Stakeholder workshop on strengthening governance for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

From national to global: Learning from experience, exploring options

Organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) with support from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany, and the Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland

28 February & 1 March 2019, Geneva, Switzerland (hosted at the ILO)

Brief summary of proceedings

1. Workshop Summary

On 28 February & 1 March 2019, approximately 60 participants, representing governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry bodies, workers' organizations, civil society organizations and academic institutions came together in Geneva to explore key elements of governance as part of the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Through presentations (details and presentations will be made available at: https://www.unitar.org/cwm/portfolio-projects/international-policy-development), panel discussions and working groups (summary notes are provided for each working group, though it was noted that these were not agreed, unified positions.), participants concluded that a governance model that supports greater sectoral and stakeholder engagement, and maintaining voluntary approaches, where appropriate, will be key to successful implementation and achievement of targets. New sectors and stakeholders need to be engaged, we need to learn from ongoing initiatives and integrate them, and encourage new initiatives.

Further common themes throughout the workshop included linking to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Circular Economy. There were also repeated calls to acknowledge national implementation - supported by global action - as an essential contribution to achieving global targets and milestones. Governance is a means to an end; to support both national and global action, and greater impact.

SAICM was developed to close the gap between implementation of sound management of chemicals and waste in different countries, be this on conventions, sectoral obligations and responsibilities, or other approaches; such a commitment needs to be replicated and enhanced in a new platform.

Further reflection is needed on what options are available to develop governance models and how this secures engagement and commitment from a broad set of sectors and stakeholders.

This summary is a collection of views presented at the workshop and does not represent a view or way forward agreed with all participants.

2. Background

In September 2015, ICCM4, through resolution IV/4, initiated an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Co-chairs have been appointed to guide the intersessional process and have developed various rounds of a "Co-chairs' paper"[1]. The paper includes considerations of possible institutional arrangements and mechanisms to support implementation, with links to governance.

3. Workshop objective and structure

The workshop had the overall goal to facilitate knowledge-sharing and inform international deliberations on governance aspects of international chemicals and waste management, by identifying good practices and lessons-learned on a range of relevant topics. The scope of the workshop recognised that governance takes place at several, interconnected levels (e.g. national, regional and global) and through stakeholder networks and initiatives (e.g. private sector governance).

A key theme of the workshop was to provide thoughts on the development of a beyond-2020 model that could re-create the ambition from heads of state from the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, engaging all relevant sectors and stakeholders, and encouraging national implementation that supports progressive achievements at the global level.

Specific objectives of the workshop included:

- Review how the current global chemicals and waste management framework fosters collaboration across agreements, sectors and stakeholders

- Share governance-specific knowledge and experience from other global regimes (e.g. biodiversity governance) and relevant sectors (e.g. health sector)

- Identify good practices of private sector governance beyond compliance and explore how relevant action can be considered and advanced globally

- Explore options for global governance structures and decision-making that can foster wide ownership, as well as commitment and engagement of countries, sectors and actors to achieve results

In addressing these objectives, the workshop paid particular attention to the question on how to ensure high-level engagement and commitments in all sectors and at all levels.

The workshop had four sessions:

1. International governance approaches
2. Fostering engagement of key sectors and actors in the management of chemicals and waste
3. Linking national, regional and global action with global strategic objectives and targets
4. Fostering engagement, commitment, and accountability through effective global governance

The following sections summarize presentations and workshop discussion around the four session topics

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[1] http://saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/meetings/OEWG3/doc/K1900262-SAICM-OEWG3-4-Co-Chairs-Paper-ADVANCE.docx

4. International Governance Approaches (Session 1)

The session started with a presentation by Ms. Brenda Koekkoek (SAICM secretariat) on plans for the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3, Montevideo Uruguay, 2-4 April 2019), key activities to support implementation of SAICM up to 2020 and plans to develop a beyond-2020 platform. Ms. Koekkoek discussed the case of "science for policy" as an example which is particularly relevant for effective implementation; several examples are available from intergovernmental organizations and international publications. She also referenced the impetus provided by SAICM for the Emerging Policy Issues. This may be one of the key areas for a platform beyond 2020, with some lessons-learned through the independent evaluation.

