

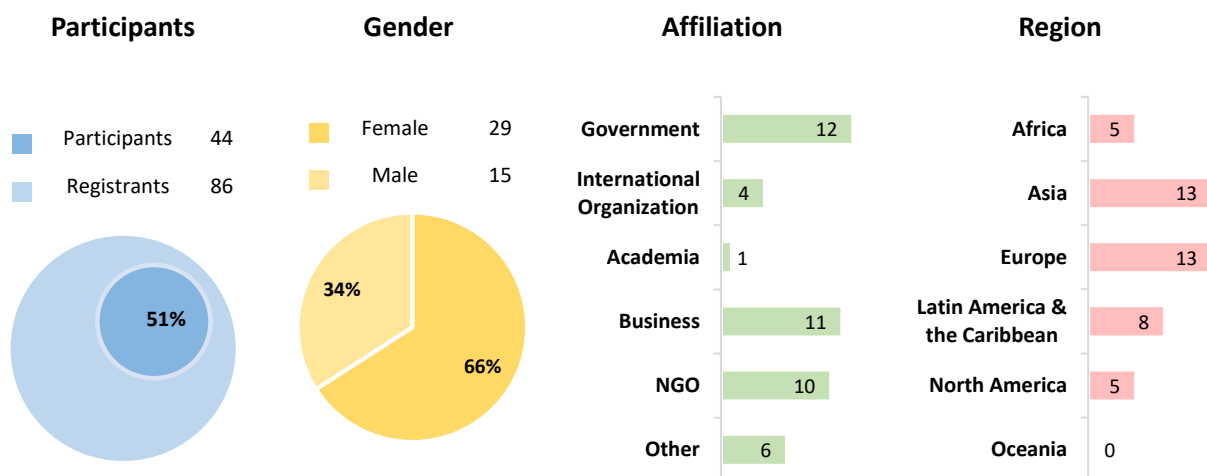
Chemicals and Waste Management Community of Practice (CoP) Discussion 4 Summary

Title	ICCM5 Preparations: Strengthening reporting and capacity building for the implementation of the beyond 2020 framework instrument
Date & Time	8 September 2023, 14:00 – 15:30 (UTC+2)
Recording	https://youtu.be/8Eg-sxbf-uk
SAICM CoP	ggkp.org/ChemAndWasteCoP

Capacity building and reporting are two major topics to be discussed during the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) to be celebrated 21-29 September 2023. In advance of ICCM5, key elements of the two information documents on capacity building ([SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/3](#) and [SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/5](#)) and one on reporting ([SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/4](#)) were introduced during this discussion. It was agreed that a coordinated approach is crucial for both capacity building and reporting for the successful implementation of the new framework instrument.

For capacity building, enhancing stakeholder involvement, strengthening interlinkages with other sectors and establishing common priorities were highlighted. It was noted that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to capacity building and that it should be tailored to specific contexts and needs. In reporting, it was stressed that reporting needs to be seen as a part of a process for effective implementation. Indicators need to be reflective of the intended targets and form the basis for tracking progress, driving further changes and sharing expertise.

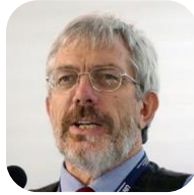
Attendee Report



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Presenters



Jerry Harrison, Principal Technical Specialist, United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

Jerry provides input and guidance to UNEP-WCMC's extensive work in support of intergovernmental agreements and processes relating to biodiversity, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). However, Jerry has also been working to promote cooperation and synergies in implementing international agreements and processes at both national and international levels, and this has included working not only within the biodiversity sector but on the intersection between biodiversity and chemicals and waste.



Marina Demaria Venâncio, Programme Officer, United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

Drawing on a background in environmental law and governance, Marina supports two areas of work within UNEP-WCMC's portfolio: international policy and conventions; and nature, gender, and human rights. This work includes engaging with national governments, intergovernmental agencies, and other stakeholders in the context of global biodiversity processes and conventions. Marina also leads and makes substantive contributions to projects supporting governments in developing and implementing national, regional, and global biodiversity policies. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, and has previously worked with UNEP and FAO.

