

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
JOINT MEETING OF THE CHEMICALS COMMITTEE AND
THE WORKING PARTY ON CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**SAICM: FOLLOW-UP FROM ICCM4 AND IMPLICATIONS FOR OECD WORK, ESPECIALLY ON
EMERGING POLICY ISSUES AND OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN**

**54th Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals,
Pesticides and Biotechnology**

**9-11 February 2016, at the OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André Pascal, Paris,
beginning at 9h30 on 9 February**

Mr. Bob DIDERICH

Tel: +33 (0) 1 45 24 14 85; Email: bob.diderich@oecd.org

JT03388618

Complete document available on OLIS in its original format

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.



This document outlines the outcome of the fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management, in particular for the Emerging Policy Issues and other issues of concern that are relevant for work at the OECD and proposes follow-up actions.

ACTION REQUIRED:

The Joint Meeting is invited to endorse the proposals outlined in this document, amended as appropriate.

Objectives of ICCM4

1. The fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management was held from 28 September to 2 October 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. The main objectives of the conference were to:

- focus the work of SAICM stakeholders towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management;
- review progress with existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, review proposals for new emerging policy issues and other issues of concern and decide upon next steps; and to
- elaborate an intersessional process for discussing the future of SAICM and the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020.

2. The OECD Secretariat attended ICCM4 and participated in the discussions, mainly as the chair of IOMC, but also to present the progress of work done at OECD to implement SAICM, and especially the Emerging Policy Issues and other issues of concern. In addition, the OECD Secretariat organised or participated in a number of side-events, as presented in Annex 1.

3. The outcome of the conference and the proposed follow-up work at the OECD is outlined below. The provisional report of the conference [see [ICCM.4/15](#)] is available on the SAICM website. here:

Achieving the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management

4. ICCM4 adopted a resolution endorsing an overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals [see [SAICM/ICCM.4/6](#)] as a voluntary tool that will assist in the prioritisation of efforts for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

5. The resolution contains a number of requests particularly relevant for the OECD. Table 1 below outlines those requests and the proposed actions or responses.

Table 1. Proposed OECD follow-up activities to requests from the ICCM4 Resolution "Implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal"

Resolution	Proposed follow-up activities
<p>Para 5 <i>Recognizes</i> the need to deepen and broaden United Nations system-wide engagement, invites the organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and of the United Nations Environment Management Group that have not already done so to issue, where possible by 1 July 2016, a declaration signalling their commitment to promote the importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste both within and outside their organizations, including the actions planned within their own mandates to meet the 2020 goal, and requests the Secretariat to make these declarations and planned actions available to all stakeholders;</p>	<p>A Resolution on the Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was already adopted by the OECD Council on 28 March 2008 and welcomed by Environment Ministers of OECD countries and major non-member economies at their meeting at OECD on the 28-29 April 2008.</p> <p>Actions proposed to implement the overall orientation and guidance are outlined in Annex 2.</p>
<p>Para 19 <i>Calls upon</i> the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and relevant conventions to enhance support to developing countries and countries with economies in</p>	<p>The OECD will continue to work towards explicit dissemination of OECD products related to chemicals management throughout their life-cycle and to make them as accessible, relevant and useful as possible for all</p>

transition to achieve the 2020 goal;	countries and other stakeholders. Work will be devoted to further development and refinement of the global portal to information on chemical substances, the eChemPortal. Other work will focus on capacity-development activities such as contributions to maintenance, further development, training and dissemination of the IOMC Toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management as well as the OECD Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit. Resources allowing, more focused engagement with a limited number of partner countries to help them set up their chemicals management system will be initiated in collaboration with IOMC partners [see ENV/JM(2016)17 for further details].
--------------------------------------	--

Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern

6. ICCM4 reviewed progress with the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern and adopted an omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues, as well as a separate resolution on highly hazardous pesticides, which was recognised as a new issue of concern. These resolutions call for action by a number of stakeholders, including the OECD. Proposals for follow-up actions are outlined below.

Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

7. ICCM4 welcomed the progress made by OECD and UNITAR and their proposed workplan outlined in [ICCM.4/INF/19](#) for the period of 2016-2020. The resolution contains a number of requests particularly relevant for the OECD. Table 2 below outlines those requests and the proposed follow-up actions.