Mr. Jost Dittkrist (UN Environment) introduced some key insights of the Global Chemicals Outlook-II (GCO) relevant for governance. He commenced by noting the trends cited in GCO-II that the global chemicals industry is projected to double by 2030. The GCO notes, however, uneven progress across countries in implementing the 2020 goal, with many still lacking some basic elements of management systems. The overall message of the GCO is that while many chemicals are important for sustainable development, global trends are a cause for major concern, requiring urgent action. Solutions exist, but more ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders is urgently required. Regulatory systems are essential, but opportunities also exist to recognize and encourage voluntary private sector initiatives (especially those that go beyond compliance), enhance engagement with scientists, and broader stakeholders such as the financial community and workers organisations. The GCO notes that national chemicals management profiles developed under SAICM and often through inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral collaboration can be a useful starting point for further action.

Mr. Alf Wills (Summit Outcomes) presented a paper on "A Global Platform for Chemicals and Waste", commissioned by the ICCM5 President and the Government of Germany, and supported by an ad-hoc advisory committee. Keeping pace with a rapidly evolving chemicals and waste sector needs scaled-up action, coherent policy and system-wide coordinated collaboration facilitated by comprehensive governance arrangements. The paper proposes that a strong commitment to the sound management of chemicals and waste, and the necessity for an encompassing global governance platform, is required at a level that has authority to direct system-wide action – by heads of state and government at the UN General Assembly.

Mr. Neville Ash (UN Environment-World Conservation Monitoring Centre), having attended UNITAR's workshop in 2018[2] on the Aichi Targets and its relevance to the management of chemicals and waste, attended the workshop to foster further interaction and learning across clusters. The 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is supported through wide commitments of all major stakeholders and by a liaison group of biodiversity-related conventions. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans that are linked to, and contribute to, the global Aichi targets are an important element of the Strategic Plan. However, an implementation gap has been identified in achieving global targets, with the short 10-year timeframe of the Strategic Plan Another important element, relevant for the beyond-2020 biodiversity process, is the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership which supports the development of SMART targets and effective indicators. A lesson is that general (and unquantified) targets may lead to poorly aligned indicators. He also noted the need to engage with relevant affected sectors and stakeholders in developing targets, so that they have wide ownership and are realistic.

A panel session followed the presentations, with Mr. Rolph Payet (BRS Secretariat), Mr. Babajide Alo (CENHURD), Ms. Csilla Magyar (Dow Chemicals), Ms. Kay Williams (U.K.), Ms. Victoria Tunstall (Canada) and Ms. Melissa Wang (Greenpeace). Some of the key themes from the panel were:

- Synergies and coordination are happening; we need to learn from and expand on these.

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[2] https://www.unitar.org/cwm/portfolio-projects/international-policy-development

- Existing initiatives (such as conventions) can be leveraged through current structures and activities; there is a need to benefit from their work in achieving the end goal of impact on the ground.

- Legally-binding instruments have a significant role. Since they do not always translate to effective implementation, voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives have value in promoting further implementation; in particular if they move beyond compliance. An example is the international work on lead in paint (a SAICM emerging policy issue) which cuts across sectors at the national level to adopt laws relevant for lead in paint. Where such voluntary approaches do not work, more legally-binding action may be considered Many other sectors are doing relevant work; we need to make it appealing to engage, acknowledge their work and understand what motivates stakeholders.

- A new platform may consider focusing its resources on where it can make the biggest impact, such as world-wide implementation of the GHS and basic policies and legislation.

- Chemicals and waste stakeholders should also be open to joining other networks and meetings, and sharing what contributions they can make.

- Artisanal and small-scale gold mining is an issue that has garnered lots of interest; it is not so much a scientific issue, but one of livelihoods, jobs and health. As such ministries of health, labour, trade and mining all understand they have an important role to play. Such engagement could be a positive example.

- International trade agreements could be useful tools to promote sound management of chemicals and waste, such as the GHS to be included in sustainability chapters of such agreements.

- Use of chemicals is an index of development, with more use and trade indicating more economic activity. However, this comes with challenges and needs to be managed.

- National implementation is the foundation for achieving progress at the global level. SAICM has been beneficial in supporting broad structures for the management of chemicals and waste at the national level.

- Scientists and researchers should be further encouraged and considered as partners in progressing our understanding of the issues, and policy makers can help promote areas of work that need more study.

- There has been broad progress in the management of chemicals and waste, with great knowledge generated; a new platform could help to share this knowledge, support stakeholders in sharing information, create linkages across disparate databases and develop partnerships.

- Further communication, mainstreaming and public engagement are vital tools.

