

# Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020

Engaging Stakeholders in Preparing the Canadian Position for the fourth meeting of the Beyond 2020 Intersessional Process

February 13, 2020

# Objective of Today's Presentation:

- To provide an update on the ongoing process to develop recommendations for a way forward on the global sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (after SAICM sunsets).
- To provide stakeholders an opportunity to express their points of view to inform the Canadian position.

# SAICM OVERVIEW – a Voluntary Global Policy Framework

- SAICM is designed to support the goal established by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002:
  - “to ensure that, by 2020, chemicals will be produced and used in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on the environment and human health using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach”
- SAICM is distinguished by its:
  - overarching voluntary initiative to which domestic, regional and other multilateral efforts contribute
  - multi-stakeholder/multi-sectoral character
  - comprehensive scope – all chemicals at every stage of their life-cycle and emphasis on chemical safety as a sustainable development issue
  - endorsement at the highest political levels
  - Identification and collaboration on global chemicals management issues

# SAICM OVERVIEW

- **The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) is the governing body of SAICM** – a global, multi-stakeholder, voluntary forum;
  - decision-making is limited to government officials; however, it is a broad consensus-building forum that provides other stakeholders the opportunity to provide advice and guidance.
  - One of the functions of ICCM is to call for action on “**emerging policy issues**” (EPIs) and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action. Current EPIs include:
    - Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint
    - Chemicals in Products
    - Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products
    - Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials
    - Endocrine-disrupting chemicals
    - Pharmaceuticals in the environment
    - \*Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives and \*Highly Hazardous Pesticides emerged as issues of concern though they are not designated as official EPIs.

# SAICM OVERVIEW

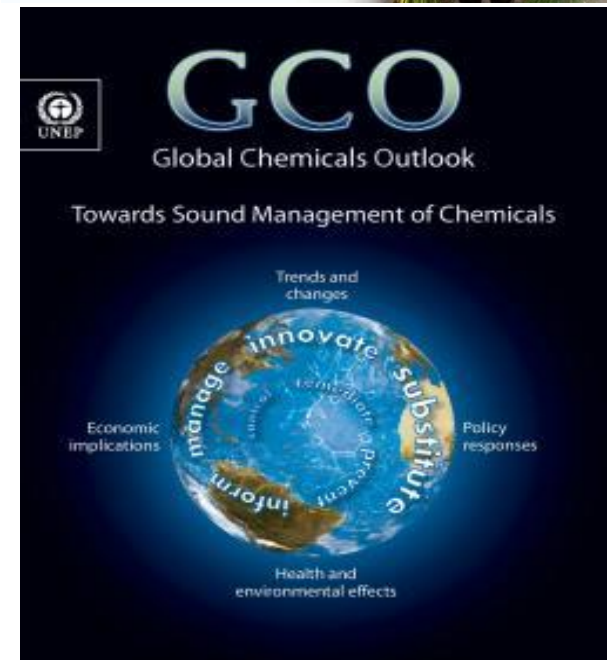
- **The Quick Start Programme (QSP)** – a time-limited, voluntary trust fund resulted in 184 approved projects over 10 years as a result of approximately US\$39.4 million in cash contributions to the Trust Fund and US\$9.7 million in cash and/or in-kind contributions.
- **The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)**
  - Established as an international coordinating group to promote sound management of chemicals. The objective of the IOMC is to strengthen international cooperation in the field of chemicals management and to increase participating organisations chemicals management effectiveness.
  - Participating organizations (PO) include FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank, and OECD. While UNEP has overall administrative responsibility for and hosts the SAICM Secretariat, all IOMC organizations participate in SAICM.

# Intersessional Process

- The Intersessional process was established at ICCM4 in resolution IV/4, along with a requirement for an independent evaluation.
- The purpose of the process is to develop recommendations for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The recommendations will be presented to ICCM5 in October 2020.
- To date discussions at the intersessional process have centred on:
  - Visions, scope and principles and approaches
  - Strategic objectives and targets
  - Governance and financial considerations
  - Criteria for selecting issues of concern, capacity building, and updating the mechanism, among others
  - The need for a science-policy interface
- We expect these conversations to continue for the next meeting.

