



## SAICM and IOMC SIDE-EVENT

### **How could an integrated chemicals and waste management approach build a strengthened SAICM beyond 2020?**

Geneva, 14 June 2022

#### **Summary**

A side event took place on 14 June 2022, in the margins of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BC COP-15, RC COP-10, SC COP-10). The side event was organized jointly by the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

It contributed to the main theme of these meetings - *Global Agreements for a Healthy Planet: Sound management of chemicals and waste*.

Sixty-three participants from governments, inter-governmental organizations, industry, academia, and civil society organizations participated in person in the side event (and twenty-four participants online).

The side event was co-moderated by Mr. Rafal Brykowski, SAICM Secretariat and Ms. Manal Azzi, International Labour Organization (also representing the IOMC).

Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Anita Breyer, the President of the Fifth Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. She underlined some of the key features needed to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste, in particular for the ongoing Intersessional Process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, achieving the SDGs, improving chemicals and waste management along value chains, and securing political support and adequate resources.

Mr. Achim Halpaap, independent expert, introduced the concept of an integrated approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste and its possible dimensions:

- development of basic national management systems in all countries, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders,
- integration of sound chemicals and waste management in key industry sectors and product value chains, and
- integration of sound chemicals and waste management with sustainable development planning and initiatives.

The IOMC representatives, Ms. Manal Azzi, International Labour Organization, Mr. Jorge Ocaña, United Nations Institute for Training and Research and Ms. Lesley Onyon, World Health Organization, provided insights on the added value of integrated approaches from the perspective of their organizations. The key issues highlighted in their interventions, include:

- the negative consequences of the lack of integrated chemicals and waste management for human health and the environment, including through inadvertent effects of chemicals, burden of disease or multiple exposure to chemicals,
- insights on how an integrated chemicals and waste management can help addressing these negative consequences through:
  - reinforcing national systems of chemicals and waste management, using the existing instruments as far as possible,
  - sharing information on chemicals,
  - applying the multisectoral dimensions of sound chemicals and waste management (for instance in the context of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals or WHO Chemicals Roadmap).

Mr. Kevin Helps, United Nations Environment Programme, introduced the on-going process of establishing the Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste, in line with the 2022 UNEA 5 Resolution. He highlighted the need to understand all steps of chemicals and chemical products value chains and that it is expected the Science Policy Panel will complement, support, and link the existing initiatives on chemicals and waste management to provide policy-relevant scientific evidence without being policy prescriptive. He emphasized the importance of engaging early on with the industry stakeholders in the establishment of the panel, especially as this appeared to be a lesson-learned from other intergovernmental science-policy panels

Ms. Evelyn Swain, Global Environment Facility (GEF), provided insights on how finance could contribute to an integrated chemicals and waste management by presenting the opportunities available under the Chemicals and Waste focal area under the GEF Trust Fund's eight replenishment (GEF8). She highlighted the shift under this replenishment towards a supply chain approach and the importance of SAICM in contributing to the implementation of GEF targets.

In the questions and answers session, issues linked to an integrated approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste were discussed, such as:

- the importance of ensuring a multistakeholder approach to chemicals and waste management,
- the relevance of meaningful sectoral engagement with recognition of key responsibilities at global and national levels, thus addressing the issue of "working in silos",
- the need to learn from successful work done on issues of concern such as eliminating lead in paint,
- the role that could be played by IOMC guidance in working across sectors at the national level, as well as in implementing an integrated approach at the national level,
- the need to explore possibilities for increasing knowledge on and engagement with the work of the IOMC Participating Organizations among the national focal points working on these topics,
- the possible role of IOMC in capacity-building at national levels,
- the importance of work on Highly Hazardous Pesticides.

In their concluding remarks, Ms. Kay Williams (*ad-interim*) and Ms. Judith Torres, Intersessional Process Co-chairs, thanked the side event speakers for introducing the concept of an integrated approach and considered that this development could serve as food for thought in the discussions under the ongoing Intersessional Process and the forthcoming IP4 meeting in Bucharest, Romania (29 August – 2 September 2022). They encouraged participants to consider if and how it could be incorporated into these discussions.