



# United Nations Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and Beyond: The Need for a Strengthened Science-Policy Interface

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# Outline

- Introduction to SAICM
- Intersessional Process & Science-Policy Interface Discussion
- Understanding the Science-Policy Interface
- Options for Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface
- Acknowledgement

# What is SAICM?

- **A voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral policy framework** since 2006, consisting of
  - **Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management**
    - high-level political commitment to SAICM
  - **Overarching Policy Strategy**
    - scope, needs, objectives, financial considerations, underlying principles and approaches, and implementation and review arrangements
  - **Global Plan of Action**
    - a working tool and guidance document to support implementation of SAICM and other relevant international instruments and initiatives
    - 36 work areas, nearly 300 activities

# The Objectives of SAICM

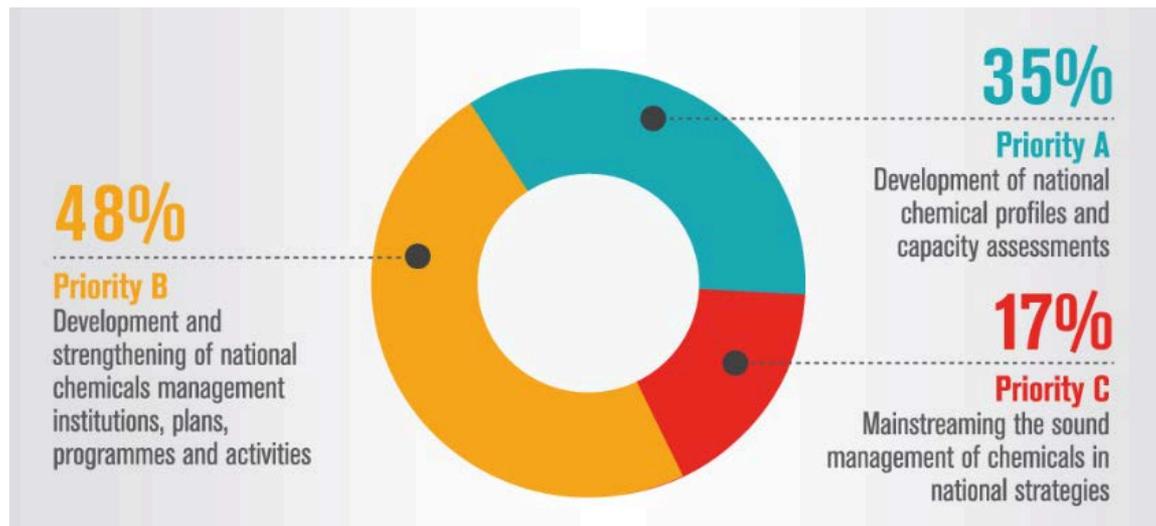
- **Overall objective:** to achieve **the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle** so that **by the year 2020**, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health
  - risk reduction
  - knowledge and information
  - governance
  - capacity-building and technical cooperation
  - illegal international trade

[http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/saicmtxts/New%20SAICM%20Text%20with%20ICCM%20resolutions\\_E.pdf](http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/saicmtxts/New%20SAICM%20Text%20with%20ICCM%20resolutions_E.pdf)

# The Implementation of SAICM (1)

- **Quick Start Programme (QSP)**

- to support initial enabling capacity building and implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition
- 184 projects approved for funding valued at close to USD 37 mio.



