

IPEN Quick Views of OEWG2

December 2014

The following is a summary statement of some views regarding issues at OEWG2:

Beyond 2020

Beyond 2020, the main focus of SAICM should become implementation: that is, initiatives that build on what has been accomplished so far, but that are focused more on reducing and minimizing actual toxic exposures on a significant scale. At OEWG2:

- The future of SAICM after 2020 should be recommended for the agenda of ICCM4 as requested by the African region
- The SAICM Bureau and Secretariat should develop an options paper including elements of a process to determine the future of SAICM and intergovernmental cooperation on sound chemicals management beyond 2020 for consideration by ICCM4, including, inter alia:
 - Extending SAICM and holding future meetings of the International Conference on Chemicals Management beyond 2020;
 - The need for possible OEWG meeting(s) between 2015 and 2020
 - Other options for promoting sound management of chemicals beyond 2020;
 - Discussing the financing of sound chemicals management including activities important for chemical safety that are not part of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, building on the outcomes of the UNEP Executive Director's *Consultative Process on Financing Options for Chemicals and Wastes*;
 - Discussing how SAICM may fit into the broader Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm synergies process; and
 - Discussing how the political commitment to SAICM could be strengthened among all stakeholders.

Overall orientation and guidance (OOG)

- Progress in implementing the OPS should include statements of gaps because SAICM-related implementation activities that can yield results in actually minimizing actual toxic exposures are still only beginning;
- Failure to achieve substantial progress on illegal traffic should be highlighted as a significant gap;
- Financing and its implications should be a new core activity going forward, and should include the issue of whether SAICM will have its own funding mechanism until 2020 to replace the QSP;
- Core activity (b) should include establishing inventories of safe substitutes and alternative techniques, including non-chemical alternatives and ecological agriculture;
- Core activity (c) should include transfer of environmentally-friendly techniques that comply with the chemicals conventions and are consistent with SAICM;
- Specific measures for implementation of emerging policy issues should be added in Core activity (d);
- National SAICM focal points should work proactively with the SAICM NGO point in the country; and
- A key risk reduction achievement for SAICM by 2020 is to have a control instrument in place in all countries banning the manufacturing, importation, marketing and use of lead paint.

Preparation for ICCM4

The ICCM4 agenda should include the following items:

- Discussion and decision on a process for the future of SAICM and intergovernmental cooperation on sound chemicals management beyond 2020;
- How the OOG can be used to guide SAICM implementation until 2020;
- Agreement on establishing a global alliance to phase-out highly hazardous pesticides; and
- Discussion and decisions on practical issues related to the implementation of the Strategic Approach that are proving challenging for developing and transition countries.

Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)

OEWG2 should request FAO, in consultation with stakeholders, to develop a proposal for a Global Alliance to Phase-out Highly Hazardous Pesticides with the following objectives:

- Raise awareness about the harms of highly hazardous pesticides and the availability of safer alternatives;
- Provide guidance and promote assistance to identify highly hazardous pesticides (for example, assistance to develop national lists of HHPs) and reduce exposure to them;
- Provide guidance on safer alternatives to HHPs with priority to non-chemical alternatives and ecosystem approaches to sustainable food and fibre production;
- Promote the establishment of appropriate national regulatory frameworks to stop the manufacture, import, sale and use of highly hazardous pesticides; and
- Provide assistance to farmers to enable them to phase-out highly hazardous pesticides while maintaining their agricultural livelihood.

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)

OEWG2 should recommend that ICCM4 invite UNEP to lead a project on EDCs with the following components:

- Identify a list of potential EDCs and sources of exposure and make it publically available;
- Conduct monitoring studies of EDCs in developing and transition countries;
- Implement robust awareness-raising, including information on uses, health effects, environmental contamination and human body burden, and safer alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives;
- Gather and disseminate examples of best available practices in reducing the use of EDCs, including safer substitution, non-chemical alternatives and risk-management;
- Identify gaps in existing legislation and regulatory policy and strengthen policies to protect human health and the environment from EDCs;
- Synergize with the Chemicals in Products Project to identify stakeholder needs on EDCs;
- Case studies referred to in resolution III/2 F of ICCM3 should include 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; and
- Reporting on progress on these actions at regional SAICM meetings; possible future OEWGs, and ICCM5.

