestones.

Rationale (i) Effective actions at the national level will depend more on vision, objectives and milestones and not on principles hence the need to spend more time in designing the former.

² References to be considered: Paper by Switzerland on principles and approaches from First Intersessional Process meeting.

Rationale (ii) The principles that are being proposed are not specific to the sound management of chemicals and waste and therefore do not need to be re-discussed or re-opened in the “beyond 2020” discussions. Existing agreed principles will continue to apply.

Scenario 3: Some stakeholders expressed the need for including new principles in addition to already existing and agreed principles.

Rationale (i) Existing principles cannot address emerging challenges.

Rationale (ii) The beyond 2020 agenda involves new areas such that require an additional set of principles to provide guidance.

Scenario 4: No policy principles, with the following rationale provided by various participants:

Rationale (i) A strong vision with objectives and milestones is sufficient. A long list of principles will not add any value to the process and may be counterproductive in terms of time that will be required to develop and agree to certain principles.

Rationale (ii) Some of the proposed principles are not necessarily principles but rather means of implementation; examples being proposals on circular economy, agroecology, green and/or sustainable chemistry.

Rationale (iii) Discussion on new principles is unwarranted at this point in time since similar discussions are taking place within the Global Pact for Environment (GPE) process. The GPE will have a much higher global impact and high level political influence than the beyond 2020 SAICM framework.

List of proposed/reaffirmed principles

Already agreed and existing principles and objectives:

5 SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy objectives:

- o Risk reduction
- o Knowledge and information
- o Governance
- o Capacity building and technical cooperation
- o Illegal international traffic

- Polluter-pays
- Right to information / Access to information / Right to know / Access to justice
- Precautionary principle / Prevention
- Common but differentiated responsibility
- Sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- Science-based decision-making
- Human rights approach / The right to a healthy environment
- Financial burden of internalization of cost / Cost of action and inaction

Additional Principles/objectives/policies:

- Circular economy
- Lifecycle approach
- Extended producer responsibility (EPR)
- Gender equity / Inclusivity / Full participation of women, vulnerable groups, including indigenous minorities / Non-discrimination
- Sustainable consumption and production / Responsible use
- Agroecology / Ecology approach
- Green / Sustainable chemistry
- Trans/Inter-generational equity
- Liability and compensation
- Non-regrettable substitution / Promoting alternatives taking into account social, environmental and economic impacts
- Health approach / Protecting labour / Worker safety
- Accountability
- Consistency
- Non-regression
- Minimal harm

- Stakeholder and sectoral engagement

Issues raised by some participants:

Issue of interpretation and application of existing principles at national level.

Incorporating other international organizations' principles (such as International Maritime Organisation).

Limit number of proposed principles (up to 5).

Select/highlight text from agreed existing policy principles (ex: chapter 6, chapter 9 from the Overarching Policy Strategy).

Issue of language: "principle" vs "approach" on the topics of sustainable chemistry, stakeholder and sectoral engagement, circular economy, extended producer responsibility.

Issue of scope: Policy Principles for SAICM vs Policy Principles for sound management of chemicals and waste; using existing principles as guiding reference; include the Minamata Convention and the other MEAs referenced as well as the 2030 Agenda, Rio+20 The Future We Want, etc.

Agroecology and sustainable/green chemistry: Agroecology and sustainable chemistry do not contradict each other neither are they synonymous but overlap. Agroecology and sustainable chemistry do not yet have consensual definitions and could also be understood more as means of implementation rather than Policy Principles.

Overall request for two separate lists: one of existing principles and one of new proposed principles.

Stress on not duplicating efforts, on looking at existing principles in detail, on looking at what principles have been interpreted at the national level and not throwing away existing declarations.