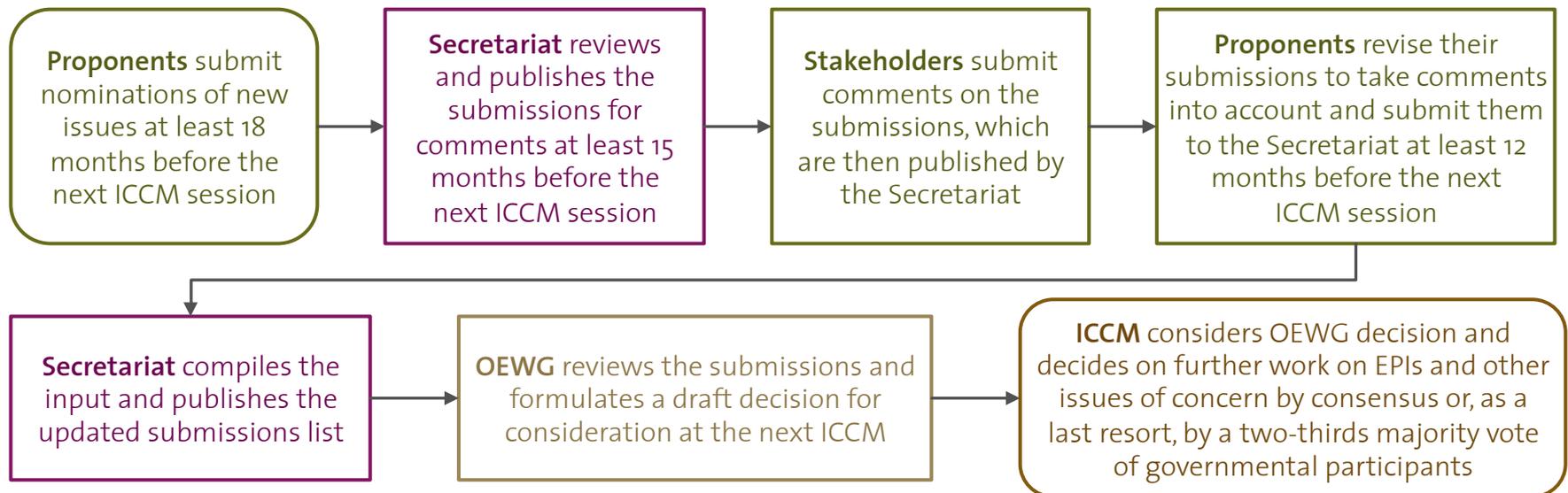
<http://www.saicm.org/QuickStartProgramme/Projects/tabid/5470/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

## The Implementation of SAICM (2)

- **Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and Issues of Concern (IOCs)**

→ OPS, Para. 24: call for appropriate action on EPIs as they arise and forge consensus on priorities for cooperative actions

→ ICCM Resolution II/4: set out the modalities



# The Implementation of SAICM (2)

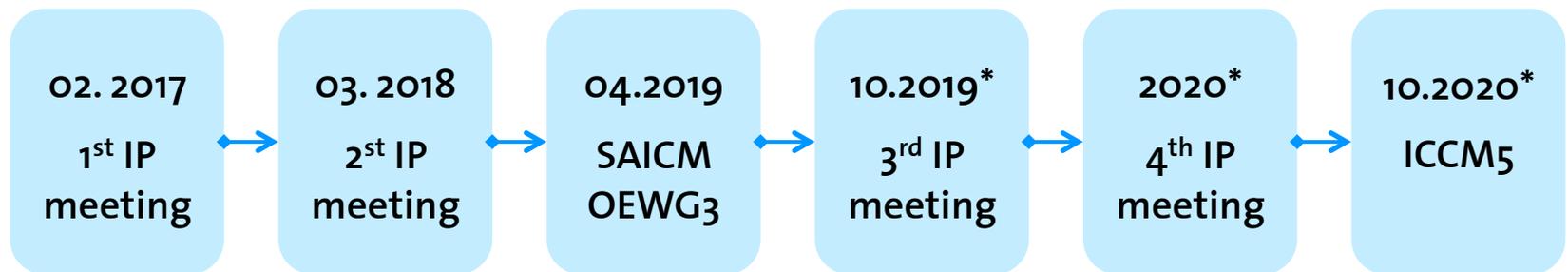
- Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and Issues of Concern (IOCs)



<http://www.saicm.org/Implementation/EmergingPolicyIssues/tabid/5524/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

# Ongoing Intersessional Process

- SAICM is going to end in 2020.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2015 initiated an intersessional process to prepare **recommendations regarding SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.**



\* Dates to be confirmed

# Ongoing Intersessional Process

- The following elements of the Beyond 2020 framework have been discussed during the intersessional process:
  - Vision
  - Policy principles
  - Objectives and milestones
  - Implementation: National implementation; financing; emerging policy issues
  - Governance: Stakeholder & sectoral engagement; enabling framework; science-policy interface

<http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP2/Final%20Cohost%20consolidated%20document%20830.docx>

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# The Roles of Science in SAICM Objectives

