



IPEN Quick Views of ICCM4

September 2015

The following is a summary statement of some views regarding issues at ICCM4:

Beyond 2020

- ICCM4 should initiate an intersessional process to consider the future of SAICM and/or other mechanisms for post-2020 intergovernmental, multi-stakeholder cooperation on chemical safety
- ICCM4 could call for two intersessional planning meetings back to back with UNEA2 (2016) and UNEA3 (2018). These could then feed into the agenda of an OEWG3 in 2019
- A high-level segment at ICCM5 could consider proposals, and adopt and initiate agreed post-2020 institutional arrangements for sound chemicals management
- SAICM is important to all countries but has a special value to developing and transition countries
- The threats posed by chemicals and wastes will not end in 2020 and chemical safety is an essential component of implementing newly agreed upon SDGs

Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)

- ICCM4 should establish a Global Alliance to Phase-out Highly Hazardous Pesticides to help implement SDG Goal #2 to “*promote sustainable agriculture*” and Target 4 to “*ensure sustainable food production systems...that help maintain ecosystems.*”
- A Global Alliance to Phase-out Highly Hazardous Pesticides helps implement the 2006 FAO Council call for the progressive ban of HHPs
- Ordinary conditions of pesticide use in many developing and transition countries are often a source of significant harm to farmer and ecosystem health. That is why more than 140 countries expressed serious concern with HHPs during SAICM regional meetings in 2013 and 2014
- The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint serves as model for minimal secretariat burden while providing a vehicle to achieve real gains on the ground
- Please see INF29 and INF31 for more information about HHPs including a draft terms of reference

OOG

The ICCM4 resolution on the OOG should include the following:

- *Noting also* that in most countries, only very limited progress has been made toward actually minimizing the significant adverse effects on human health and the environment associated with current patterns of chemical production, use, and end-of-life disposal
- *Noting however*, that for most developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the relevant government agencies, intergovernmental organizations and public interest stakeholders are still not able to access sufficient resources to adequately implement their sound chemicals management responsibilities
- *Encourages* stakeholders also to utilize their current capacities for sound chemicals management (including any enhanced capacities associated with their implementation of the six core activity areas) to achieve concrete risk reduction objectives aimed at the actual minimization of adverse effects on human health and the environment associated with current patterns of chemical production, use, and end-of-life disposal
- *Agrees* that a key risk reduction goal by 2020 is to have a control instrument in place in all countries banning the manufacture, import, marketing, and use of lead paint
- *Notes with concern* that inadequate resources are currently available to implement the Strategic Approach, particularly in the light of the closure of contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund
- *Requests* the UNEP Executive Director, directors of other IOMC organizations, and the SAICM Secretariat to pursue additional initiatives aimed at mobilizing resources on a sufficient scale to enable relevant government agencies, intergovernmental organizations and public interest stakeholders to fully implement the six core activity areas and to undertake the full range of risk-reduction activities necessary to

actually minimize the significant adverse effects on human health and the environment associated with current patterns of chemical production, use, and end-of-life disposal

Chemicals in products (CiP)

- IOMC document SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/17, *The Business Case for Knowing Chemicals in Products and Supply Chains* should be translated into all UN languages and widely disseminated
- UNEP should ensure that public interest NGOs, including trade unions and other worker organizations are invited to participate in the pilot projects aimed at CiP Programme implementation

The ICCM4 resolution on CiP should include the following:

- *Recognizing* that the driver for safer chemicals comes from transparency and that confidential business information (CBI) should not undermine the key chemical safety principle that health and safety information should not be regarded as confidential and should not be claimed for chemicals of concern;
- *Acknowledging* workers as a key stakeholder group affected by chemicals during manufacture, recycle and disposal of products and their need for full information about the chemicals they work with;
- *Recognizing* that the absence of, or conflicting regulations between countries create challenges for selecting chemicals for inclusion in a CiP information system especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- *Recommends* that even though legislation may not yet be in place to effectively address chemicals in products issues in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, requirements for information disclosure should not be different from standards in developed countries, particularly as chemicals and products are increasingly produced and used in both developing and transition countries;
- *Recommends* countries to continue advancing national legislation and enforcement, monitoring and control to effectively address chemicals in products issues as new information on chemicals of concern becomes available;
- *Urges* companies to proactively move beyond a legally restricted substances list by identifying and disclosing chemicals of concern in their products and supply chains based on hazard characteristics;
- *Recognizes* that the highest level of disclosure should be used in all countries to protect human health and the environment and comply with the growing demand for both knowing chemicals in products and supply chains, as well as disclosing chemicals in products;
- *Acknowledges* the important role of consumers in disclosure of information on chemicals in products beyond regulatory requirements, as they are demanding more sustainable products, they are more informed than before, and their expectations are higher;
- *Recognizing* the need for improved product labels that provide detailed information on the chemicals found in products including their health effects, safe handling and disposal instructions
- To further develop application of the chemicals in products programme and guidance for use by workers to contribute to worker safety

Lead in paint

An ICCM4 resolution should recommend the following:

- A key risk reduction goal by 2020 for SAICM is to have a control instrument in place in all countries banning the manufacture, import, marketing, and use of lead paint
- Additional data should be generated on the presence or absence of lead paint on the consumer market so that by the end of 2017, some publically-available data is available for at least 80 developing and transition countries;
- GAELP should issue a guidance document for use by governments interested in developing national regulatory controls on lead in paint which elaborates the GAELP brochure: *Elements of a national legal and regulatory framework*
- GAELP should establish mechanisms that will enable and promote greater partner participation and engagement in activities aimed at achieving Alliance objectives
- SAICM National Focal Points to promote and/or initiate national discussions that include relevant government officials, paint industry representatives, representatives of the national health sector, and other relevant national stakeholders to address the hazards associated with lead paint and possible national control measures

- WHO to involve WHO Regional and National Offices in developing and transition countries in the work on lead paint elimination carried out by stakeholders at the regional and national levels
- UNEP and UNIDO to involve their offices in developing and transition countries and National Cleaner Production Centres in the work on lead paint carried out by stakeholders at the national level

Electronics

Work on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products in SAICM is largely unfinished – particularly the midstream and upstream parts of the electronics lifecycle. INF18 contains useful components for things to work on but the lack of overall coordination arrangements makes coherent execution difficult. An overarching objective should be to prioritize the reduction and elimination of hazardous substances in EEE and their production processes.