- A new, agile platform could serve as an "early warning system", giving stakeholders the flexibility to spot and act on issues of emerging concern before they become major problems.

After the panel, Mr. David Morin (Canada) linked via webex to present on the latest version of the Co-chairs' paper, including an outline of the current, five proposed strategic objectives, institutional arrangements and mechanisms to support implementation. Mr. Morin commented that now is the time to re-energize political commitment and foster new partnerships and arrangements for a better future of collaboration and effort to prevent and reduce harm from chemicals and waste. An

annotated version[3] of the paper is also available, to give indications of the thoughts currently contributing to each section.

5. Fostering engagement of key sectors and actors in the management of chemicals and waste (Session 2)

Mr. Zhanyun Wang (IPCP and ETH Zurich) gave a presentation on the need for a strengthened science-policy interface, showcasing the benefits of engaging the scientific community, including elements of early warning, knowledge generation, research and development of solutions, and monitoring, alongside some challenges in linking science with policy.

Ms. Carolyn Vickers (WHO) presented on the WHO Chemicals Road Map and the Global Chemicals and Health Network, as an example of sectoral commitment. The road map was agreed to at the 69th World Health Assembly (2016). It is designed to be applicable to and used by Member States at all stages of development, as well as a broad range of stakeholders. Concrete actions are provided where the health sector has a lead or important supporting role, recognizing the need for multi-sectoral cooperation. WHO has identified some key uses, including undertaking gap analyses, developing action plans and feeding into national chemicals planning processes.

Furthermore, a Global Chemicals and Heath Network has been established, to facilitate implementation of the road map and foster greater inclusion of health sector perspectives in international chemicals discussions, among others.

Ms. Christina Raab (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Waste) provided information on collective action transforming the textile industry, going beyond compliance to proactive supply chain management and innovation leadership. There are currently 125 Contributors (27 brands, 80 value chain affiliates, and 18 associates). ZDHC also includes guidelines and tools for the industry, capacity building along the value chain (especially smaller actors), and a knowledge hub for scaling adoption and innovation. Ms. Raab proposed the ZDHC collaborative model as an option for other sectors and an opportunity to establish a global knowledge base and showcase best practices.

Following these presentations, the participants split into three working groups.

1. **Lessons-learned from multi-stakeholder and government-led processes in global chemicals and waste governance**

   For what type of chemicals and waste management issues is a global multi-stakeholder approach most effective. For what issues is a more formal government-led process or instrument appropriate (whether legally binding or voluntary)?

   a. The two can be complementary; both approaches are needed and good policy development including global treaties are founded on broad multi-stakeholder input.
      i. Different geopolitical aspects may impact the effectiveness of voluntary and legally-binding instruments. Some countries may prioritize legally-binding instruments, and may see that it comes with more stable funding.
      ii. Possible to learn from examples where one approach did or did not work (e.g. a voluntary approach) suggesting possible alternatives approaches (e.g. a legally binding approach)

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[3] http://saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/meetings/OEWG3/inf/OEWG3-INF-2-Annotated-Co-Chairs-Paper.pdf

iii. Many noted that the broad multi-stakeholder and -sector nature of SAICM has been valuable .

b. Always pursuing legally-binding options may require too much time, and may not be agile enough to deal with critical issues in time.

c. Accountability is essential; businesses may be accountable to shareholders, and so will be held to account through reporting.

d. A key is to build on and collaborate with different approaches and initiatives.

e. The Paris Agreement adopted a "blended" approach to combine voluntary and legal mechanisms.

f. Important to retain a focus on global issues, and retain flexibility to work on new issues.

g. Public awareness can often prompt political awareness. Nonetheless, important not to assume this political awareness will translate automatically to success.

How could a future global multi-stakeholder framework on chemicals and waste bring in more formal international instruments, without interfering in their specific decision-making processes?

a. There are precedents for voluntary strategic plans to deliver their targets through legally binding instruments, as has happened with the biodiversity cluster.

i. The relevant conventions agreed to buy into the biodiversity plan and targets.

b. The chemicals and waste MEAs have, so far, not agreed to work with and clearly identify their contribution to the beyond 2020 process.

ii. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions have their conferences on 29 April – 10 May 2019; there needs to be a process to gain agreement from them to identify their contribution and work towards goals.

c. A challenge remains in how to engage others, such as the London Protocol, and elicit their support for implementing actions.