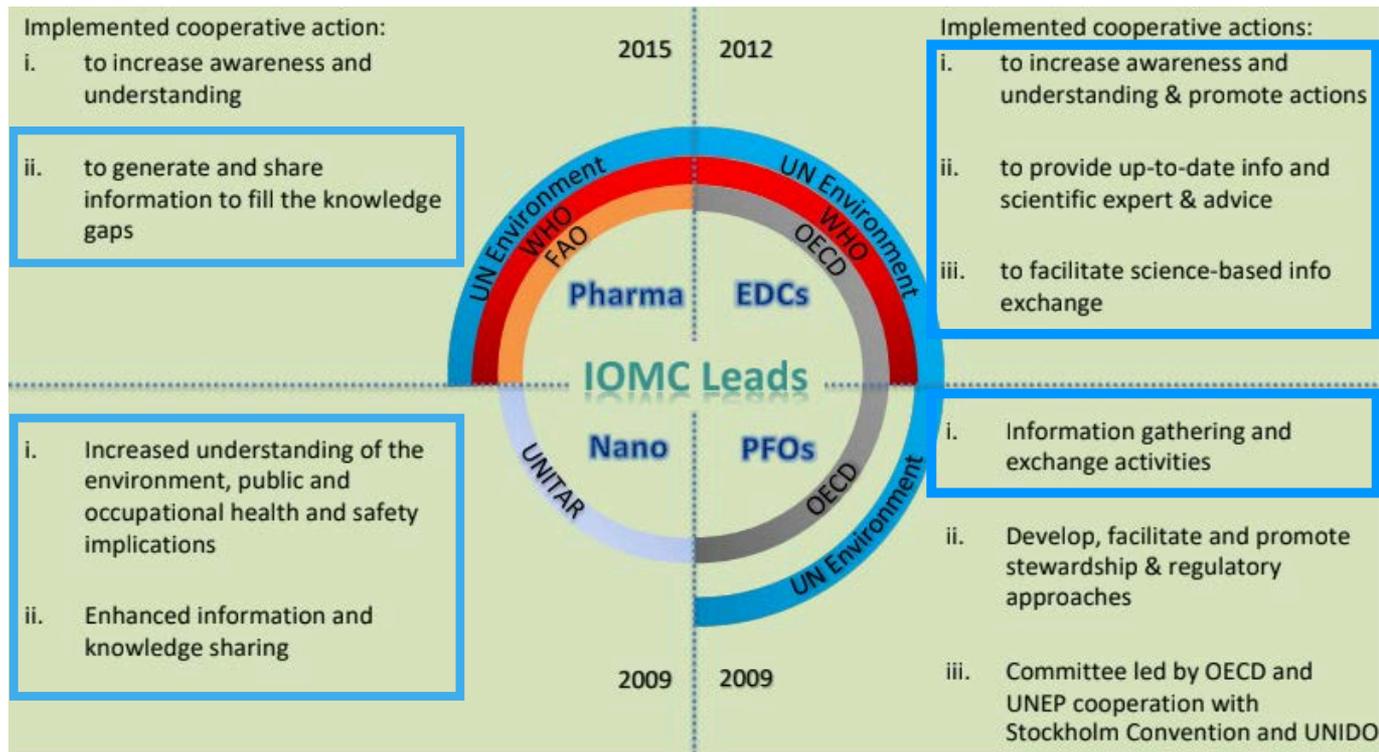
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<b>Risk Reduction</b>	Para 14c: to implement transparent, comprehensive, efficient and effective risk management strategies based on appropriate <b>scientific understanding</b> ... and appropriate <b>social and economic analysis</b> aimed at pollution prevention, risk reduction and risk elimination ... to prevent unsafe and unnecessary exposures to chemicals;
<b>Knowledge and Information</b>	<p>Para 15d: to make objective <b>scientific information</b> available for appropriate integration into risk assessments and associated decision-making relating to chemical policy;</p> <p>Para 15e: to ensure that <b>science-based standards, risk assessment and management procedures</b> and the results of hazard and risk assessments are available to all actors;</p> <p>Para 15f: to make objective <b>scientific methods and information</b> available to assess the effects of chemicals on people and the environment, particularly through the development and use of indicators;</p> <p>Para 15g: to accelerate the pace of <b>scientific research</b> on identifying and assessing the effects of chemicals on human beings and the environment, including emerging issues, and to ensure that research and development are undertaken in relation to chemical control technologies, development of safer chemicals and cleaner technologies and non-chemical alternatives and technologies.</p>
<b>Capacity-building and technical cooperation</b>	Para 18g: to encourage stakeholders to develop and promote programmes on chemical safety and <b>scientific research and analysis</b> and to assist with capacity-building programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

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# In Practice

- Science is currently not institutionalized under SAICM.
- Scientists are primarily engaged after an EPI/IOC is identified.



