
**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference
on Chemicals Management
Second meeting
Geneva, 15–17 December 2014**

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

1. The second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 15 December 2014, at the International Conference Centre, Geneva.
2. Opening and welcoming statements will be delivered.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

3. The Conference may wish to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (SAICM/OEWG.2/1).

(b) Organization of work

4. The rules of procedure of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will apply mutatis mutandis to the proceedings of the Working Group. Accordingly, the presiding officer of the Working Group will be Mr. Richard Lesiyampe (Kenya), President of the Conference. One of the Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Conference will act as rapporteur.
5. The Working Group may wish to meet in plenary from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day, subject to adjustments as necessary, and to establish smaller groups to discuss some agenda items in more detail.

Item 3

Progress and gaps towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management

6. Agenda item 3 includes four sub-items relating to the progress and gaps in the implementation of the Strategic Approach: regional achievements, strengths and challenges in the context of working towards the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach; progress in achieving the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach; implementation of the health sector strategy; overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal.
7. In line with paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy regarding the functions of the Conference, the Working Group may wish to consider the overall progress in implementing the Strategic Approach, including with a view to reviewing progress against the 2020 target set out in the

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and make recommendations to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session.

(a) Regional achievements, strengths and challenges in the context of working towards the 2020 goal

8. A compilation of regional chemical challenges has been developed, based on input from the regional meetings and other consultations, and is available to the working group (SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/3). Regional focal points will be called upon to deliver oral reports to the Working Group summarizing achievements, strengths and challenges specific to their respective regions with respect to implementation of the Strategic Approach.

9. A representative of the secretariat will present the note by the secretariat on the summary of the outcomes of the Strategic Approach 2013–2014 regional priority-setting workshops and resolutions adopted at the regional meetings (SAICM/OEWG.2/3).

10. The Working Group may wish to take note of the information provided by the regional focal points regarding the regional achievements, strengths and challenges as well as the summary of the outcomes of the Strategic Approach 2013–2014 regional priority-setting workshops and resolutions adopted at the regional meetings in the context of working towards the 2020 goal.

11. The Working Group may also wish to consider how this information may be used to further enhance the implementation of the Strategic Approach and work towards the 2020 goal.

(b) Progress in achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy

12. At its second session, the Conference adopted modalities for reporting on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, which are set out in annex III to the report of the Conference on the work of its second session (SAICM/ICCM.2/15). Those modalities included 20 indicators for reporting by stakeholders on progress that reflect the subject areas of the Overarching Policy Strategy: risk reduction; knowledge and information; governance; capacity-building and technical cooperation; and illegal international traffic. Subsequently, the secretariat prepared a baseline estimate report for the period 2006–2008 on the basis of the 20 indicators, an electronic tool to collect data from stakeholders and a first progress report for the period 2009–2011 for consideration by the Conference at its third session.

13. At its third session, the Conference agreed that the secretariat should develop a second progress report for the period 2011–2013 for consideration by the Conference at its fourth session. The Working Group will have before it a report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach for 2011–2013 (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4), which is based on submissions received by 83 Governments, 5 intergovernmental organizations and 13 non-governmental organizations. An analysis by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) of efforts done to implement the Global Plan of Action and key issue papers (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/5) will also be available to the Working Group.

14. The Working Group may wish to take note of the work carried out, as described in the report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach for 2011–2013, which provides comparable information on progress in implementation by a wide group of stakeholders.

15. The Working Group may wish to consider arrangements for the development of a third progress report and approaches to increase timely reporting with the intention of increasing overall reporting in the future. The Working Group may also wish to consider the further use of the current 20 indicators in monitoring overall progress towards the 2020 goal, including their utility and possible linkages to the emerging sustainable development goals, especially with regard to assessing non-quantitative aspects of progress.

(c) Implementation of the health sector strategy

16. Mindful of the importance of the health sector and its roles and responsibilities in helping to achieve sound chemicals management, the Conference adopted resolution III/4, on the strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. In so doing, the Conference adopted the strategy set out in annex V to the report of its third session (SAICM/ICCM.3/24). The strategy was widely welcomed at the third session as an essential component in achieving the 2020 goal and many participants voiced support for the six specific objectives of the strategy and its priorities for action.

17. The World Health Organization (WHO) has provided information to the Working Group on health sector engagement with the Strategic Approach for the period 2011–2013 (see SAICM/OEWG.2/8) as well as a report on WHO activities related to the implementation of the

Strategic Approach (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/17). The Working Group may wish to take note of the progress made in the implementation of the health sector strategy, including the reports of WHO on the matter.