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. 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.

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Summary of Discussion

Background on capacity building for the beyond 2020 framework instrument

Following approval of the SAICM Programme of Work for the period 2021-2023, the SAICM Secretariat has initiated a process to explore options to develop a capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the new framework instrument for the sound management of chemicals and waste. In cooperation with UNEP-WCMC, three information documents were developed to inform the discussions during ICCM5.

[SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/3](#) and [SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/5](#) aim to inform discussion on the issue of capacity-building while [SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/4](#) inform discussion on the issue of reporting, and support development of reporting approaches following the adoption of the new framework instrument. This CoP session goes deeper into these two topics, focused on collective insights of participants, informed by the presenter's lead, polls' feedback, and participants' experiences.

QUESTION 1

How can diverse stakeholders from various sectors, including intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and individuals involved in the sound management of chemicals, be more effectively engaged in the development and implementation of a capacity-building strategy for the new framework instrument? What types of roles should each stakeholder play in the development and implementation of the new framework instrument?

Key elements discussed by participants and presenter during the discussion:

Participants voiced a shared views that businesses, especially those involved in chemical production, transportation, and disposal, need to not just adhere to responsible practices but also actively lead capacity-building initiatives. Another point of agreement was the need to bolster the health component of the SAICM discussions. By tying the implications of chemical management to tangible health outcomes, participants agreed that the new framework instrument would become more pressing and resonant for decision-makers.

An interesting part of the discussion also revolved around the broader picture. Participants drew connections between chemical management and larger global challenges, such as climate change and biodiversity. Such associations, it was suggested, could be pivotal in not only resource mobilization but also in stitching together multi-sectoral partnerships and collaborations.

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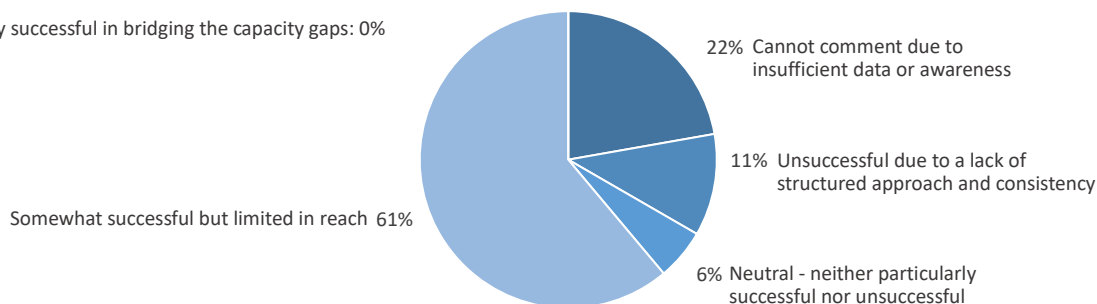
Participants also identified challenges. A recurring theme was the need to rectify the limited stakeholder engagement evident in past capacity building activities under SAICM. Although past consultations had signalled a keen interest from stakeholders in active participation, the missing piece has always been an effective mechanism to facilitate such involvement.

Financial and technical constraints, especially in specific regions, were another concern voiced by many. The intertwined nature of financial hurdles and a lack of shared technical expertise prompted participants to emphasize the importance of both innovative financing mechanisms and knowledge-sharing across sectors and regions.

POLL 1-1

How do you perceive the effectiveness of the SAICM's capacity-building efforts from 2006 to 2016?

