



IPEN QUICK VIEWS OF SAICM 4th INTERSESSIONAL MEETING (IP4)

August 2022

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is the only international agreement that addresses the full range of known and newly discovered health and environmental concerns associated with the production, use, and disposal of chemicals. IPEN has been committed to its success since the start of its negotiations in 2003.

The IPEN network is committed to a successful negotiation to achieve a strong framework that will be able to fulfill the vision of the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle. IPEN's vision is for a world where chemicals and wastes are no longer a source of harm, where all people have the right to a safe and healthy environment that will be sustained to protect future generations.

Additional policy papers relevant to the Beyond 2020 process are available:

- **International Coordinated Fee on Basic Chemicals** (www.bit.ly/ProducerPaysFee)
 - **IPEN Perspectives for IP4: towards a new instrument on chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (SAICM/IP.4/INF/19)** (www.bit.ly/IP4PrepSubmission)
 - **IPEN Beyond 2020 Perspectives** (www.bit.ly/SAICMPerspective)
- Info Doc: SAICM Beyond 2020 perspectives from the IPEN network (SAICM/IP.4/INF/20)**



Strategic objectives

- The strategic objectives of the new instrument should be clear and maintain the high level of ambition needed to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- Strategic objectives should highlight the importance of prevention and minimizing exposure to harmful chemicals.
- The formulation of strategic objectives must ensure that targets and indicators are measurable and oriented toward risk reduction and harm minimization.

Process Considerations

- It is vital for the successful outcome of the Beyond 2020 process that IP4 allows for sufficient time for discussion and meaningful participation in the negotiations to reach an outcome where all stakeholders feel commitment and ownership.
- If insufficient progress is made to ensure a successful ICCM5, an OEWG should be held in 2023.
- Outcomes from the virtual working groups are not negotiated text. If a SAICM stakeholder proposes text from the virtual working groups during the negotiation, such text should be kept in brackets and considered in a similar manner as other text proposals.
- Outcomes adopted by governments under SAICM by the ICCM prior to 2020 should be carried over into the new instrument so as not to lose momentum on progress. These include the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern and activities in the Global Plan of Action.

Enabling framework

- An enabling framework has been discussed at previous Intersessional Process meetings and at OEWG3. Even if the enabling framework is not discussed at IP4, there should be a discussion on how to establish this framework to support the implementation of the Beyond 2020 instrument and to address the sound management of chemicals and waste broadly and to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- The enabling framework should involve all IOMC organisations and include all existing and future chemicals-related multilateral agreements under one high-level umbrella, respecting the legal autonomy of each agreement and allowing for the possibility of future legally binding agreements.

Targets, indicators, and milestones

- Each target should be outcome oriented and measurable through indicators and milestones.
- Milestones and indicators should directly refer to the relevant SDG(s) to fulfill the Beyond 2020 obligation to “develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”
- Indicators and milestones should include items that achieve appropriate actions on emerging policy issues and issues of concern.
- Targets, indicators, and milestones should focus on harm minimization rather than being only process oriented.
- Objectives, targets, and indicators should directly contribute to the achievement of the new instruments’ strategic objectives.
- Targets, indicators, and milestones must prioritize prevention and precaution to protect human health and the environment and should address key chemical safety issues.

Governance and institutional arrangements

- Governance and institutional arrangements of SAICM should not be reinvented but should build on those SAICM elements that have a demonstrated, functional track record. This includes the international conference, secretariat, bureau, and the rules of procedure.
- Reporting back on the national plan is very critical to measure the progress of implementation and national plans should be made public for all stakeholders to review.
- The new instrument should include a universal periodic review method for reporting.

Issues of concern

- Current emerging policy issues and issues of concern have already been evaluated and agreed on by the more than 100 governments attending ICCM2, ICCM3, and ICCM4 and should be carried forward into the new instrument so as not to lose momentum on progress to advance chemical safety.
- Issues of concern should not be defined based on their geographical relevance but on whether an issue has not yet been generally recognized or has been recognized but is insufficiently addressed.
- The criteria for identification of issues of concern should be broad and not prevent the inclusion of issue characteristics that fall outside the criteria considered for current issues.
- Progress should be tracked through regular reporting at the International Conference and through ad hoc periodic reviews.
- The Beyond 2020 instrument should include the possibility to accelerate action on some issues depending on a variety of factors including new information, increasing public concern, availability of safer alternatives, and inadequate implementation, among others.

Financing

- GEF-8 allocations have considerably increased funding to the chemicals and waste focal area, but SAICM funding remains very limited vis-à-vis the broad scope of the instrument, and SAICM remains severely underfunded.
- The Quick Start Programme was identified as one of the unmitigated successes of SAICM because of its broader scope and eligibility. The establishment of a similar fund should be recommended to allow governments and public interest organizations access to specific funds for SAICM implementation.
- UNEP should implement the recommendation in the evaluation of the integrated approach to “... make a formal request to donors to make an overt signal that chemicals and waste are a fundable component of development plans.”

- A clearinghouse mechanism should publicly track development aid for sound chemicals management and report back during each International Conference. This clearinghouse mechanism should not be considered as a replacement for a dedicated funding mechanism providing sufficient, adequate, and predictable funding for the Beyond 2020 instrument implementation.
- The private sector participation branch of the integrated approach is poorly implemented. The UNEP evaluation noted that, “The use of the integrated approach to trigger new financial and in-kind participation of industry is not strongly evidenced.”
- Governments should work toward establishing mechanisms to secure the full internalization of costs of chemical producing industries and ensure adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing for the implementation of SAICM. For example, a 0.5% globally coordinated levy on sales of a limited number of basic chemicals would generate billions per year in funding for implementation of chemical safety measures.
- The difficulties of the Special Programme to carry out projects should be acknowledged. Governments should recommend revising the terms of reference to broaden its scope and broaden the stakeholders that can benefit from its funds, and support should be provided to give developing countries access to the fund.

Summary of IPEN views on IP4 outcome

A successful IP4 outcome will be demonstrated by an instrument that:

- Has a timeless vision with a strong enabling framework.
- Sets ambitious strategic objectives addressing prevention, precaution, information sharing, and the urgency to achieve the sound management of chemicals (and at the very least does not back-track on the original SAICM ambition).
- Includes chemicals and all waste throughout their lifecycle.
- Formulates its targets, indicators, and milestones that are measurable and time-bound.
- Carries-over existing issues of concern to the new instrument automatically.
- Provides for financial means for addressing the means of implementation of the instrument.
- Includes a universal periodic review method for reporting.
- Links to funded, obligatory national action plans for agreements in the framework.
- Is open, inclusive, and involves transparent multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder participation.

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A TOXICS-FREE FUTURE**

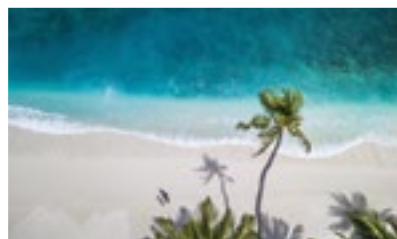


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for a toxics-free future

IPEN is a global network forging a healthier world where people and the environment are no longer harmed by the production, use, and disposal of toxic chemicals. Over 600 public interest organizations in over 125 countries, largely low- and middle-income nations, comprise IPEN and work to strengthen global and national chemicals and waste policies, contribute to ground-breaking research, and build a global movement for a toxics-free future.

IPEN - International Pollutants Elimination Network