III. OBJECTIVES AND MILESTONES³

The following broad areas were addressed:

The objectives and milestones are to be developed in the context of the 'beyond 2020' framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

There was general agreement across the 5 groups, that the structure of the Aichi⁴ Biodiversity Targets was a valuable reference for future work for the sound management of chemicals and waste. This structure includes a limited number of strategic objectives and milestones (also known as goals and targets). The international governance of the biodiversity cluster, similar to the chemicals and waste cluster, includes autonomous legally-binding multilateral environmental agreements as well as voluntary approaches. Biodiversity, as chemicals and waste management, requires action in many sectors of government (environment, agriculture, industrial development etc.), by different key actors, and at various levels of governance (i.e. international, regional, national, sub-national and local). The approach taken in the biodiversity cluster through the Aichi Targets has been reflected in overarching UNGA resolutions and accepted by a wide range of governments and stakeholders as a means of addressing a complex policy issue through global and national action. It also has proven to be an effective way to measure progress in achieving the overall vision of biological diversity conservation. However, it was also noted by some participants that developing the Aichi Targets was a lengthy and involved process.

The groups provided feedback as follows:

The strategic objectives should be:

1. Limited in number;
2. Well-defined;
3. Simple and effective;
4. Cover the scope at global, regional and national levels, e.g. knowledge and information sharing at the global level, risk reduction, etc.; and

³ References to be considered: Secretariat document SAICM/IP.2/8 Proposal on objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda and related milestones (9 January 2018); EU thought starter (13 March 2018) (not finally agreed in the EU); United Kingdom (14 March 2018); UN Environment (14 March 2018); Eco-waste Coalition, Philippines (14 March 2018); PAN India (14 March 2018); PAN (14 March 2018); IPEN (14 March 2018); USCIB / Croplife (14 March 2018); Royal Society of Chemistry (14 March 2018).

⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

5. Multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral that helps the different actors to identify themselves in meeting the strategic objectives and clarify their respective roles.

Participants recognized the importance and value of the 11 basic elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG) and suggested that they are reflected as a priority in the development of the strategic objectives and milestones going forward. It was noted by some that the OOG basic elements focus on the process related objectives and milestones and on implementation at the regional/national level. The targets should be aligned with the SDGs and 2030 Agenda. There was general agreement that milestones should have the following characteristics;

- a) SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound). Emphasis on Achievable and Realistic was made, as well as time-bound aspects,
- b) Attributable to all stakeholders;
- c) Action-oriented;
- d) Qualitative or quantitative;

In addition, it was suggested that some milestones could be delivered through multilateral environmental agreements.

Some issues that were raised that could be considered during the development of the strategic objectives and milestones include: capacity building, education, monitoring, legacies, transboundary effects, waste in all its components that include chemicals; sustainable consumption and production, including the concept of life-cycle or circular economy and the benefits of chemical use for all in achieving the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals; illegal trafficking of chemicals and marine plastics and marine litter, including the land-based sources of pollution. The co-chairs invited specific inputs from participants to be sent to the Secretariat in writing related to objectives and milestones. These are uploaded on the SAICM web-site.⁵ There was willingness to discuss these inputs in moving forward.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The co-hosts drew attention to three areas relevant to implementation to focus discussions under this topic: national implementation, financing and emerging issues. Participants also pointed out the importance of the policies, plans and actions of each IOMC organisation, under its own mandate, for implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste.

National Implementation

Many countries have national implementation plans (NIPs) and national action plans that have been developed under different environmental regimes and requirements. These plans are generally considered very important for identifying country needs and prioritizing actions. The importance and value of having such plans were highlighted by some in the following points, although it was also noted that this is not *per se* a matter to be considered in the beyond 2020 discussions

Some participants considered that NIPs can serve to catalyze access to resources and to assist in identifying coordination work between ministries and among stakeholders and sectors. NIPs should have measurable objectives linked to the 2030 Agenda. It is advantageous to have national plans that are linked to national development plans and programmes to attract national stakeholder attention.

Including chemicals and waste issues into national development agendas can increase national commitment, resources and visibility; more visibility for the chemicals and waste agenda can also be obtained from improved and innovative communication methods that engage stakeholder and public interest and that can be included as a strategy in national action plans.

Some also considered that regional action plans can serve to prioritize regional issues and share results of common concern. IGOs play an important role in implementation and should consider plans and actions in order to address sound management of chemicals and wastes and support actions that fall within their mandates.

