Session 7: Linking sustainable chemistry to the 2020 goal - How to get there?

Breakout Group: Policy

Dr Vassilios Karavezyris

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Starting points

- Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
- Sustainable Development Goals
- United Nations Environment Assembly
- Conventions
- IOMC
- …

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SAICM is

- voluntary
- multi-stakeholder
- multi-sectoral

SAICM ends at 2020

Stakeholders and sectors cooperate by

- Global Plan of Action
- Emerging Policy Issues (e.g. chemicals in products)

Session 7: Linking sustainable chemistry to the 2020 – How to get there? SAICM mandate

Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management (2006)
We are determined to realize **the benefits of chemistry, including green chemistry**, for improved standards of living, public health and protection of the environment, and are resolved to continue working together to promote the safe production and use of chemicals

Objective of SAICM, Overarching Policy Strategy of SAICM (2006)
The overall objective of the Strategic Approach is 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. The objective will be achieved, among other ways, through the implementation of activities set out in the Global Plan of Action.

Session 7: Linking sustainable chemistry to the 2020 goal – How to get there? SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance: overview

1. **Legal frameworks** that address the life cycle of chemicals and waste;
2. Relevant **enforcement** and compliance mechanisms;
3. Implementation of chemicals and waste-related **multilateral environmental agreements**, as well as health, labour and other relevant conventions and voluntary mechanisms;
4. Strong **institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms** among relevant stakeholders;
5. Implementation of the **GHS**
6. Industry participation, e.g. through including incorporation of sound chemicals management into **corporate policies and practices**;
7. **Mainstreaming**: Inclusion of the sound management of chemicals and waste in national health, labour, social, environment and economic budgeting processes and development plans;
8. Chemicals risk assessment and risk reduction through the **use of best practices**;
9. Strengthened **capacity to deal with chemicals accidents**, including institutional-strengthening for poison centres;
10. **Monitoring and assessing the impacts** of chemicals on health and the environment;
11. Development and promotion of environmentally sound and **safer alternatives**.

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Activity 11. Development and promotion of environmentally sound and **safer alternatives.**

- **How sustainable chemistry be mainstreamed in SAICM (or a framework beyond 2020)?**
  - **Sectors (health, environment, industry, agriculture, education, …)?**
  - **Stakeholders (down stream users, retailers, consumers, …)?**
  - **Activities (training, campaigns, flagship initiatives, pilot projects, …)?**

Session 7: Linking sustainable chemistry to the 2020 – How to get there? Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

[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.

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

[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.

- **How can sustainable chemistry contribute to these goals?**

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Vision in Annex to UNEA resolution 1/5, Chemicals and waste

To achieve the sound management of **chemicals throughout their life cycle** and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable developement.

Basic elements to be addressed

Industry has a special responsibility, as designer, producer and user of chemicals and products, and should apply **sustainable chemistry**, recognizing the ongoing efforts being undertaken in this regard.

- **How can industry promote sustainable chemistry in the long term?**

Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit

Umwelt Bundesamt

GC3 GREEN CHEMISTRY & COMMERCE COUNCIL

ChemicalWatch GLOBAL RISK & REGULATION NEWS

DBU Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt

Sustainable Chemistry: OECD Definition

"Sustainable chemistry … seeks to improve the efficiency with which natural resources are used to meet human needs for chemical products and services. Sustainable chemistry encompasses the design, manufacture and use of efficient, effective, safe and more environmentally benign chemical products and processes.

"Sustainable chemistry is also a process that stimulates innovation across all sectors to design and discover new chemicals, production processes, and product stewardship practices that will provide increased performance and increased value while meeting the goals of protecting and enhancing human health and the environment."

OECD website, 2015