Highly successful in bridging the capacity gaps: 0%



POLL 1-2

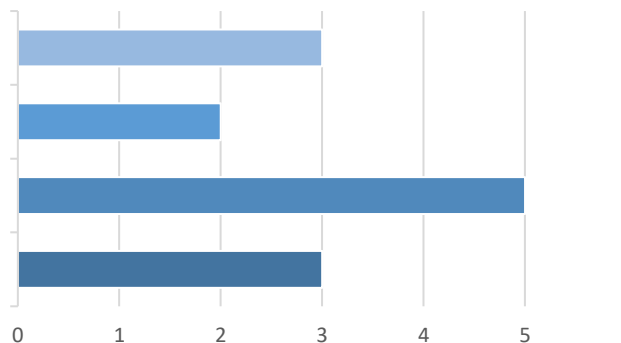
What have been some of the most significant barriers to implementing capacity-building under SAICM, and how might these be overcome in the beyond 2020 framework?

Financial constraints were the primary barrier; increased funding might be the solution.

Lack of technical expertise; focus on intensive training and education could help.

Limited stakeholder involvement; fostering more partnerships and collaborations might be the answer.

All of the above barriers were equally significant.



Feedback from two polls offered further insights. The first poll sought perceptions on SAICM's capacity-building efforts from 2006-2016, serving as a reflective lens to understand past trajectories. The second poll identified barriers in capacity-building, and the insights garnered will be crucial in crafting a strategy resilient to past pitfalls. A consistent thread was clear: the success of this new framework instrument

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centres on ensuring active, inclusive, and comprehensive stakeholder participation in managing chemicals and waste.

QUESTION 2

Reflecting on the draft elements for a capacity-building strategy for the Beyond 2020 Framework Instrument, what additions or modifications would you suggest? What do you see as the key components that should be present in a successful capacity-building strategy for the new framework instrument?

Key elements discussed by participants and presenter during the discussion:

Participants agreed on the importance of establishing common priorities for capacity-building activities. These wouldn't just cater to the immediate technical needs like establishing poison centers and chemical inventories but also encompass broader functional capacities, particularly legal and institutional frameworks. The emphasis on differentiating between these capacities was pronounced, highlighting the need for distinct strategies for each. For instance, a participant mentioned that the creation of a poison center might be a technical challenge requiring specific expertise, whereas setting up a legal framework would need a comprehensive grasp of governance structures and international norms.

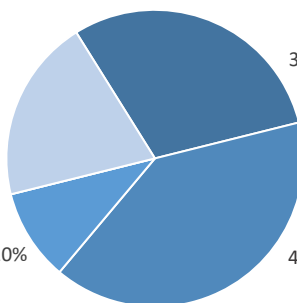
POLL 2-1

What are your thoughts on the preliminary findings regarding the draft elements for a capacity-building strategy?

They are too general and lack specificity: 0%

They fully address the requirements and challenges. 20%

They emphasize too much on past strategies, with limited forward-looking perspectives. 10%



30% They should involve more grassroots feedback and perspectives.

40% They are comprehensive but need clearer implementation parameters.

Feedback from POLL 2-1 showed sentiment among participants on the critical need to rectify the scattered efforts and lack of coherence from previous initiatives in SAICM implementation. This was especially evident when focusing on developing countries, where initiatives often appeared isolated without a unified direction.