2. **Exploring opportunities for sectoral or stakeholder road maps under chemicals and waste management beyond 2020**

Could the WHO Chemicals Road Map be a source of inspiration to develop similar road maps in other key sectors (e.g. Housing, Energy, Tourism) in support of chemicals and waste governance beyond 2020?

a. It is simple to understand and use, identifying priorities at the national level and developing plans.

b. The road map reflects the cross-cutting nature of issues.

c. The road map guides on where and how to start at the national level. Stakeholders set up a vision for the national strategic plan and activities, with suggestions for stakeholders on where to start, according to the national settings, priorities and needs.

d. The process can help develop a network of stakeholders.

e. Actions reflect the 2020 Strategic Approach goal and the 2030 Agenda.

f. The road map approach would be useful for other sectors.

Could the WBSCD Chemical Sector Road Map be a source of inspiration to develop similar road maps in other industry sectors (e.g. Textile, Electronics) in support of chemicals and waste governance beyond 2020?

a. The road map encourages all involved stakeholders to take ownership and initiative, rather than waiting for a national action plan.

b. The cross-cutting nature among industries has huge potential in engaging more stakeholders.

c. Developing road maps should be based on priority sectors or groups of chemicals (and their uses), as it may not be useful to have too many road maps. These can then be further prioritized at the national level, according to relevance.

d. Value chain initiatives promote transparency across industries as well knowledge sharing.

e. The 2030 Agenda and Circular Economy can be driving forces for such work.

f. Important to raise consumer awareness to demand information on products.

3. **Private sector governance and standard setting in chemicals and waste management**

a. Private sector initiatives can support overall goals, though must complement other efforts.

   i. Such initiatives could be listed under the new framework and offered a platform to showcase their efforts and commitments. Such listing would probably need criteria and a form of reporting on progress made.

b. Initiatives can contribute to measurable goals or targets in sectors and increase transparency.

c. Downstream users (including waste management and recycling companies) should be engaged to understand what they are doing. The EU's REACH was considered an example of how chemicals companies had started to engage downstream.

d. A new platform could be an excellent opportunity to share knowledge among sectors and develop intra-sectoral harmonization (such as on pest and pesticide terminology). Sectors may be willing to learn off each other, if given a platform to share relevant information.

e. Companies are starting to use a process of portfolio sustainability assessments to work across different sectors for more sustainable portfolios.

f. The chemicals in products programme has some lessons-learned, such as the identification of priority sectors; engagement with these sectors may remain a focus.

g. Important to embrace opportunities for governments and industry to attend different meetings, and include small and medium enterprises in processes, so that there is greater understanding of interests.

h. Private sector initiatives at the national level can also support development of national legal requirements, giving leaders an incentive to continue and lift up others.

i. Engagement with consumers can also be a driver of sustainable consumption.

6. Linking national, regional and global action with global strategic objectives and targets (Session 3)

Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia) presented on national chemicals and waste action plans, focusing on the interagency coordination mechanism (ICM) in place in the country. This involves "sector teams" that look after relevant aspects of the management of chemicals and waste. The mechanism is a national coordinating body comprised of representatives from key government ministries and agencies, civil society, academia and private sector. Through national projects and the support of the ICM, Zambia has been able to continue its work on priority issues. However, a disadvantage of such coordination is the time needed for consultations, which means there is always a balance needed. Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi added thoughts to the presentation, noting a similar situation in Ghana. He commented, in particular, that the link to the labour sector has been strong in their ongoing work.

Ms. Nathalie Roberts (WHO) introduced the international health regulations (IHR) and effective implementation. Member States use a self-assessment IHR Monitoring Questionnaire to report to the World Health Assembly, with the regulations including rights and obligations for countries and WHO, and countries being accountable for implementation. A monitoring and evaluation framework has been developed to complement annual self-assessment, given examples of national systems struggling in the face of health emergencies, contrary to the findings in their self-assessments. This includes simulation exercises, after-action review, and joint external evaluations (taking place once every four years). There is awareness that implementation of the IHRs requires multisectoral planning.

Ms. Ivana Capozza showcased the OECD environmental performance reviews, as a process to help countries assess progress against national and international commitments. The reviews are done both with a country and with other countries in their capacity as peers. It promotes dialogue and peer learning and stimulates greater accountability to other countries and the public. The ultimate objective is to improve individual and collective environmental performance of OECD members and partners.

After the presentations, participants split into working groups to consider various elements.