# Global Chemicals Outlook II (GCO-II) report

- Flagship UNEP report
- Highlights current status and global trends related to chemicals
- Published in April 2019
  - Represents second edition
  - GCO-I published in 2013
- Canada was a Steering Committee member
- Canada's contributions in recent advances in chemicals management was well featured
- Canada is well recognized as a world leader in chemicals management



# Beyond 2020 – Global Context

Global Chemicals Outlook II – The global context is changing:

- Rapid growth in chemicals production and use in developing countries and economies in transition, with many lacking adequate chemicals management

Figure 4 Projected growth in world chemical sales (excluding pharmaceuticals), 2017-2030 (adapted from European Chemical Industry Council 2018, p. 34)

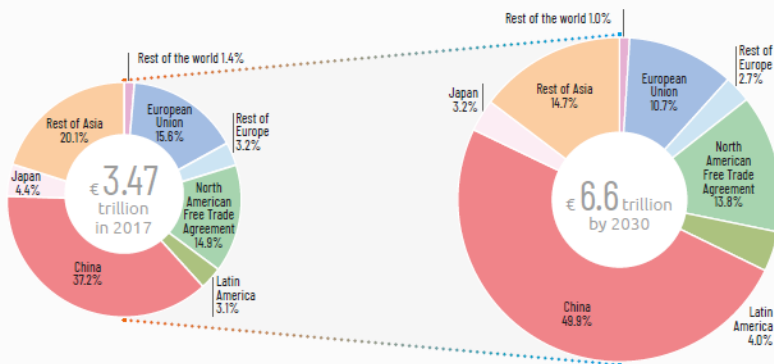
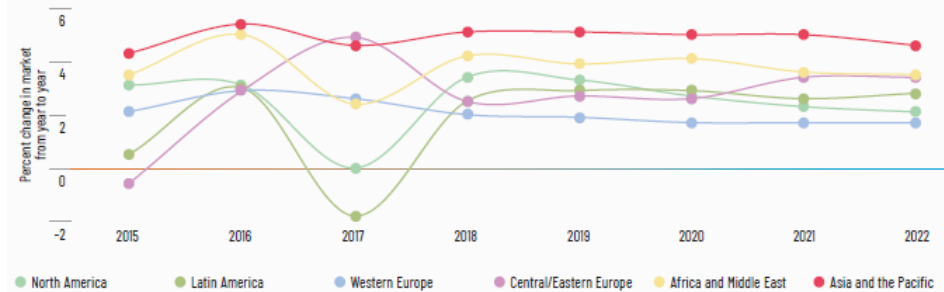
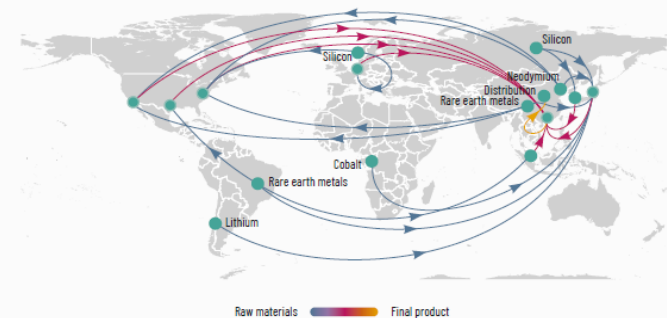


Figure 5 Projection of annual production growth in the chemical industry by region, 2015-2022 (per cent change per year) (adapted from American Chemistry Council 2017)



- Globalization and increased complexity of supply chains
- Projected doubling of the global chemicals market between 2017 and 2030

Figure 9 The complexity of global supply chains: the case of an electronic product (adapted from Sourcemap 2012)





# Why is Canada involved in SAICM?

Interdependency of domestic and global action:

- As a northern country who largely imports products from other regions, the trends highlighted in GCO-II are particularly important.
- Chemicals enter Canada through long-range environmental transport and in imported products.
- Domestic efforts alone aren't enough to protect Canadians and the environment from the production, use and trade in harmful chemicals abroad.
- Promoting stronger chemicals management globally and with other countries protects Canadians and the environment

**Our goal is to strengthen protections for Canada while also advancing sound management of chemicals and waste around the world**