Lead in paint

OEWG2 should recommend the following actions on lead in paint for decisions at ICCM4:

- Efforts should be accelerated to achieve global lead paint elimination by 2020, with priority attention to lead decorative paints and lead paints for other applications most likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure;
- 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;
- OEWG2 should urge the establishment of national lead paint control measures in countries that currently lack legally binding laws, regulations, and standards;
- SAICM National Focal Points are encouraged 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; and

- OEWG2 should encourage 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.

Chemicals in products

OEWG2 should recommend the following elements for inclusion in the Chemicals in Products (CiP) Programme:

- Confidential business information (CBI) claims hinder the collection of critical product content and may result in significant costs for businesses for not being transparent about the hazardous chemicals in their products. The Programme should reaffirm that health and safety information on chemicals shall not be regarded as confidential. CBI should not be claimed for chemicals of high concern, meaning that all chemicals of high concern must be reported;
- Requirements for information disclosure in developing and transition countries 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;
- If regulations are the focus when determining which chemicals to target, in developing countries with weak or no proper legislation in place companies will delay in taking actions until compelled by government actions. The proactive management of chemicals in products and supply chains that creates long-term value by staying ahead of regulatory and market demands is important. Companies should start moving beyond regulatory compliance by identifying and disclosing chemicals of concern in their products and supply chains;
- Companies should not use weak laws in developing and transition countries to create double standards for disclosure. The highest level of disclosure should be used in all countries to protect human health and the environment and comply with growing demand for both knowing chemicals in products and supply chains, as well as disclosing chemicals in products;
- The SIN and TEDX lists should be added to the Partial List of Authoritative Chemical Hazard Lists suggested by the CiP programme for use by companies to screen for health and environmental hazards;
- Public interest NGOs should be invited to participate in the UNEP GEF project on CiP in the textile sector and other pilot projects aimed at CiP Programme implementation;
- The role of consumers in disclosure of information on chemicals in products beyond regulatory requirements should be highlighted, as they are demanding more sustainable products, they are more informed than before, and their expectations are higher; and
- IOMC document INF12, *The Business Case for Knowing Chemicals in Products and Supply Chains* should be translated into all UN languages and widely disseminated.

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. Next steps on this topic should consider and act on the following:

- After two years, the ICCM3 resolution on this topic appears to be largely unimplemented;
- UNIDO's meeting to define a joint approach on e-waste did not invite a single public interest NGO participant;
- The extensive recommendations from the international workshop on this topic mandated by ICCM2 and held in Vienna in 2011 have been largely ignored. These recommendations address the upstream, midstream, and downstream parts of the electronics lifecycle and were developed by a multi-stakeholder group of 32 governments, industry, and public interest NGOs. To avoid duplication of work, these should be adopted and utilized in work on this topic going forward;
- Public right-to-know about chemicals in all stages of the electronics lifecycle should be included in further work on this topic; and
- The upcoming global workshop on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical products and electronics should include public interest NGOs.

Nanotechnologies and nanomaterials

Work on nanotechnologies and nanomaterials in the context of SAICM is still limited, in particular in relation to the full engagement of all IOMC organizations and development of guidance materials to support all countries to efficiently manage the potential risks of nanomaterials disseminations. Considering nano-specific GPA activities and previous resolutions, SAICM stakeholders should aim at:

- Increasing engagement of all IOMC organizations, in particular by linking with existing WHO initiatives and inviting ILO participation (in addition to continued activities by UNITAR and OECD);
- Compiling existing legal and technical management guidance and management initiatives for the development of global legal and technical guidance for the safe management and development of nanotechnologies;
- Developing global inventories of nanomaterials and products containing nanomaterials; and
- Ensuring that proper attention is given to the safe management of waste containing nanomaterials, as well as most exposed populations (in particular workers).

Health sector engagement

The six activities in the strategy could be linked to SAICM emerging policy issues to increase synergy; for example:

- Develop and implement an electronic medical tracking tool for work on occupational health issues in the manufacture of nanomaterials, electronics, and ewaste recycling;
- Prevent and treat lead poisoning;
- Develop and implement a chemicals policy framework in hospitals that provides information on chemicals in products as a basis for safer substitutes and development of inventories of suspected and known occupational health hazards due to chemical exposure;
- Professional training and development should include pesticide poisoning and mercury and lead exposure; and
- Involvement of The Endocrine Society in work on endocrine disrupting chemicals.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Because goals and targets are not likely to re-opened, measures to address chemical safety in the SDGs should be addressed in the discussions on indicators; and
- SDG indicators should be global in nature and all should be maintained as goals.