The value of NIPs lies in actual implementation which is dependent on political commitment from governments, institutional strengthening and budget development, on engagement and ownership from all stakeholders and on availability of resources, technical assistance and capacity building. There was concern over developing further plans that were not implemented and the need to implement existing plans.

⁵ www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/Commentsonobjectivespaper/tabid/6233/language/en-US/Default.aspx

The gap between developing and developed countries was highlighted. In moving forward, we need to enhance capacity building in developing countries, e.g. by support through experts etc. The need for leadership and commitment was in general identified by participants. There was also general emphasis on implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling, strengthening legal instruments and commitment to existing standards and standards to develop.

Reporting on existing implementation plans has been weak in the past. Countries have been burdened by their reporting obligations under different regimes. Reporting under the beyond 2020 structure should take this into account when determining reporting mechanisms. In addition, some participants emphasized national plans need to be regularly reviewed and assessed by a governing body set up within the beyond 2020 structure to determine progress made by each stakeholder on implementation of their respective plans and to identify challenges. Such progress and assessment reviews can serve as an incentive to action.

The role of IGOs

Many participants pointed out that IGOs, within their own mandates, play an important role in implementation and should consider policies, plans and actions in order to address sound management of chemicals and wastes and support actions that fall within their mandates.

Financing

Some participants noted that adequate, sustainable, accessible and predictable funding will be crucial to a successful beyond 2020 framework. SAICM is a voluntary approach and its implementation of SAICM depends mainly on the actions taken by the relevant stakeholders, including the provision of sufficient resources. There were suggestions that a strong financial mechanism with funding from various sources is important for a future structure. Some stakeholders considered that the relevant mechanisms are already in place. Financing depends on the implementation of the three components of the integrated approach to financing: mainstreaming, industry engagement, and dedicated external financing and ensure implementation of the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste, which provides avenues for possible new sources of funding, such as private foundations.

The positive experience gained through the Quick Start Programme was noted as was building on these the outset of the beyond 2020 structure. Mechanisms that have already been put in place to implement the dedicated external financing component of the integrated approach were also stressed. Some stakeholders expressed that a new financial mechanism to support the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste was required.

Amongst the views expressed by some participants, internalization of costs within relevant producer industries, increased support from development assistance agencies, fees and levies as well as a variety of other funding sources at the national, regional and international level could contribute to provide sufficient, predictable, and accessible resources for chemicals and waste management through the lifecycle. In addition, many noted that extended producer responsibility, public-private partnerships, take-back schemes and collaboration on concrete projects are important contributions that need to be implemented, and sought, for the effective and sound management of chemicals and waste. With regard to the integrated approach, it might be worth considering to support the working out of linkages to existing funds with relevance for chemicals, in particular to the climate change cluster. Multinational companies could also be a source to provide resources, including financial, capacity building and technology transfer towards addressing challenges of chemicals and waste management throughout the lifecycle. In-kind contributions in the form of training and awareness raising programmes and information exchange and data sharing should also contribute to serve capacity building needs. Data on the costs of inaction is needed.

Included in these considerations is the need for a sustainable finance model for a possible future secretariat.

Emerging Policy Issues

SAICM is currently the only approach that discusses emerging policy issues and many participants expressed a strong interest in continuing to work on emerging issues, while reviewing whether they are still of current global interest. Some suggested that 'emerging policy issues' could be renamed 'issues of global concern', to have only one single term that also covers the prior issues under SAICM. Issues of global concern could include existing policy issues, as well as new ones informed by sound science and other policy processes such as UNEA. Caution was advised on having a new expert panel for scientific support since that would be costly and resource intensive. The Global Chemicals Outlook process was seen as a good starting point for considering how to improve the integration of science and policy-making in the area of chemicals and waste.

Some participants suggested that flexible criteria could be developed to determine the addition of new issues of global concern such as interest from multi-stakeholder groups, a work programme and a timeline to achieve results. To gain

visibility and importance, each issue could have a ‘stakeholder champion’ that would carry the issue forward and follow it through. New issues could also be identified through the Global Chemical Outlook and through relevance to the SDGs. Lead in paint was noted both as a success story and as an indication of a single issue that has taken a lengthy time to address.