(d) Overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal

18. Following the high-level dialogue held during its third session, the Conference agreed to request the secretariat to prepare overall orientation and guidance, based on the views aired during the discussion, on specific elements of efforts in order to achieve the 2020 goal. Comments during the high-level dialogue indicated that the overall orientation and guidance, which would be discussed at regional consultations and by the Open-ended Working Group during the intersessional period leading up to the fourth session of the Conference, needed to be both retrospective and prospective, should be developed under the guidance of the Bureau and be further discussed at regional meetings and by the Open-ended Working Group, including for possible consideration at the fourth session of the Conference.

19. The overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management (SAICM/OEWG.2/4) has been developed by the secretariat under the guidance of the Bureau on the basis of information provided through stakeholder consultation processes, regional meetings and other sources. Background documentation has been developed by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to inform the overall orientation and guidance document and is available to the Working Group (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/2). A representative of the secretariat will give a presentation on the overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal.

20. The Working Group may wish to discuss and provide input on the overall orientation and guidance. Under the guidance of the Bureau and based on input provided by the Working Group, the secretariat will revise the overall orientation and guidance for submission to the Conference at its fourth session for consideration and possible adoption.

21. In considering the overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal, the Working Group may wish to propose a set of basic activities for the sound management of chemicals and wastes in order to support the assessment of progress towards intermediate steps at the national level, guide regional delivery, set both national and international priorities for Strategic Approach implementation and develop linkages with the sustainable development goals. The 11 activities listed in the overall orientation and guidance could be considered as a starting point for such work.

22. In addition, the Working Group may wish to consider the core activity areas identified in the overall orientation and guidance and provide advice on possible ways of encouraging the implementation of the core activity areas by 2020 while building on existing efforts. In this regard, the Working Group may also wish to review the report of the secretariat on the Quick Start Programme (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/7), IOMC activities in support of Strategic Approach implementation (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/6) and the update by the Global Environment Facility (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/18), together with the terms of reference for the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, annex). The Working Group may also wish to consider Strategic Approach implementation activities to date with the aim of expanding outreach and exploring methods to increase support for the implementation of the Strategic Approach in moving forward, including from an expanded donor base.

Item 4

Sustainable development goals and sound management of chemicals beyond 2020

23. The Working Group will have before it a note by the secretariat on the sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of the sustainable development goals (SAICM/OEWG.2/9). Air pollution and the health impacts of chemical hazards and pollution are clearly targeted in the proposed health-related goal, while the sound management of hazardous chemicals and waste is referred to in a number of the proposed targets, including those related to water resources and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

24. The Working Group may wish to reflect on the advantages of explicit inclusion of the successful implementation of the Strategic Approach as a measure to achieve many of the targets of the sustainable development goals in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The Working

Group may wish to reflect on how the proposed sustainable development goals might provide new impetus to catalyse the implementation of sound chemicals management at the national and regional levels, to further support the implementation of existing international regimes and to establish priorities towards a comprehensive approach to sound chemicals management as an essential condition for achieving sustainable development. Furthermore, the Working Group may wish to provide advice on strategies for Strategic Approach stakeholders to take specific steps to include chemicals and waste issues within national plans and strategies in order to signal clearly to Governments, donors and intergovernmental organizations the need for enhanced mobilization of both internal and external resources.

25. In addition, the Working Group will have before it United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste (SAICM/OEWG.2/5, annex). The Working Group may wish to take note of the annex to resolution 1/5 in relation to strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term, which is the outcome of the country-led consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster in the long term.

26. The Working Group may wish to discuss how the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and its linkages with the sustainable development goals might be considered by the Conference at its fourth session and what preparations should be made to support such a discussion.

Item 5

Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

27. The Conference has adopted resolutions II/4, II/5 and III/2, related to emerging policy issues and to managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives. The annex to resolution II/4 set out the processes that the Conference agreed to use for considering emerging policy issues at future sessions. The Working Group will be requested to consider three aspects: progress in relation to each of the emerging policy issues in order to continue the discussions on work undertaken and to address specific actions requested by the Conference to date; new proposed emerging policy issues for possible inclusion on the agenda of the fourth session of the Conference; and other issues of concern.

(a) Report on progress on emerging policy issues

28. One of the functions of the Conference, as set out in paragraph 24 (j) of the Overarching Policy Strategy, is to focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action. In this regard, the Conference has called for appropriate action on five emerging policy issues: lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals. The emerging policy issues process is demonstrating the capacity and broad scope of activities that can be undertaken under the Strategic Approach as its non-binding nature provides a forum to address the risks and measures for such issues and leads to increased awareness and national, regional and global responses.

29. The Working Group will have before it a compilation of information by the secretariat on progress on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (SAICM/OEWG.2/6). The Working Group will also have before it documents providing additional detailed information on the emerging policy issues, including: the report on the third meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/9); a report on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/10); a draft chemicals in products programme proposal (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/11); a report on making the business case for knowing chemicals in products and supply chains (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/12); a report on the UNIDO-hosted expert group meeting on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/13); and a compilation of best practices on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/14). The reports have been prepared by relevant participating organizations of IOMC.

