

IPEN Beyond 2020 Perspectives for OEWG3

The Beyond 2020 process has one required result: It must, “develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).” In response, the IPEN Steering Committee adopted a one-page Toxics-Free SDGs pledge in October 2018 that explains actions for a toxics-free future that are essential for sustainable development (see Annex 1, below). This reflects a [series of papers](#) on relevant Beyond 2020 topics developed by IPEN and the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) in 2017, including [measurable objectives in support of Agenda 2030](#).

In our view, a new global agreement on chemical safety should include both an upgrade to SAICM (SAICM2.0) and an enabling framework and include the following features:

- A timeless vision and broad scope that encompasses the entire lifecycle including wastes;
- An enabling framework that acts as an umbrella for all chemicals-related agreements whose elements are endorsed by a ministerial declaration in 2020 that is subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly;
- New and additional, adequate, sustainable and predictable finance mechanism accessible to all relevant stakeholders to address chemicals and waste issues;
- Measurable [contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals](#);
- Open, inclusive and transparent participation by all stakeholders with a multi-sectoral approach.

The vision of SAICM and the enabling framework should be timeless, include prevention and precaution as priorities, and act to protect human health and the environment. The scope of SAICM2.0 should include the entire lifecycle and all wastes as noted in SDG12.4 which states the importance of achieving “the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their lifecycle...”

A new enabling framework should include all chemicals-related multilateral agreements under one high-level umbrella. The language of the enabling agreement should allow for the possibility of future legally binding agreements on issues of concern. The enabling framework would respect the legal autonomy of all the agreements it includes and provide several key features:

- Greater coherence among objectives, implementation, and reporting;
- High-level political ownership;
- Full implementation of the chemical safety contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Links to funded, obligatory national action plans for agreements in the framework;
- Open, inclusive and transparent multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder participation.

SAICM’s broad scope covers many chemical exposures that lie outside the framework of current chemicals conventions. With the current, rapid expansion of chemical production and use in the developing world, there is a growing need for an effective, stronger, more capable SAICM that receives proper political priority and adequate resources. SAICM 2.0 should include:

- A reasonable number of ambitious objectives with targets that have specific dates and provide measurable contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- A universal periodic review method for reporting.
- Adequate, predictable and sustainable financing that includes [internalization of costs](#) of chemical producing industries at the global level. A 0.1% levy on the chemical industry would produce USD\$5.8 billion per year for implementation of chemical safety measures and be consistent with Rio Principle 16.
- Effective engagement of all IOMC organizations and convention secretariats.
- No reinvention of the international conference, rules of procedure, Bureau and other SAICM elements with a functional track record.

Annex 1. A toxics-free future is essential for sustainable development

As public interest civil society organizations, we join the global campaign for a toxics-free future as an inherent part of sustainable development. Our vision is a world where chemicals and wastes are no longer a source of harm and where all people have the right to a safe and healthy environment, free from toxic threats to surrounding environments and to future generations. We will:

1. Apply the precautionary principle and give priority consideration to the application of preventive measures. (Rio Principle 15)
2. Advance equal participation of women in decision-making, work to obtain gender disaggregated data, and promote policies that protect women from harmful chemicals and wastes. (SDG5)
3. Advocate for best interests of children during the design, implementation and enforcement of public health, environmental and labor laws to protect children from toxics and pollution. (SDG3, Rights of the Child)
4. Work to phase out the production and use of chemical pesticides, especially highly hazardous pesticides and develop national programs to promote and implement agroecology to support sustainable agriculture. (SDG2)
5. Reveal pollution and chemicals in products and processes and uphold and implement the right to information about emissions of chemicals and wastes and full disclosure about their presence in products. (SDG12, Rio Principle 10)
6. Identify, characterize, and advocate for sustainable clean-up of contaminated sites including the meaningful participation of communities, and ensure intergenerational equity and promote ecological restoration. (SDG15)
7. Raise public awareness about harmful chemicals and wastes including through monitoring air, land, water, food, products, and people and promote the development and implementation of safer processes and alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives, and strengthened laws to minimize and prevent pollution. (SDG6, 12, 16)
8. Work to reduce and eliminate ocean pollutants including mercury, persistent organic pollutants, endocrine disrupting chemicals, and plastics. (SDG12, 14)
9. Conduct waste audits, promote recycling and zero waste, and push for cradle to cradle policies without toxic chemical recycling into new products. (SDG11)
10. Advocate and enforce occupational health and safety policies that provide meaningful right to know, prioritize prevention and precaution, establish exposure limits protective of the most vulnerable, and provide equal protection in the workplace and the community. (SDG8, 9)
11. Work with governments to ban single use plastic packaging and products and lead in paint, varnishes, lacquers, stains, enamels, glazes, primers and coatings. (SDG3, 12, 14)
12. Actively participate in decision-making and implementation of policies and agreements on chemicals and wastes at the national, regional, and global levels. (SDG16, Rio Principle 10)
13. Demand that the private sector complies with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; takes responsibility to internalize all costs of chemical production including wastes and recycling infrastructure; adopts extended producer responsibility; provides comprehensive toxicity information on chemicals including nanomaterials; achieves zero discharge of toxic chemicals and wastes in production; and implements green chemistry to make products that are non-toxic, durable, and reusable. (SDG8, 9, 12, 17, Rio Principle 16)