Table 2. Proposed OECD follow-up activities to requests from the ICCM4 Resolution on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

Resolution	Proposed follow-up activities
Para 5 <i>Emphasizes</i> the need to continue facilitating the exchange of information on the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials throughout their life cycle, for example through an appropriate clearing house mechanism and regional networks.	The SAICM Secretariat has received resources to revive and maintain the SAICM Clearing House. The OECD will contribute its products to the Clearing House.
Para 6 <i>Emphasizes</i> the need for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to continue development of international guidance and training materials for the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials, drawing on existing initiatives, needs assessment and best practices, within their respective mandates and subject to available resources in cooperation with the regions and other relevant stakeholders.	The core activity of the OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials is to develop international guidance for the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials. OECD's contribution will consist of the deliverables of the OECD Programme on the safety of manufactured nanomaterials [see ENV/JM(2016)17]. The OECD will collaborate with UNITAR to ensure that the OECD products are taken into account for training and capacity building projects. Resources allowing, OECD will collaborate with UNITAR to organise capacity-building workshops in developing countries.

Endocrine Disruptors

8. ICCM4 welcomed the awareness-raising and information sharing work that UNEP, WHO and the OECD had done as part of the regional SAICM meetings, and outlined in [ICCM.4/INF/20](#) and invited those organisations to continue the work as proposed in this document (see also table below).

9. The ICCM4 resolution specifically acknowledged the work done by the OECD Advisory Group on Endocrine Disruptors Testing and Assessments. The resolution also contains a request particularly relevant for the OECD. Table 3 below outlines this request and the proposed follow-up actions.

Table 3. Proposed OECD follow-up activities to request from the ICCM4 Resolution on endocrine disrupting chemicals

Resolution	OECD follow-up activities
<p>Para 4 Invites the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to further develop and implement the plan of work for the cooperative actions in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, and request all interested stakeholders to provide support in these efforts.</p>	<p>The contribution of the OECD will focus on the development of Test Guidelines, in particular in areas not well covered for an efficient screening, e.g. in vitro methods for thyroid disruption. The OECD will also endeavour to publish case studies on cross-species extrapolation, and continue to keep its Test Guidelines and guidance documents up-to-date.</p> <p>Resources allowing, the OECD will participate in and contribute to international meetings, to address specific issues on EDCs.</p>

Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants

10. ICCM4 endorsed a new emerging policy issue on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants and agreed that information dissemination and awareness raising are particularly relevant and that improving the availability of and access to information on such chemicals is a priority.

11. ICCM4 decided to implement cooperative actions on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policy makers and other stakeholders. The resolution also contains a request particularly relevant for the OECD. Table 4 below outlines this request and the proposed follow-up actions.

Table 4. Proposed OECD follow-up activities to request from the ICCM4 Resolution on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants

Resolution	Proposed follow-up activities
<p>Para 6 Invites relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals within their respective mandates as part of their programmes of work, to lead and facilitate cooperative action and to develop a plan of work on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants in an open, transparent and inclusive manner.</p>	<p>UNEP, WHO and the FAO will lead the activity. A first draft of a plan of work will be prepared for discussion at the meeting of the IOMC in April 2016.</p> <p>In the short-term, the contribution from the OECD will be limited to a planned scoping study on emerging pollutants, which is to be carried out during 2016 [see ENV/JM(2014)31].</p>

Management of perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives

12. ICCM4 welcomed the progress made since ICCM3. As part of their progress report OECD and UNEP in particular announced the publication of a report on "Risk Reduction Approaches for PFASs - a Cross-Country Analysis" and a report on "Working Towards a Global Emission Inventory of PFASs: Focus on PFCAs - Status Quo and the Way Forward" [see <http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/new-reports-to-support-efforts-in-saicm-september-2015.htm>].

13. ICCM4 agreed with the proposed work plan submitted by UNEP and the OECD outlined in [ICCM.4/INF/21](#) [Note: this work plan was endorsed by the 53rd Joint Meeting in June 2015, see [ENV/JM\(2015\)8](#) and [ENV/JM/M\(2015\)1](#)]. ICCM4 in particular called upon the OECD/UNEP Global Perfluorinated Chemicals Group to also address the management of short-chained perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives. This request will be taken into account as part of the activities planned for 2017-2020. No separate resolution was adopted on this topic, however a request was made for the OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group and stakeholders to continue their work and to report to the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting and to the Conference at its fifth session.

Highly Hazardous Pesticides

14. ICCM4 recognised highly hazardous pesticides as an issue of concern and agreed that international cooperative action is necessary to reduce their risks on human health and the environment. The FAO, UNEP and WHO will develop the modalities for international cooperation in the context of IOMC. The OECD does not work on the subject of highly hazardous pesticides as these types of pesticides are either banned or subject to severe risk management measures in OECD countries. Nevertheless the OECD could contribute its work on Integrated Pest Management as an approach to reduce the risks from the use of these pesticides.

The Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

15. ICCM4 decided to initiate an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. This process is open to all stakeholders and the IOMC will coordinate the contribution and the participation of its Participating Organisations in the intersessional meetings. The first meeting will take place in 2016. The exact date is to be proposed by the Bureau of ICCM5.

