



## Stakeholder workshop

# **Strengthening integrated chemicals and waste management: How can a future framework beyond 2020 ensure effective engagement of all key stakeholders?**

Bucharest, Romania (26 August 2022)

*Organized with support from the Government of Germany*

### **Summary – FINAL**

#### **1 Introduction**

Integrated approaches to advance the sound management of chemicals and waste have been promoted since the first session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1) in 2006. Opportunities emerge to refine the concept and strengthen implementation, as stakeholders establish a new framework on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. At the core of integrated management is the engagement of and collaboration with relevant sectors and actors in the chemicals and production value chains, with a view to taking collective action to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste.

As a contribution to the discussions during the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, the IOMC developed an information document on strengthening integrated chemicals and waste management ([SAICM/IP.4/INF/18](#)). The paper outlines three complementary dimensions of integrated chemicals and waste management:

1. Developing basic national chemical management systems and capacities in all countries
2. Integrating chemicals management in key industry sectors and product value chains
3. Integrating chemicals management with sustainable development issues and initiatives

In order to encourage discussions and enhance input to the fourth meeting of the intersessional process (IP4, 29 August 2022 – 2 September 2022), the IOMC, with organizational support of UNITAR and funding from the Government of Germany organized a one-day workshop to discuss the ideas contained in the IOMC paper, and to explore how these ideas and the workshop outcomes could inform IP4 and the process leading up to ICCM5.

## 2 Workshop overview

The workshop featured five main sessions, with an introduction, a session for each of the three dimensions of integrated chemicals and waste management, and a concluding session. Remarks and presentations were given by a wide range of stakeholders, including the ICCM5 President, Ms. Anita Breyer, the IP4 co-chairs, Ms. Judith Torres and Ms. Kay Williams, representatives of the IOMC, and representatives of governments, the private sector, NGOs and academia. Approximately 100 participants attended, from all regions and major stakeholder groups. For each dimension, breakout groups were facilitated to discuss the key themes in depth and identify opportunities to bring pertinent issues to the IP4 discussions.

## 3 Main observations and messages of the workshop

The following includes key observations and messages generated at the workshop, developed through plenary presentations and discussions, and interactive working groups.

### Overall

- The IOMC contribution on integrated management of chemicals and waste was generally welcomed, serving to inform and stimulate IP 4 discussions.
- The three dimensions are a valuable way to structure complex discussions on chemicals and waste management. They help focus discussions on important issues and to engage new actors (e.g. downstream sectors, climate change community)
- The proposed targets are valuable but could be more specific in some cases (e.g. distinguishing between governments and industry)
- Step-by-step implementation activities for each dimension could be developed, possibly as part of a broader and longer-term implementation programme (e.g. start with certain industry sector reviews under dimension 2, identify priority sustainable development topics under dimension 3)
- A code of conduct on industrial and consumer chemicals could be a useful tool to support implementation of all three dimension, especially dimensions 1 and 2.
- There was eagerness to explore how the ideas generated at the workshop can be taken to IP4 and ICCM5, including possible work in advance of ICCM5 on topics (e.g. good practices and guidance on industry sector reviews and strategies). This work could take place, for example, through workshops or experts' meetings.

### Dimension 1: Developing basic national chemical management systems and capacities in all countries

- There was wide support for priority implementation of the GHS as a fundamental basis for a national chemicals management system.
- A second priority is the establishment of inclusive national inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, including but not limited to ministries of environment, health, labour, agriculture industry, finance, education and local governments
- A third priority is the development of basic legal capacity (including support for training and development of legislation) to assess chemicals and implement risk management decisions that cover the life cycle of the chemicals.
- Setting global priorities, such as the ones above, can guide countries in focusing their national action, e.g. to develop legislation, set targets and put in place phase-out plans, where relevant.

- Strong financing mechanisms are required, including but not limited to, cost recovery mechanisms to fund national systems/chemicals agencies sustainably.
- Monitoring, compliance and enforcement activities are essential, including to address illegal trade of chemicals and waste
- Capacity building, knowledge-sharing and possible harmonization of policy approaches are important elements in strengthening and supporting national systems.

#### Dimension 2: Integrating chemicals management in key industry sectors and product value chains

- The engagement of chemicals intensive industry sectors and the development of industry sector reviews and strategies with support of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder discussions could be an important aspect of “Beyond 2020”.
- The key industry sectors identified (e.g. through GCO-II) are a useful starting point, but some refinements are needed to identify further sectors
- Associations and companies could play a leadership role in advancing action under “Beyond 2020”, providing and promoting examples of good practice. Addressing and engaging SMEs and the informal sector are also important.
- Development of guidance to support industry sector reviews and strategies is valuable and could be initiated in advance of ICCM5 through multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- Development of an international code of conduct to guide key industry sectors to best practices could be useful.
- Clear targets are needed that address the private sector. Mentioning specific industry sectors in the Beyond 2020 instrument could be an incentive for industry sectors to engage.

#### Dimension 3: Integrating chemicals management with sustainable development issues and initiatives.

- Chemicals and waste management (and innovations in sustainable chemistry) is relevant for achieving many SDGs.
- Priority sustainable development topics which may be addressed by Beyond 2020 include:
  - Climate change
  - Biodiversity
  - Air pollution and health (One Health)
  - Rights at Work; a safe and healthy working environment
- Further work is encouraged at the global level to explore linkages and possible action. Some valuable work has already started (e.g. by BRS and Minamata Secretariats, Nordic Council).
- It is important to create linkages at the global and national levels and by industry
- At the national level, guidance, training and incentives could be developed for national chemicals and waste focal points to interact with other focal points (e.g. climate change) to identify specific action.

## 4 Closure

The workshop closed with summary statements and comments on the importance and value of such workshops to facilitate the exchange of information and viewpoints. Stakeholders were encouraged to communicate key insights from the workshop to decision makers, including those participating in IP4, with

a view to strengthen the Beyond 2020 instrument and its targets. A first opportunity to do so was the Technical Briefing on integrated chemicals and waste management on 27 August 2022, in the lead-up to the IP4 meeting.