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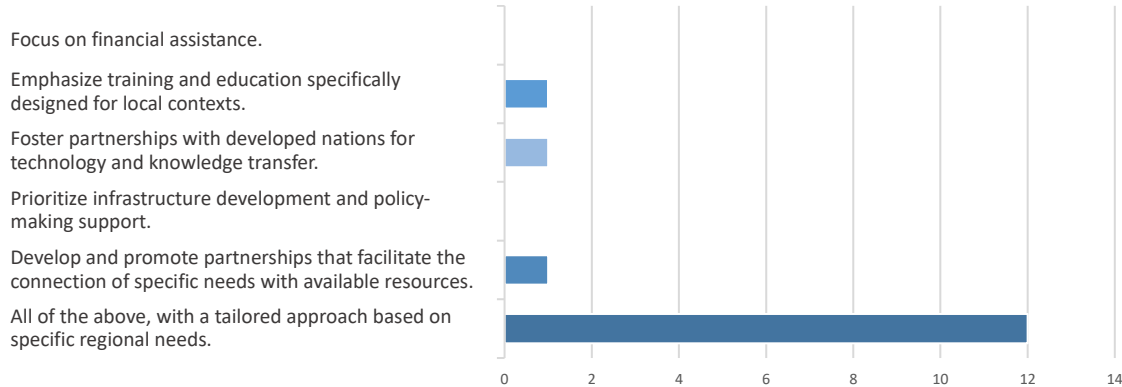
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Views strongly suggested that capacity-building cannot be big in magnitude or generic. Given the diverse challenges across different regions, especially in developing countries with their unique infrastructural and policy challenges, a one-size-fits-all approach would be inadequate. This perspective was highlighted in responses to POLL 2-2, which explored how strategies should adapt to meet the specific challenges of developing nations in their management of chemicals and waste.

POLL 2-2

How should the capacity-building strategy adapt to cater to the unique challenges faced by developing countries in the management of chemicals and waste?



In summary, views suggested that the new framework instrument's capacity-building strategy must prioritize differentiation between technical and functional capacities, ensure cohesive and coordinated efforts, and above all, be adaptable to the distinct needs of various regions.

QUESTION 3

As we consider the adoption of a new framework instrument for chemicals and waste management during ICCM5, what steps can we take to help ensure an effective review of implementation in the future at both national and international levels? Such review is essential for understanding progress and identifying what else needs to be done to enhance progress. How can we encourage the development of an approach to monitoring, reporting and review at all levels and engaging all stakeholders that leads to improvements in implementation?

Key elements discussed by participants and presenter during the discussion:

The presenter initiated the discussion emphasizing the need for a unified and strategic reporting approach. He made reference to information document ([SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/4](#)) crafted to guide the formulation of a future reporting mechanism for the new framework instrument. Participants agreed, emphasizing that reporting procedures serve as foundational tools to assess the progression towards

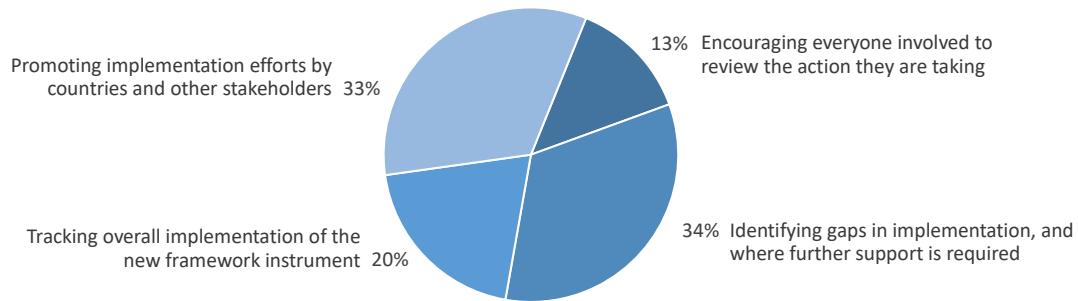
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realizing intended objectives, pinpointing existing gaps, and underscoring the importance of continued monitoring and assessment. A significant point of consensus was the utility of a diversified set of indicators in the reporting, not only to trace processes and impacts but also to instigate further transformations at both domestic and international levels.

POLL 3-1

What do you see as the most important purpose of a new reporting framework?



From the feedback on POLL 3-1, which delved into the core purpose of a novel reporting framework, it was evident that making efficient use of reporting data stands out as paramount. Participants agreed that the idea isn't merely to collect data but to utilize it in ways that translate to actionable insights and positive change.