16. OECD could organise a session on the future of SAICM and the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020 at the 55th Joint Meeting in November 2016 to allow OECD member and partner countries and other stakeholders to exchange ideas and to contribute to the intersessional process.

ANNEX 1: SIDE EVENTS

The OECD organised or was involved in many side-events over the week of the conference:

Side Event on Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials – UNITAR-OECD

The overall purpose of the side event was to review progress made in the field of nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials since the resolution adopted at the 3rd International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3). The OECD presented the outcomes of the work done at OECD to date stressing the certainties we have gained through our programme, the lessons learned from our work with emerging economies and in particularly the areas that we will be addressing in the next biennium.

Side event on perfluorinated chemicals

The OECD hosted a side event on perfluorinated chemicals. The event was well attended (~50 people) and feedback on the event was very positive. The speakers included the OECD, the German Federal Ministry of Environment, the Brazilian Ministry of Environment, the Fluorocouncil (chemical manufacturers) and the Outdoor Industry Association (downstream users and brand representatives). The panel gave a wide perspective on the challenges, successes, on-going research, risk assessment and remaining work and concerns regarding fluorinated chemicals and their alternatives.

Side event on Chemical Accident Prevention

The OECD organised and participated in a short (45 min) side event on Chemical Accidents prevention, preparedness and response together with the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, UNECE, UNEP and WHO. About 30 people participated in the event. It was clear from the presentations and discussions that this is a subject which is extremely relevant for developing countries. This is also a subject where the cooperation between IGOs is working very well. From the discussion, we learned that MERCOSUR is looking into regional cooperation on transboundary effects from chemical accidents and Brasil is very keen to push this topic.

Side event on fighting illegal trade of chemicals

The OECD organised a side-event on Fighting Illegal Traffic of Chemicals and Wastes. Although there was no time for discussion due to the short time slot that had been allocated to this event, the 40+ participants seemed to be interested by the topic as this was the first time a side-event on this topic had been organised within the framework of a SAICM meeting. There were case study presentations by Germany on their actions against illegal pesticides in the port of Hamburg and by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and Pacific on their activities in combating illegal traffic of chemicals and waste in the region. This was followed by presentations by IGOs on their activities: one by the OECD on the work by the Working Group on Pesticides, one by FAO on strengthening regulatory control of pesticides to help prevent illegal importation of pesticides and one by the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions Secretariat on preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Booth events on Endocrine Disruptors

On Tuesday 29 September, the IOMC organisations in charge of EDCs work (i.e. OECD, UNEP, WHO) hosted a presentation from the Endocrine Society, given by Professor Leo Trasande from New York University School of Medicine on cost of inaction, burden of diseases and disabilities in the European Union related to endocrine disrupting chemicals. He outlined the methodological approach to costing, the heterogeneous groups of chemicals investigated such as pesticides, phthalates and flame retardants, the impact measured on diseases such as diabetes/obesity, male reproductive health and neurodevelopmental disability. It was acknowledged by the speaker that these diseases are obviously multi-factorial; estimated costs in the EU are around 157 billion euros annually, but the study did not consider several female reproductive disorders, which will be the focus of future work.

As a conclusion, he said that policy instruments are key to limit population exposures to those chemicals and are likely to produce economic benefits in the future.

The talk was attended by a large audience for a booth event (25-30 people).

On Wednesday 30 September, the IOMC organisations hosted a talk from ICCA, delivered by Dr. Sue Marty. She presented the US Endocrine Disrupter Screening Programme and current testing of a few dozen chemicals prioritised for their occurrence in water. The US has the only regulatory programme in the world undertaking prospective testing, using most of the recently adopted endocrine-specific OECD Test Guidelines. Dr Marty explained that industry had to perform a screening battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests. The US EPA then applied a weight-of-evidence analysis of the data to determine chemicals that required more definitive testing to identify endocrine disrupters.

She explained that in the issue of endocrine disruption, timing and duration of exposure matter, potency of the responses and effects also matters. She concluded by stating that risk assessment is the best approach to deal with endocrine disrupting chemicals. Her presentation was also well-attended. She got comments from the Endocrine Society affirming that the size of the groups in animal experiments is too low to detect sensitively a response when manifested.

Again about 25-30 people attended this event.

Booth events on the IOMC Toolbox for Decision-Making in Chemicals Management

The OECD participated in two in-booth events/presentations organized by UNITAR regarding the IOMC Toolbox for Decision-Making in Chemicals Management. Due to the location of the booths and the overlapping activities of the conference, these events were less well attended, but one presentation drew more than 20 people. The promotion video of the IOMC Toolbox (available on YouTube, see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQUGl5hD_BY) played throughout the conference at the IOMC booth and promotional material was distributed.