V. GOVERNANCE⁶

Governance is part of the how to achieve the future vision. Generally the groups reinforced that once the objectives and milestones are drafted and the independent evaluation is final, we will be able to reflect better on the desired form of the future governance arrangements and needs. Many participants underlined that governance at the multilateral level is one of the main concrete issues that the beyond 2020 may be able to address and that such governance is essential to be able to identify what needs to be done by whom.

The discussion on this topic was not limited to governance of the current SAICM, as the mandate of the intersessional process from ICCM resolution IV/4 is to consider SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

There is a clear sense that we need to work towards enhanced awareness, ownership and engagement beyond 2020 to build a future for stakeholders to work together and promote commitment. It is necessary to increase political attention and high-level engagement in moving forward. The need to share information and build a clearinghouse was highlighted throughout as a means to build capacity.

Overall in moving forward, the governance structure needs to evolve and learn from the past to address future challenges, without losing capacity to build basic chemicals management capacity.

Stakeholder and sectoral engagement

Some participants expressed that, functionally, the design for an approach beyond 2020 should promote broader participation in general and encourage wider sectoral participation at all levels (national, regional and global).

Many ideas came forward to enhance stakeholder and sector participation, at national, regional and international levels, including support for regional activities. Some noted that national action plans may help build national engagement. The value of sectoral plans was highlighted, i.e., the WHO Chemicals Roadmap.

The need to enhance engagement of some sector groups was suggested: such as health, labour, downstream industry, agriculture and human rights. Furthermore, the financial and investment sector should be involved to improve sustainable investments and avoid financing of activities in contradiction to the SAICM objectives. The possibility of a multi-sectoral Ministerial Conference on the sound management of chemicals and waste in implementation of the 2030 Agenda was suggested by some participants. There is also a need to review the methods of engagement of the IOMC participating organizations, both at local and international levels.

The link to SDGs and MEAs were highlighted.

Furthermore, a number of stakeholder groups were highlighted as missing in the current approach including: retailers and distributors, consumers, science and academia, youth, education, insurance community, women, youth, vulnerable populations, indigenous peoples, SMEs, maritime organizations and the agro-ecology community.

There was discussion on how to prioritize product sectors. The Chemicals in Products Programme and highly hazardous pesticides (HHP) were suggested as starting points.

Some participants suggested that waste stakeholders should also be engaged, depending on how waste is included in the future framework.

Enabling framework

The flexible, voluntary and inclusive nature of SAICM was generally highlighted as a strength as was the need to link to the 2030 Agenda.

⁶ Reference for consideration: The International Panel on Chemicals Pollution provided “A Thought Starter on A Possible Model for the Science-Policy Interface under the Post 2020 Framework” as input to the process.

Regarding a possible future overarching framework, there was a call for strong political ownership through enhanced commitments in moving forward, with clear responsibility of national governments and industry. There was significant exploratory discussion on how to connect existing efforts in a more strategic way beyond 2020, including the need for strategic objectives and milestones.

It was acknowledged by some that the continued and improved implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as well as the Minamata Convention are essential in implementing elements of the beyond 2020 framework, in particular for legal elements. Current existing governance structures should be respected and not be undermined. There is a need to ensure continued and enhanced collaboration and cooperation amongst the existing Conventions.

The future structure should be complementary, aim to fill gaps and avoid duplication of efforts. Related to this, the need for the future structure to facilitate increased financing was also highlighted, including through partnerships.

Some called for flexibility for later consideration of legally binding approaches within any future structure.

Science-Policy engagement

SAICM has supported engagement of science, particularly through stakeholders involved in the emerging policy issues. IOMC agencies and the chemical related conventions currently already have significant existing science-policy capacity. Some suggested that there is further untapped potential within academia that should be considered, including at the national level.

Some participants made a call for increased transparent, flexible, scientifically sound and academically robust engagement beyond 2020. This would include the need for two-way dialogue, in particular at the national level, between the science community and policy-makers as well as awareness raising amongst scientists. Life-cycle analysis can further support the connection between science and policy.

There is a common understanding that all efforts should not be duplicated and the funds available for science-policy interface functions will likely be limited.