# Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) – Call for industry scientists – Background

The sound management of chemicals and wastes is a key requirement to achieve a diverse range of international goals and agreements. It is a specific target under Sustainable Development Goal 12 and has links to many others. The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) initiated a process to make recommendations regarding the future of the Sound Management of Chemicals & Wastes beyond 2020 for consideration at ICCM5 in October 2020 linking with the UN initiative - the [Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management](http://www.saicm.org/). An integral part of the success of this work is ensuring cross-sector participation to tackle chemicals holistically. This is reflected in the initial discussions and draft objectives and targets which reference health, industry, the environment and beyond.



Please find below an update from the third meeting of the intersessional process (IP3) by way of additional background.

**Update following the third intersessional process (IP3)**

Around 300 participants from around the world were present (160 representatives from 73 governments, 115 from industry, NGOs and academia, and 30 representing 21 intergovernmental organisations including the ILO, FAO and WHO). The discussions were focused on the possible elements of the post 2020 framework for chemicals and waste, on 4 areas in particular:

* Objectives, targets and indicators;
* Institutional arrangements (governance);
* Finance; and
* Mechanisms to support implementation (emerging issues and the Science-Policy interface).

A summary of discussions under each theme and what was agreed can be found below:

**Objectives, targets and indicators:** It was agreed early on that principles would be applied to the targets as follows: SMART, results focused, and formulated in a way to ensure they can be used as communication tools. It was also agreed that further streamlining of the proposed targets would be needed and that the identification of relevant indicators should be done in the expert group to be set up. Factsheets will then be developed for each target, modelled on the approach taken by the Convention on Biological Diversity, which would explain the rational for each target and provide guidance on relevant indicators. In order to ensure an inclusive process the technical working group will also include all major stakeholders.

**Institutional arrangements:** The functions of the Beyond-2020 conference were discussed. It was agreed a high-level segment (i.e., senior representation such as Ministers) will be included. The role of the bureau and the secretariat were also discussed as well as new text around enhancing the involvement of industry and stakeholders. **The latter resulting in an action for delegates and stakeholders. Stakeholders have been tasked to develop their contributions to achieve enhanced engagement in the beyond 2020 framework and to submit these to the Secretariat as soon as possible.** They will then make the information available for IP4 in the form of a paper to set out the contributions, obstacles and incentives to achieve this. For further information see [paper 3.3](http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP3/Docs/SAICM_IP3_3_stakeholder_engagement.pdf) and “[Outcome of discussions on enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement](http://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/ThirdIntersessionalmeeting/Insessiondocuments/tabid/8141/language/en-US/Default.aspx)”.

This states:

“Contributions to the implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument are expected to be in the form of work plans, road maps, action items, milestones, pledges, or other appropriate commitments and should contain a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the sector and/or stakeholder, and the intended mechanism for implementation that contributes to the achievement of the objectives and targets, as well as opportunities for joint collaboration or actions.”

**Mechanisms to support implementation:** This segment focused on issues of concern, the science-policy interface. However, discussions centred on the definition of an issue of concern and the criteria for adopting issues. Though progress was slow. In terms of the science-policy interface most participants are currently waiting for the results of the UNEP study which should be available in time for IP4.

**Finance:** The finance segment saw developing and developed countries clashing over the need for a new private sector funded fund for chemicals and waste. There was also recognition that the secretariat is in need of more sustainable funding so options for how this will need to be done was explored.

The [papers](http://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/ThirdIntersessionalmeeting/tabid/8024/language/en-US/Default.aspx) and [outcome documents](http://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/ThirdIntersessionalmeeting/Insessiondocuments/tabid/8141/language/en-US/Default.aspx) are all on the SAICM website.

A fuller report on the meeting is available in the [Earth Negotiations Bulletin](http://enb.iisd.org/vol15/enb15270e.html).