Booth event on IT solutions for data generation and management for chemicals

In collaboration with ECHA the OECD organised a booth event on IT solutions for data generation and management systems for chemicals. After an introduction of the different IT solutions that are available, attendees were invited to identify their needs to regulate chemicals and the IT systems they are currently using or wish to use for this purpose. Unfortunately, because of several negotiation groups going on in parallel, only a few delegates were able to attend this booth event. Based on the input received, the participants were most interested to be informed on how to use eChemportal to find the most regulatory relevant information on chemical hazards or risks.

**ANNEX 2: OECD'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IOMC ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT
THE OVERALL ORIENTATION AND GUIDANCE**

Core activity areas for implementing the objectives set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy	Current and planned OECD activities contributing	Basic elements for sound management of chemicals
Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement	There is currently no specific activity on-going at the OECD. Many relevant stakeholders already participate in the OECD work on chemical safety.	all
Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation	The OECD Council Acts related to chemical safety form a comprehensive legal framework that addresses the life cycle of chemicals. Activities to ensure the continued relevance of these acts are on-going.	all
Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour and social and economic development planning, processes, and budgets	As part of the OECD Chemicals Committee's vision for contributing to the OECD Development strategy, it is planned to raise awareness about the chemical safety issue at the OECD Development Assistance Committee.	all
Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements and work areas, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies	<p>The OECD continuously identifies emerging policy issues and sets up cooperative programmes for countries to address these issues. Current and future activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of Test Guidelines and guidance for identifying endocrine disruptors [the detailed action plan is outlined in SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/20]; • development of Test Guidelines and guidance for assessing the risks of manufactured nanomaterials for human health and the environment [the detailed action plan is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals and waste • National, subregional and regional enforcement and compliance mechanisms • Implementation of relevant international conventions • Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among relevant

Core activity areas for implementing the objectives set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy	Current and planned OECD activities contributing	Basic elements for sound management of chemicals
	<p>outlined in SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/19;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information exchange on alternatives to perfluorinated chemicals [the detailed action plan is outlined in SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/21]; • promotion of integrated pest management as a means for risk reduction; • development of best practices in the fight against illegal trade of pesticides; • piloting of the feasibility of establishing a global list of classifications according to the GHS; • development of methodologies to assess the risks of chemicals to children; • development of methodologies to assess the risks from the combined exposure to multiple chemicals; • development of guidance to prevent chemical accidents due to ageing as well as changes in ownership of high-hazard installations. 	<p>stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection and systems for the sharing of data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life-cycle approach • Industry participation and responsibility, including cost recovery policies and systems as well as the incorporation of sound chemicals management into corporate policies and practices • Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals • Chemicals risk assessment through the use of best practices; • Strengthened capacity to deal with chemicals accidents, including poisoning;
Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society	<p>The OECD contributes to the development of the IOMC Toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management, which provides easy access to tools that enable countries to address specific national problems related to chemicals management, including setting up legal frameworks.</p> <p>OECD's eChemPortal provides easy access to information on the properties of chemicals as well as existing hazard and risk assessments as well as</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals and waste • Implementation of relevant international conventions • Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among relevant

Core activity areas for implementing the objectives set out in the Overarching Policy Strategy	Current and planned OECD activities contributing	Basic elements for sound management of chemicals
	<p>GHS classifications elaborated by countries for their chemicals management programme. The OECD will continue to populate and develop eChemPortal.</p> <p>OECD's Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit provides easy access to tools to assess the risks of chemicals which may be covered by international conventions. The toolkit will continue to be updated.</p> <p>The OECD is maintaining the Centre for PRTR Data which gives easy access to PRTR data from OECD countries at one location.</p> <p>The OECD Substitution and Alternatives Assessment Toolbox provides access to tools and information to inform substitution and the conduct of alternatives assessment. This toolbox will continue to be populated.</p> <p>The OECD gives access to pesticide risk reduction and sustainable pest management information through dedicated OECD websites on reducing spray drift, managing risk for pollinators and the Integrated Pest Management Hub.</p> <p>All OECD tools relative to chemical safety are available free of charge [see www.oecd.org/ehs].</p>	<p>stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection and systems for the sharing of data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life-cycle approach • Industry participation and responsibility, including cost recovery policies and systems as well as the incorporation of sound chemicals management into corporate policies and practices • Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals • Chemicals risk assessment through the use of best practices; • Strengthened capacity to deal with chemicals accidents, including poisoning;
Assess progress towards the 2020 goal of minimising the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation and prioritizing actions for achievement by 2020	<p>As part of OECD's Environmental Performance Reports, countries can chose to have their chemicals management system evaluated. Recent evaluations concern Austria (2013) and Colombia (2014)</p> <p>The OECD will initiate work on information exchange of methodologies for evaluating the performance of chemicals management schemes.</p>	all