1. **National action plans, programmes and inter-ministerial coordination**

   a. Experience from the Aichi Targets shows that while developing national plans can be done in many countries, care needs to be taken on the national targets that are set, to make sure they are relevant, rather than simply copying global targets.
   b. There is experience in making national plans mandatory, with mixed success.
   c. Developing countries may have valuable experiences in such processes, across various instruments and agreements.
   d. National action plans that have a limited scope can be more easily developed compared to wide-ranging plans that are too broad and high-level. In contrast, some mentioned that bringing the many national plans under one umbrella may be beneficial.
   e. Action planning is a useful basis for engaging with an inter-ministerial committee to understand the needs of other sectors. Such committees (with broad membership) can be essential for agreeing concrete topics to work on and ensuring implementation.
   f. The planning process and framework may need to be flexible, in order to take into account the requirements and needs of countries in different situations.
   g. Action plans may need to be at different levels to ensure implementation, including at the sub-national level.
   h. The Montevideo Programme may offer an opportunity for coordination, given it is about the implementation of law.
   i. National action plans can be good communications tools for national priorities, useful for discussions with donors and partners.

2. **Regional institutions and programmes**

   a. Regional organizations can have significant roles in the management of chemicals and waste. However, there is a disparity between the capacities and competencies of these. It may be that resources can be provided to support the necessary capacity development.

b.   Regional assessments could be useful to identify and prioritize those with potential to have an impact and benefit from increased capacities.

c.   It would be important to support regional entities as these can be useful forums for countries to share experiences, especially from stronger partners or "lead countries" in each region.

d.   Bringing in regional groups would need a stakeholder engagement process, such as invites to chemicals and waste meetings, attending their regional meetings, and ensuring there is commitment from all sides.

e.   Regional groupings could be encouraged to engage in activities; a suggestion was made to encourage all members of a particular grouping to become Parties, with the regional group becoming a Party as well, and assuming certain responsibilities.

f.   Regional groups could harmonize notification systems, or facilitate transport within a region without the need for notifications. This may facilitate greater trade in waste and recycling.

3.   **National assessments, feedback and peer review**

a.   Clarification would be required on the scope of any assessment and reporting. For example, questions relating to the purpose, how, why, what and when would all need to be answered in the development of assessment and reporting frameworks. There is no "one size fits all" framework.

b.   Any such activities should be linked to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and achievement of global goals, while also supporting national progress.

c.   A gap analysis needs to be conducted so that reporting addresses the correct issues and that there is no duplication in reporting. The resources required need to be taken into consideration in preparing a report or assessment.

    i.   This may be an opportunity to use other reporting initiatives to contribute to overall reporting.

d.   Indicators should be developed with a change process aligned to them.

e.   Issues of national and sub-national jurisdiction need to factored into any reporting and assessment.

f.   An element of feedback is important, otherwise the opportunity for continual improvement is lost.

g.   The reports need to be independent and cast in a positive manner aimed at improvement. It was noted that OECD EPRs had been beneficial when dialogue helped to overcome initial feelings of "monitoring" and turn the assessments into a proactive opportunity to advance.

h.   The IHRs also show that there is a motivation to have peer reviews.

i.   The reporting should be focussed on information sharing and developing best practice. The beyond-2020 platform should provide opportunity to discuss the gaps that are identified and implementation needs, rather than focus on high-level reporting conclusions.

7.   **Fostering engagement, commitment, and accountability through effective global governance (Session 4)**

For the final session, the participants split into two groups to address:

1.   Options and considerations for a voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder instrument (see co-chairs' paper I B, (a))

2.   Options and considerations for a possible broader platform (see co-chairs' paper I B, (b)).

Group 1

a. Participants noted that the elements in question 1 and 2 are not mutually exclusive, with the vision, strategic objectives, targets and principles in the co-chairs' paper also applicable to a broader platform. It was also noted that high-level engagement would be necessary in either case.

Options and considerations for a voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder instrument

b. The WHO road map and the Overall Orientation and Guidance were mentioned as valuable contributions stemming from SAICM.
c. While multi-sectoral engagement is vital, group members felt that a new platform would need to go further than current efforts to engage the major sectors.
d. The momentum from 2006 and the Dubai Declaration have not been maintained. Efforts will be required to keep engagement and commitment ongoing. A suggestion was made that this may be due to increasing workloads from ICCM resolutions.
e. A new platform may find it difficult to combine roles of having an impactful international policy role, alongside national implementation. Engagement across sectors may help in overcoming this challenge.
f. Further to this, IOMC Participating Organizations could have central roles in supporting such a structure.

