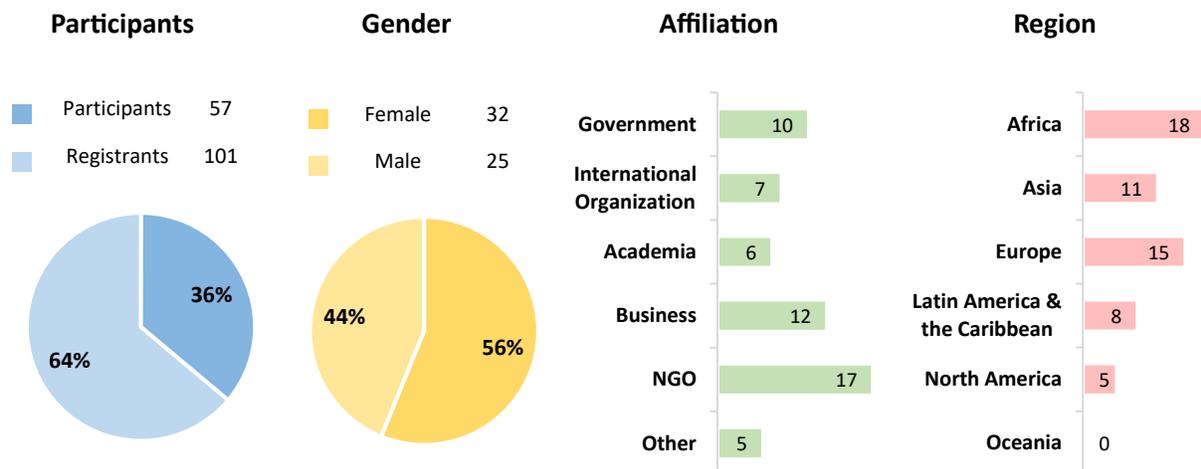


Chemicals and Waste Management Community of Practice (CoP) Discussion 1 Summary

Title	Integrated Chemicals and Waste Management in the Lead Up to ICCM5: National systems, industry action and SDG implementation
Date & Time	12 April 2023, 14:00 – 15:30 (UTC+2)
Recording	https://youtu.be/MVFK1szg23Q
SAICM CoP	ggkp.org/ChemAndWasteCoP

As a contribution to the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and sound chemicals and waste management beyond 2020, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) submitted a paper on “Strengthening integrated chemicals and waste management” to IP.4 in Bucharest, Romania in 2022 (SAICM/IP.4/INF/18). The concept dates back to ICCM 1 and the adoption of SAICM in 2006 and some progress in implementation has been made. However, further discussions and action are needed to strengthen the concept and foster its implementation, taking into account developments such as the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The IOMC paper proposes three dimensions of integrated chemicals and waste management. They include: 1. Developing basic national chemical management systems and capacities in all countries; 2. Integrating chemicals management in key industry sectors and product value chains; and 3. Integrating chemicals management with sustainable development issues and initiatives. As a follow-up to the launch of the paper in 2022, a number of suggestions made in the paper have been taken up in the intersessional process.

Attendee Report



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Presenter



Achim Alexander Halpaap, Former Head of the Chemicals and Health Branch, UN Environment Programme

Achim Halpaap has more than twenty-five years of leadership experience in international environment and sustainable development research, capacity development, policymaking and management in public, academic, private, and non-governmental organizations. Achim's areas of expertise include green and circular economy, chemicals and waste management, environmental governance, and capacity development.

At UNEP, Achim served until October 2017 as Head of the Chemicals and Health Branch. Prior roles include Senior Manager, Environment and Green Development, and Associate Director of Training at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). From 2017-2019 he led the development of UNEP's second [Global Chemicals Outlook \(GCO-II\)](#) launched at UNEA 4 in 2019. Academic experiences include research and teaching appointments at the University of Cape Town (South Africa), Yale University and the University of Oregon. Achim's professional career commenced in the private sector at the Bayer Corporation, Germany working on chemicals and waste management legislation and regulation in the early 90's.

Facilitator



Pierre Quiblier, Officer in Charge, SAICM Secretariat, Chemical and Health Branch, UN Environment Programme

Pierre Quiblier is SAICM Secretariat Coordinator OIC at the Chemical and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme since January 2023. As such he led the organization of the resumed 4th meeting of intersessional process for Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4.2) held in Nairobi on 27 February - 3 March 2023.