A repeated sentiment during the discussion was the notion that reporting, though essential, is merely one phase of a comprehensive process towards effective implementation. Regarding the formulation of targets and indicators, there was a notable emphasis on ensuring that indicators are meticulously tailored to mirror and measure the desired outcomes. Touching upon the common challenges in reporting, participants highlighted not only tangible issues like resource constraints but also the vital role of robust feedback mechanisms to enhance the reporting process itself.

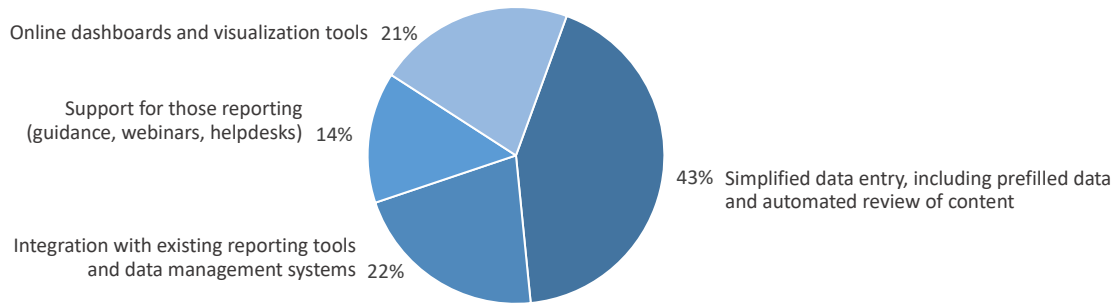
Drawing from POLL 3-2 and POLL 3-3, participants shared insights from other international agreements and underscored the need for the new reporting mechanism to prioritize clarity, consistency, and adaptability. Moreover, the participants expressed that when formulating a new reporting framework, considering the diversity of stakeholders and ensuring inclusivity will be of utmost importance.

POLL 3-2

Based on your knowledge of reporting mechanisms for other international agreements and processes, what do you think the new reporting mechanism should prioritize?

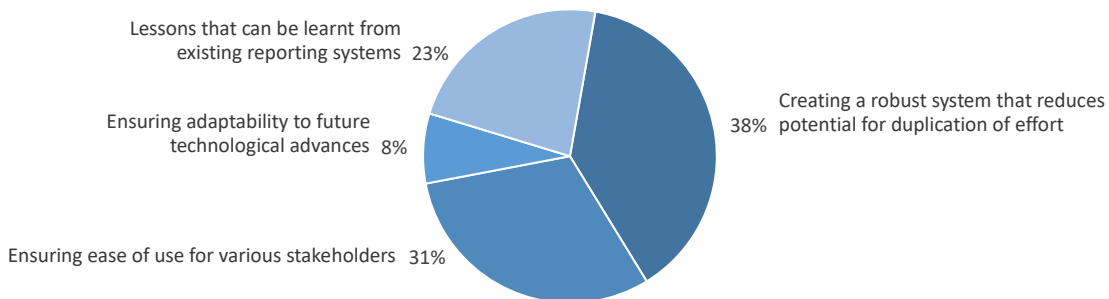
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POLL 3-3

In developing a new reporting framework what do you believe will be the most important things to consider?



It was highlighted that that dialogue should continue, stressing that the conversation shouldn't just conclude with ICCM5 but needs to be an ongoing engagement to realize the objectives effectively. Participants views stated that in order to have a successful new framework instrument, it must be rooted in a transparent, strategic, and adaptive reporting mechanism, one that goes beyond mere data collection and translates into tangible action.

Useful Resources

- [SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/3](#) Capacity-building and the sound management of chemicals and waste: Key messages and recommendations for a capacity-building strategy for the new framework instrument
- [SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/5](#) Draft elements for a capacity-building strategy for the Beyond 2020 Framework Instrument
- [SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/4](#) Reporting and the sound management of chemicals and waste: Study to inform the development of a reporting mechanism and process for SAICM beyond 2020
- [SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/11](#) The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) Proposal for the Establishment of a Platform for Capacity Building Hub in the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument

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