30. The Working Group may wish to invite the respective IOMC leads to present oral reports on each of the emerging policy issues; review progress made on each issue; propose strategies to foster enhanced coordination, collaboration and cooperation among relevant stakeholders; and consider recommendations on the issues, as necessary, to achieve progress on the 2020 goal.

(b) **New proposed emerging policy issue for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session: environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants**

31. In accordance with the procedure for considering new emerging policy issues set out in the annex to resolution II/4, one issue has been nominated for consideration by the Conference at its fourth session, namely environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. The Working Group will have before it a note by the secretariat on the new proposed emerging policy issue: environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (SAICM/OEWG.2/7) and the nomination as submitted by the joint proponents of the proposal, the Ministry of Environment of Peru, the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment of Uruguay and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/15).

32. The annex to resolution II/4 sets out the functions of the Working Group in respect of nominated new emerging policy issues, according to which it is to consider the inclusion of nominations for new emerging policy issues on the provisional agenda of sessions of the Conference and, to that end, assess the proposals taking into account regional inputs and other information. The Working Group may wish to review the issue, consider possible cooperative actions as appropriate, and propose the issue for inclusion on the provisional agenda of the fourth session of the Conference in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference. In addition, it may wish to request the secretariat to prepare a summary report on the issue to be included on the agenda for the fourth session of the Conference, in cooperation with the proponent of the issue and taking into account any recommendations made by the Working Group. Should the issue not be proposed for further consideration, the Working Group may wish to consider other ways of focusing attention on it.

(c) **Other issues of concern**

33. At its second session, the Conference considered in detail the need to manage perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives and adopted resolution II/5, in which it called for action in that regard. The compilation of information from the secretariat on progress on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (SAICM/OEWG.2/6) includes information related to the management of perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives. The Working Group may wish to review progress made on work on managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives and provide feedback to the United Nations Environment Programme and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which lead continued efforts in this area through the Global Perfluorinated Chemicals Group.

34. In follow-up to discussions at the third session of the Conference and in responding to needs identified at regional meetings, the Working Group may also wish to take note of opportunities to enhance activities at all levels in relation to highly hazardous pesticides, including the collection and exchange of information as well as the provision of support for risk reduction measures. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has prepared an information note on highly hazardous pesticides for the consideration of the Working Group (see SAICM/OEWG.2/10). The analysis by IOMC of efforts made to implement the Global Plan of Action and key issue papers (see SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/5) also contains information relevant to highly hazardous pesticides. The Working Group may wish to review the information contained in the document and, bearing in mind the 2020 target, consider ways in which further cooperation can be undertaken to achieve progress in this area.

Item 6

Planned activities and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2016–2020

35. In its resolution III/5, the Conference requested the secretariat to prepare a budget for the period 2016–2018 for consideration by the Conference at its fourth session. The Working Group will have before it a report by the secretariat on its activities and staffing (SAICM/OEWG.2/12), including information for the period 2012–2014 and initial budget information for the period 2016–2020 based on the current staffing complement and activities of the secretariat. As the fourth session is currently the last scheduled decision-making meeting to be held before 2020, the secretariat has provided initial budget information for 2016–2020.

36. The Working Group may wish to take note of the budget information for the period 2016–2020, while recognizing that the budget for the secretariat of the Strategic Approach, including the proposed staff requirements, will be further elaborated by the secretariat on the basis of the activities and actions contained in the overall orientation and guidance for consideration by the Conference at its fourth session.

Item 7

Preparations for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management

37. Paragraph 25 of the Overarching Policy Strategy provides for the fourth session of the Conference to be held in 2015 unless otherwise decided by the Conference. The Overarching Policy Strategy and resolution I/1 called for sessions of the Conference, where appropriate, to be held back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations in order to enhance synergies and cost-effectiveness and to promote the multisectoral nature of the Strategic Approach.

38. The Working Group will have before it a note by the secretariat on preparations for the fourth session of the Conference (SAICM/OEWG.2/11). As the fourth session of the Conference is currently the last decision-making meeting in the context of the Strategic Approach scheduled to take place before 2020, stakeholders should make full use of the Conference to identify the remaining challenges and adopt strategic decisions to enable the international community to achieve the 2020 goal of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In that regard, the Working Group may wish to provide further guidance to the Bureau of the Conference with respect to identifying priority issues for inclusion on the agenda of the fourth session of the Conference.

39. In addition, the Working Group may wish to assist the secretariat in identifying possible sources of funding to ensure adequate funds are available in 2015 to support the organization of the Conference.

Item 8

Other matters

40. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider other matters raised during the meeting.

Item 9

Adoption of the report of the meeting

41. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider and adopt the report on the work of its second meeting.

Item 10

Closure of the meeting

42. It is expected that the meeting will be closed by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 17 December 2014.