Options and considerations for a possible broader platform

g. International recognition for the gaps in the existing governance structure is important. Various forums and agreements acknowledge this and encourage system-wide cooperation.
h. The strategic plan for biodiversity was mentioned as an example of a plan first adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity, which then gained a higher level of attention at the 65th General Assembly (GA, 2010), and declared a decade (2011-2020) of biodiversity.
i. Many group members shared the view that a UN GA resolution for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 would facilitate a stronger multi-sectoral engagement and ensure coherence in the cluster.
   i. Some participants stressed that such a mandate should respect the existing provisions for the work of the UN agencies and respect the autonomy of the MEAs and international organizations.
   ii. Some participants highlighted the need for a UNGA resolution that encompasses strategic objectives as a guidance for further implementation through countries, sectors and stakeholders.
j. Some group members suggested that an option of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) could also be considered as an alternative approach to raise the attention of decision makers, while also anchoring the future arrangements to the SDGs and the process for high-level oversight of their implementation.

Group 2

a. The current model is inclusive and voluntary, and this brings in many stakeholders. These would not have happened without SAICM.

b. There needs to be a balance between and a mix of legally-binding and voluntary initiatives. The concept of "socially-binding" was discussed, with pressure on stakeholders to implement actions.

c. The current model of SAICM is run similar to a convention, but without the legal force. This may be an opportunity for stakeholders to promote a more dynamic framework. New stakeholders need to be engaged with, to see what their motivation would be and how this can be fostered.

d. The key to national implementation may be "empowerment", and therefore the most important thing may be to ensure a variety of stakeholders take on leadership roles and commit to the process. A cooperative and flexible approach may create a positive atmosphere.

e. Engagement at the national level may benefit from replicating the global SAICM model; a committee that represents all relevant sectors and stakeholders and seeks to assign responsibilities. This would help to translate the global ambitions to national implementation, which is integral to success.

    a. Such an approach may serve to engage all relevant sectors at the national level, beyond one particular ministry.

    b. National focal points could be nominated for more than one sector (notably, more than just the environment sector). This could provide an opportunity to build awareness in newly-engaged sectors so that they understand their unique role.

f. SAICM was developed to support integrated implementation of relevant conventions and agreements; any future platform should focus on this, ensuring all countries have appropriate management systems in place. It is important that it has this collaborative approach and focus on overall facilitation, as opposed to becoming a discrete entity in itself.

g. The overall orientation and guidance offers a valuable set of basic elements for countries and regions.

h. The future platform could collaborate more closely with the IOMC Participating Organizations, starting with the planning of meetings and use of the IOMC logo.

    a. This could help to encourage certain sectors and representatives see that the platform serves as a shared space.

i. Participants noted the need for access to funding. Complementing this, group members noted that as the beyond-2020 platform will remain multi-sectoral in nature, different sectors should also be able to access different funding sources.

j. A future platform can help to align national or regional regulations, where this is appropriate.

k. If there is a high-level element to steering activities, there needs to be consideration of which stakeholders are included, to ensure there is the required representation.

l. A new platform, and background studies that support its development, need to be clear on whether a new governance approach involves simply defining the new overarching body (equivalent to a conference or assembly), or the whole approach including its objectives. Furthermore, engaging with UNGA and the HLPF would benefit from a careful analysis of the present situation and how a new platform would address the issue.

m. The 2030 Agenda is agreed to at the highest level (UNGA), but implementation is assigned across levels, to specific agencies and stakeholders. This split of high-level impetus and implementation at other levels could be replicated. The HLPF could be used as a reporting mechanism.

8. Conclusion

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Achim Halpaap (in his role as moderator of the workshop) reflected on the overall perspective expressed at times in the workshop that the high-level commitment of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, and carried to ICCM1 through co-convening the Conference by the nine IOMC Participating Organizations in 2006, had to some extent diminished. He pointed out that the intersessional process creates a window of opportunity to think through how such high level and multi-stakeholder commitment could be raised again and how new actors could be engaged. Understanding and consideration of governance and institutional dimensions of the future framework is of key importance. At the same time, new messages and messengers are needed. He encouraged all participants to reflect on the stimulating exchange during the workshop and to become messengers of change to help ensure that future governance aspects of chemicals and waste management pick up the spirit and commitment of 2002, and are fit for purpose to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste in the near future.