An ICCM4 resolution should recommend the following:

- By 2016, compile lists of chemicals of concern to human health and/or the environment in e-products including chemicals used in manufacturing, and post them on the SAICM website
- Minimize hazardous substances during the production process of EEE so that by 2020 at least 5 countries in 2-3 UN regions adopt policy instruments that address actions to reduce, substitute and eliminate hazardous substances in EEE
- Establish information systems so that by 2020 at least 5 countries in 2-3 UN regions collect health and safety information on chemicals used in EEE manufacturing and utilize a multi-stakeholder body to decide on CBI claims to ensure workers have access to information for chemicals they are handling or exposed to
- By 2020, implement procurement initiatives in 10 countries that favor greener EEE products based on the reduced toxicity of chemicals and materials used in products and manufacturing
- Beginning in 2016, promote awareness, information, education and communication about hazardous chemicals in EEE for vulnerable groups and relevant stakeholders along the supply chain
- Development and implementation of free EEE take back programs in 10 countries by 2020
- Establish registries of birth defects and cancers together with employment data in 5 developing and transition countries by 2020
- Establish and implement industrial hygiene and biomonitoring programs in at least one company in each of 5 developing and transition countries by 2020
- Invite ILO to address worker safety issues in EEE
- Request the Secretariat to widely disseminate the report of the International workshop on hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products, held in Vienna, from 29 to 31 March 2011 (SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/24)

Endocrine disruptors (EDC)

An ICCM4 resolution should recommend the following:

- Welcoming the UNEP / WHO, *State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals – 2012*, and recognizing its key concerns¹
- Invites UNEP, subject to available resources, to
 - a) Compile a list of EDCs and potential EDCs and make it available on the UNEP website and update the list on an ongoing basis as more information becomes available;
 - b) Identify priority EDCs and sources of exposure in developing and transition countries including in products, food, water, pesticides, and wastes;
 - c) Conduct monitoring studies of EDCs in 3 – 5 developing and transition countries in four UN regions for a total of 12 – 20 countries by 2020
 - d) Develop and disseminate awareness-raising materials on EDCs targeted to developing and transition countries including uses, effects, contamination and human body burden, and safer alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives;
 - e) Gather and disseminate examples of best available practices in reducing the use of 20 EDCs, including safer substitution, non-chemical alternatives and risk-management by 2020;
 - f) Complete case studies referred to in resolution III/2 F by 2020 including pesticides, textiles, children's products, building products, and electrical and electronic products and identify potential EDCs and health effects, document human exposure, reveal gaps in existing regulatory policy, and highlight best available practices in substitution of EDCs;

- *Invites* UNEP and WHO to develop a report on EDCs with regional input that is targeted to the situation and needs of developing and transition countries which includes elements (a) – (g) from SAICM regional EDC resolutions passed in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, subject to available resources;

Nano

The ICCM4 resolution on nano should include the following:

- Facilitating the exchange of information on nanotechnologies and the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials for example through an appropriate clearing house mechanism
- Developing international technical and regulatory guidance and training materials for the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials, based on the compilation of pertinent information prepared by the SAICM secretariat
- *Recommends* increasing outreach and scaling up accessibility of information through different means
- *Requests* continued engagement of all Strategic Approach stakeholders, including the relevant organizations of the IOMC in particular the UNITAR and OECD as well as WHO and ILO in the implementation of the relevant ICCM resolutions and GPA activities

Finances

- ICCM4 should express concern that inadequate resources are currently available to implement SAICM, particularly in the light of the closure of contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund
- The global chemical industry has an annual turn-over of approximately USD \$4.1 trillion per year.² If a global cost recovery scheme recovers USD \$4.1 billion annually, the total burden on the chemical producing industry would come to 0.1% of the industry's annual turnover – a very small cost relative to its size and considerably more than what donor governments can provide
- Donor government delegates at SAICM preparatory meetings raised expectations that international development assistance agencies would provide substantial funding for SAICM implementation. This has not yet occurred on a significant scale and needs to be further pursued.
- The Special Programme has received pledges of approximately USD\$13 million but it specifically diverges from SAICM's multi-stakeholder approach by excluding financing for public interest civil society organizations

¹ Human and wildlife health depends on the ability to reproduce and develop normally. This is not possible without a healthy endocrine system; Many endocrine-related diseases and disorders are on the rise and disease risk due to EDCs may be significantly underestimated; Wildlife populations have been affected by endocrine disruption, with negative impacts on growth and reproduction; Numerous laboratory studies support the idea that chemical exposures contribute to endocrine disorders in humans and wildlife; The most sensitive window of exposure to EDCs is during critical periods of development, such as during fetal development and puberty; An important focus should be on reducing exposures by a variety of mechanisms. Government actions to reduce exposures, while limited, have proven to be effective in specific cases (e.g. bans and restrictions on lead, chlorpyrifos, tributyltin, PCBs and some other POPs). This has contributed to decreases in the frequency of disorders in humans and wildlife.

²United Nations Environment Programme (2012) Global Chemicals Outlook