Within the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch as Programme Officer, he developed in 2006 the UNEP-UNDP Partnership Initiative on the mainstreaming of sound management of chemicals into development plans and policies. He managed and coordinated the UNEP global publication of the Global Chemicals Outlook: Towards Sound Management of chemicals. He also ensures liaison with WHO and undertake related environment and health functions in view of strengthening the cooperation in areas of common interest. He led the development and organization, of the first inter-Ministerial Health and Environment Conference in Africa held in Libreville,

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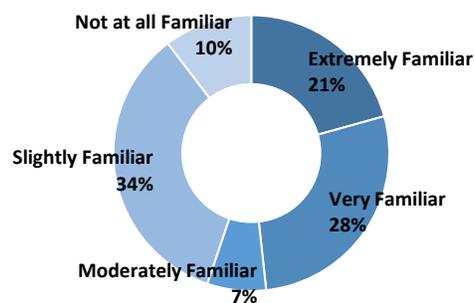
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Gabon, 2008 and the 2nd Conference held in Luanda, Angola, 2010, as well as the 3rd Conference held in Libreville Gabon, 2018. He developed and contributed to the implementation of the GEF financed ChemObs project. A prototype in nine African countries of national integrated health and environment observatories to provide timely and evidence-based information to better predict, prevent and reduce chemicals risk to human health and the environment. Pierre Quiblier graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree from Fordham University, New York. He also post-graduated with a DEA in political studies and graduated with a Master's degree and post-graduation degree in Political Sciences from the University of Grenoble, France.

Summary of Discussion

POLL 0

How familiar are you with the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste management beyond 2020?



General information on ICCM5 and the SAICM intersessional process

The focus of the discussion was to integrate chemicals and waste management in the lead up to the fifth international Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM5), especially on national systems, industry actions and SDG implementations, the three dimensions that are key in the programmatic framework envisaged to be adopted at ICCM5.

ICCM5 is scheduled for September 2023 in Bonn, Germany. It will be a decisive moment to shape the future of global chemicals and waste management framework.

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In 2015, at ICCM4, a decision was made to create intersessional process to prepare all SAICM stakeholders to provide recommendations for ICCM5. In light of evaluations made on the progress achieved and highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the SAICM process, it was decided to have a set of intersessional meetings and facilitate virtual working groups and regional consultations. First intersessional meeting was held in Brazil in 2017, the second in Sweden in 2018, the third in Thailand and the fourth in Romania last year to develop recommendations regarding the SAICM beyond 2020 process.

Key facts on chemicals management as stated in the Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO-II)

The second edition of the [Global Chemicals Outlook \(GCO-II\) \(2019\)](#) analysed where we stand globally in meeting the global goal and targets to achieve sound management of chemicals by 2020. Key highlights of the Outlook include:

- The global chemical industry is projected to double by 2030. Yet, the majority of countries lack GHS implementation and basic chemical management systems.
- A chemical-by-chemical approach at the international level is resource and time intensive. A more strategic approach addressing key industry sectors and product value chains could be valuable.
- More ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders is urgently required.

Today, three dimensions of integrated chemicals and waste management are being discussed in the SAICM beyond 2020 process

1. Development of chemical management systems and capacities in all countries involving key ministries (e.g. environment, health and labour)
2. Integrated approaches to manage chemicals and waste in key industry sectors and product value chains (e.g. agriculture, textiles, electronics)
3. Integration with broader economic & social and sustainable development objectives (e.g. decent work, innovation policies)

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QUESTION 1

The development of basic national chemicals management systems and capacities in all countries has been on the international agenda for a long time. Yet, only limited progress has been made to date. What are the key determinants why progress has been slow? How can key challenges be overcome, including securing innovative and sustainable financing to operate national systems?

Key elements discussed by participants and presenter during the discussion:

Priority elements for a national chemicals management system

- Ensuring classification and labelling (i.e. implementation of the Globally Harmonised Systems – GHS – for industrial chemicals, agricultural chemicals, consumer product chemicals and chemicals in transport/storage)
- Generating knowledge about hazardous chemicals at a country level (e.g. chemicals inventory)
- Integrated approaches to assess and manage chemical risks that address environment, labour, health considerations
- Integrated and life cycle approaches to enable a circular economy