# What is Canada's role in SAICM?

- Canada contributes to SAICM on three fronts:
  1. Domestically through delivery of Chemicals Management Plan;
  2. Regionally (within the Americas) and bilaterally (e.g. with the US, Australia, EU, Brazil), and
  3. Internationally through participation in various SAICM meetings and emerging issue activities, responding to requests for information; active participation in other multilateral chemical initiatives (e.g. OECD, WHO), and through work under Conventions (i.e. Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata)
- Many federal departments work together on SAICM issues, including:
  - Environment and Climate Change Canada
  - Global Affairs Canada
  - Employment and Social Development Canada's Labour Program
  - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  - Pest Management Regulatory Agency
  - Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
  - Natural Resources Canada



**Pest Control Products Act**  
Registration and re-evaluation (15yrs) of pesticides




**Food and Drugs Act (Foods)**  
Policies, standards and info on food safety (packaging, contaminants, additives)



**Hazardous Products Act, Canada Consumer Product Safety Act**  
Research/risk assessment and risk management of safety hazards of consumer products

**Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999**

Risk assessment and risk management of existing chemicals and new chemicals to Canada since 1994



**Food and Drugs Act (Health products)**  
Access to safe and effective drugs and health products



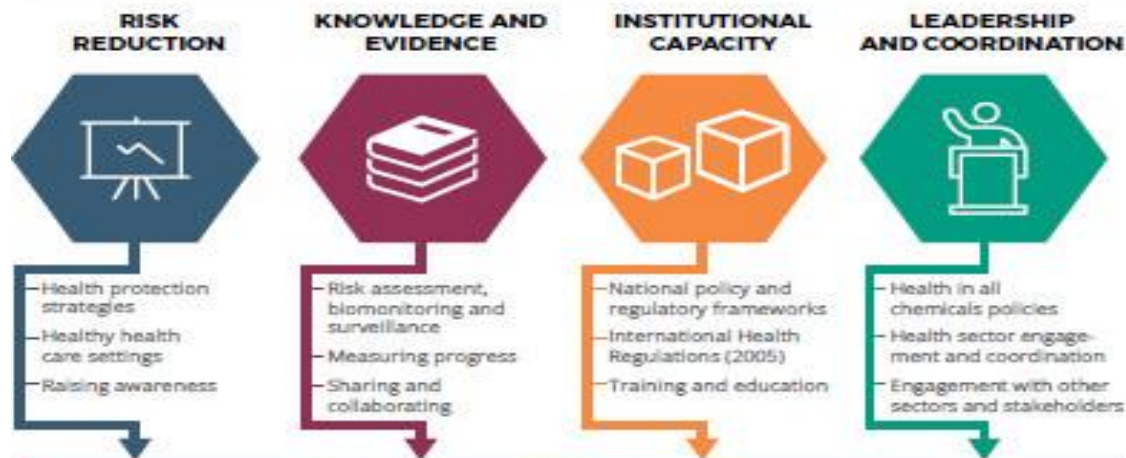
**Fisheries Act**  
Protection of fish habitat essential to sustaining other species

# What is Health Canada's role in SAICM?

- Canada's SAICM National Focal Point (NFP), whose role is to coordinate with other government departments, and engage civil society and other stakeholders, in the development of Canadian positions on SAICM issues
- Regional Focal Point for Western Europe and Other Countries Group (WEOG) – Canada attends bureau meetings, coordinates, collects and disseminates information for WEOG
- David Morin, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Canada is Co-chair of the beyond 2020 intersessional process
- Health Canada led the development and successful adoption of World Health Assembly Resolution WHA 69.4 (May 2016) to promote strengthened engagement of the health sector in SAICM
- Health Canada subsequently supported WHO to develop the WHO Chemicals Road Map requested by WHA 69.4 and approved by WHA in 2017 which has been well received by the global community

# Road map to enhance health sector engagement in the strategic approach to international chemicals management towards the 2020 goal and beyond

## ACTION AREAS



### Overall objective of the Strategic Approach

To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

### 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Achieving the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle is a cross-cutting issue that will contribute to achieving many, if not all, 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The targets below are only those that specifically mention chemicals.