Identified enabling framework to support a national chemicals management system

- Effective national institutions, coordination and stakeholder engagement (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating mechanism, chemicals agency)
- Legislation and enforcement covering the life cycle of chemicals, products and waste (e.g. GHS implementation, product standards)
- Creating linkages with other relevant initiatives at the national level (e.g. health-based monitoring, waste management)
- Sustainable financing and cost recovery schemes (e.g. scaling up of international financing, registration fees)
- Sustainable human resource capacities (e.g. National Learning Strategy)

POLL 1

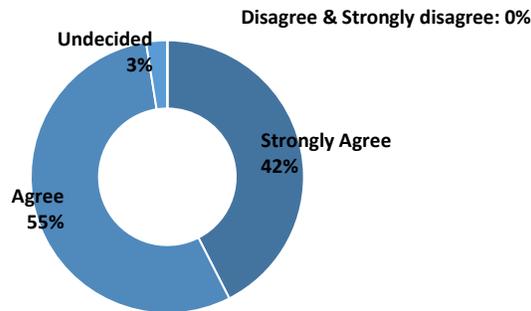
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:

Developing national systems and capacity development for sound chemicals and should receive priority attention in negotiating the “Beyond 2020” instrument.

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Chemical management systems in developing countries

The Global Chemicals Outlook refers to significant human health and environmental challenges, in countries which do not have chemical management systems in place. However, often in a developing country, chemicals management at the national level is not a priority. The reasons might include below:

- Lack of budget, technical knowhow, scientific infrastructure to carry out the required research and management of the chemicals of concerned.
- Lack of sustainable financing for capacity building, awareness raising and alternatives
- Lack of industry reflections and efforts to internalize the cost of damages on health and ecosystems.
- Lack of political and public understanding of the effects of unsound chemicals management
- International export of certain toxic chemicals from developed countries to developing countries.
- Lack of certification and licensing

Potential solutions to overcome challenges

- Integrate and mainstream chemicals management to enable the inclusion and participation of relevant people and groups
- Increase research on chemical issues to draw more attention based on evidence
- Promote green alternative solutions on chemicals issues
- Minimize damages and stimulate greener alternatives through political interventions including punishments and incentives
- Prepare mandatory national chemical profile and adopt chemicals safety policy
- Implement GHS effectively
- Raise awareness, strengthen institutional, infrastructure and human resource capacities

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QUESTION 2

Scaling-up engagement and action of downstream industries (e.g. the textile, electronic, and construction industries) is critical in achieving chemicals and waste management globally. Yet, downstream industries have only played a limited role in SAICM and negotiating the Strategic approach and chemicals and waste management beyond 2020. What incentives and activities can be created to engage these actors more actively in the “Beyond 2020” process?

Key elements discussed by participants and presenter during the discussion:

Chemical-intensive industry sectors and product value chains

Significant releases of chemicals occur in key industry sectors and their product value chains throughout the life cycle. Chemical intensive industry sectors include agriculture and food production, automobiles and transport, construction and building, cosmetics, electronics, textiles and more. Some international actions have been already taken in some sectors, such as the international code of conduct for agriculture and campaigns to reduce emissions on textile production. Lessons can be drawn from these.

An integrated approach to assess and manage chemical risks covering key industry sectors and product value chains needs to consider health of workers, citizens and consumers as well as the environment dimension.

Industry front-runner actions

The idea of a global programme on industry sector engagement needs to look at front-runner industry initiatives in terms of developing chemical policies, setting transparency standards and identifying systematically non-regrettable alternatives and developing industry standards. Some front-runner industry actions also include systematic adoption of corporate management instrument, such as Sustainable Supply Chain Management and dissemination of good practices including of green and sustainable chemistry solutions.

The role of government enabling this is key, such as having clear sunset targets for certain chemicals, labelling schemes, tax incentives and more. The government can also lead by example through sustainable procurement policies.

POLL 2

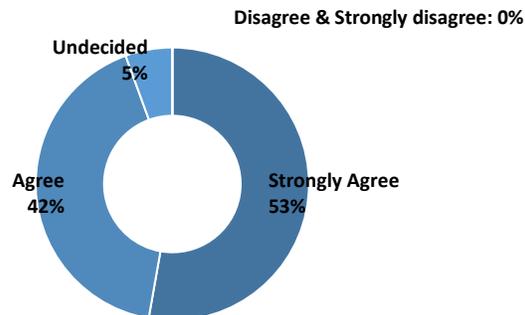
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Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:

Integrating chemicals management in key industries and value chains should receive priority attention in negotiating the “Beyond 2020” instrument.



Non-regrettable alternatives

There is an international appetite to have more robust criteria to elaborate non-regrettable alternatives. UNEP has developed a framework manual to understand the definition of green and sustainable chemistry innovation and solutions. It includes [10 benchmark criteria](#) to assess if it needs a green and sustainability considerations and also includes broader sustainability criteria. These criteria highlight the design of chemicals with minimized (or no) hazard properties for use and taking a life cycle approach. Here a major principle also comes in, which is avoiding trade-offs by meeting environmental health considerations, social needs and economic sense. Non-regrettable substitution solutions also need to look into the fundamental alternatives and not only on a new chemistry innovation in similar properties (i.e., as seen in the PFAS case).

The following ideas were suggested by participants in relation to tackling non-regrettable alternatives:

- Scientific assessment capacity to understand implications of these chemicals
- Linkages between all actors in the entire value chain
- Transparency of substances and processes used in products
- A code of conduct on the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle
- Effective implementation of Polluters Pay Principle with full cost internalization from chemical producing companies
- Incentives like tax exemption for using more environmentally-friendly chemicals

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QUESTION 3

The implementation of a several SGDs (e.g. those addressing climate change, biodiversity, the world of work, innovation, etc.) depend on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Yet, relevant international fora do not pay full attention to these linkages. What are important relevant SDGs? Should “Beyond 2020” set priorities or refer to all important ones? What activities could be implemented under “Beyond 2020” to integrate chemicals and waste management considerations in relevant bodies and fora?

Key elements discussed by participants and presenter during the discussion:

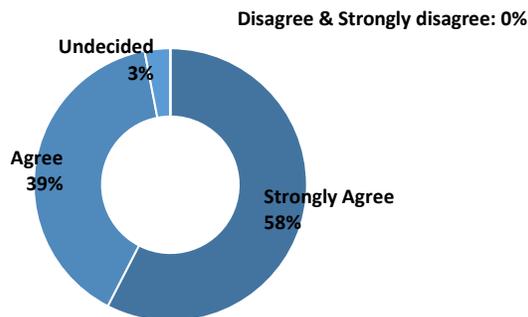
Identifying relevant sustainable development topics

A number of sustainable development targets which do not refer to chemicals and waste management directly do still have clear linkages. These targets include environmental sustainability topics such as biodiversity and climate change, socio-economic sustainability topics such as industrial development, job creation, health and gender and enabling sustainability topics such as education programmes and sustainability innovation. Ultimately it is meant to change discussions in other fora.

POLL 3

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:

Integrating chemicals management with sustainable development initiatives should receive priority attention in negotiating the “Beyond 2020” instrument.



Opportunities and challenges of integrating chemicals management with sustainable development

There is also an ongoing effort to develop a global panel that serves similar duties like IPCC or IPBES.

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Identification of priority chemicals is also important. Some regional and national initiatives already have a priority list of chemicals in place (e.g., The European REACH legislation on substances of very high concern, Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals deals with the textile sector and targets priority chemicals).

Better scientific understanding and capacity to measure costs of inaction to justify the investment on preventive actions at the outset would further reduce the cost of remediation action.

Sustainable financing is another topic that needs much attention. Getting institutional investors to integrate chemicals and waste issues into their portfolio and creating a global network around it have been challenging. We need to make a case to receive political attention and financial support.

Relevant Sustainable Development Targets (SDGs)

Some other relevant SDGs suggested include below. It is difficult to say one is more important than the other.

- SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation
- SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production
- SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- SDG 3 Good health and well-being
- SDG 5 Gender equality

Integrated chemicals and waste management in the Beyond 2020 negotiations

Some of the draft objectives being negotiated in the “Beyond 2020” are very close to the elements discussed by the IOMC’s proposal on the integrated approach to chemicals management– development of chemical management systems and capacities at a national level, development of alternatives by downstream industry sectors through the value chain and chemicals and waste considerations promoted in all fora. The program implementation will need to be a catalysing mechanism to promote implementation, facilitate knowledge sharing and track progress on some targets and indicators.

Useful Resources

- [Fifth session of the International Conference for Chemicals Management \(ICCM5\)](#)
- [IOMC, Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020](#)
- [ACS, 12 Principles of Green Chemistry](#)
- [IOMC, Chemicals and Waste management: essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

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- [IOMC, Proposal to include Implementation Programmes in the “Beyond 2020” framework to help achieve “Beyond 2020” strategic objectives and targets](#)
- [Paul T. Anastas; John C. Warner, Green Chemistry](#)

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