#### Goal 3 Target 3.9

By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination



#### Goal 6 Target 6.3

By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally



#### Goal 12 Target 12.4

By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

# SAICM Independent Evaluation: Results

## Strengths:

- Unique in ambition as an inclusive, multi-stakeholder, multi-sector voluntary and flexible global policy framework; stakeholder groups reported increased cooperation, coordination and trust
- QSP supported inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination committees at national level
- identification and actions taken on the emerging policy issues
  - 'Lead in paint' is regarded as having had the greatest impact on health and environment of all EPIs. As a result of the work under this EPI under the lead of UNEP and WHO, by 2015, a significant number of governments had put legally binding restrictions in place or committed to do so regarding lead in paint.
  - Success in other EPI initiatives centred on: stakeholder mapping exercises and sector-specific case studies; awareness-raising workshops and expert meetings; development of on-line tools and web-based portals; establishment of stakeholder groups and informal networks; report production.



# SAICM Independent Evaluation: Results

## Weaknesses:

- Under-funding of SAICM, including the Secretariat, underlying many of the weaknesses of the SAICM process
- The SAICM model rests on one government national focal point (NFP) per country. With at least 80% of NFPs based in ministries of environment, and few in ministries of health, agriculture and foreign affairs, this does not reflect the multisectoral nature of SAICM
- Many countries still need basic legislation for managing chemicals
- Little progress in addressing the issue of illegal international traffic
- The degree of progress made has not been uniform across the EPIs and there is no common means to measure progress
- The current indicators are not sufficient for assessing progress in achieving the 2020 goal. Indicators that measure the impacts on health and environment from SAICM-related activities are absent

# Desirable Elements Identified for Beyond 2020 Program

- Increased awareness, funding and action on sound management of chemicals and waste by all sectors, all stakeholders and at all levels
- Supporting the development of national and regional chemicals management systems, which reflect national situations, capacities and priorities
- Sharing information, knowledge and expertise and further enhancing multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder cooperation
- Identifying new and emerging issues, risks and collaborating to address them
- Harnessing innovation and moving toward a more circular economy
- Establishing a strong implementation plan for achieving concrete objectives with clear targets that reflect the needs and priorities of countries at all different stages of development and that can be tailored for progress based on national situations
- Better coordination with other international agreements (MEAs, IHR, ILO Conventions, etc.) and strengthened role of international organisations with a role in chemicals (WHO, FAO, OECD, UNEP, ILO, UNDP, UNITAR)



# Next Steps

## Upcoming meetings

- Fourth IP meeting – March 23–27, Bucharest, Romania
  - Regional meetings, August–September
  - ICCM5, October 5–9, Bonn, Germany
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- Ongoing engagement with Canadian stakeholders for intersessional process and for ICCM5
  - *We are still in the process of developing Canadian positions on specific issues, and look forward to hearing any views your put forward*

# USEFUL LINKS

Canada's Chemicals Management Plan:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/chemicals-management-plan.html>

SAICM: <http://www.saicm.org/>

IOMC: <https://www.who.int/iomc/en/>

Global Chemicals Outlook II:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/global-chemicals-outlook-ii-legacies-innovative-solutions>

WHO Chemicals Roadmap: <https://www.who.int/ipcs/roadmap/en/>

# ANNEX A: Global Chemicals Outlook II

- Develop effective management systems: Address prevailing capacity gaps across countries, strengthen national and regional legislation using a life cycle approach, and further strengthen institutions and programmes.
- Mobilize resources: Scale up adequate resources and innovative financing for effective legislation, implementation and enforcement, particularly in developing countries and economies in transition.
- Assess and communicate hazards: Fill global data and knowledge gaps, and enhance international collaboration to advance chemical hazard assessments, classifications and communication.
- Assess and manage risks: Refine and share chemical risk assessment and risk management approaches globally, in order to promote safe and sustainable use of chemicals throughout their life cycle.
- Use life cycle approaches: Advance widespread implementation of sustainable supply chain management, full material disclosure, transparency and sustainable product design.
- Strengthen corporate governance: Enable and strengthen the chemicals and waste management aspects of corporate sustainability policies, sustainable business models, and reporting.
- Educate and innovate: Integrate green and sustainable chemistry in education, research, and innovation policies and programmes.
- Foster transparency: Empower workers, consumers and citizens to protect themselves and the environment.
- Bring knowledge to decision-makers: Strengthen the science-policy interface and the use of science in monitoring progress, priority-setting, and policy-making throughout the life cycle of chemicals and waste.
- Enhance global commitment: Establish an ambitious and comprehensive global framework for chemicals and waste beyond 2020, scale up collaborative action, and track progress.