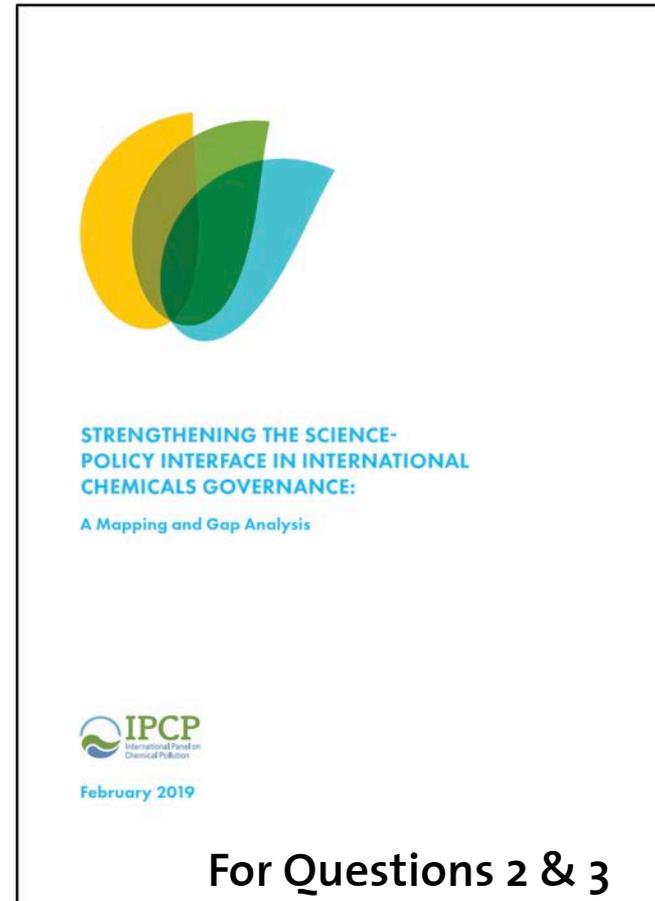
# Current Understanding at the Intersessional Process

- “Many participants **stressed** the need **to integrate science in the Beyond 2020 framework** and **to increase the science-policy interface and engage academia** in activities related to sound management of chemicals and waste.”
  - The “need for two-way dialogue, in particular at the national level, between the scien[tifi] community and policy-makers as well as awareness raising amongst scientists”.
  - A common understanding that all efforts, e.g. those under the existing MEAs and by IGOs should not be duplicated.
  - Funds available for science-policy interface functions may be limited.

# Key Questions to be Answered before Going Further

- What are the **desired objectives and functions** of a strong, two-way science-policy interface (SPI) on Chemicals and Waste?
- How and to what extent are these objectives and functions fulfilled by existing interface bodies/processes? Based on this, what are the **major gaps**?
- What are possible **options** to address these gaps?

# Recent Initiatives to Answer These Questions



<https://www.ipcp.ch/activities/strengthening-the-science-policy-interface-in-international-chemicals-governance>

# The Desired Objectives of an Ideal SPI

- To provide rigorous, authoritative **scientific assessments** and translate the results into a **policy-ready** format;
- To **raise awareness** among policy-makers and the public;
- To increase **governmental ownership and stakeholder buy-in** through early involvement in the development;
- To **enable scientists** to effectively participate in policy processes;
- To provide stakeholders/governments **a reference point** for locating and gaining access to specific knowledge/information;
- To **raise the profile of and demand** for relevant disciplines at universities;
- To build and communicate **scientific consensus** on specific issues

<https://www.ipcp.ch/activities/strengthening-the-science-policy-interface-in-international-chemicals-governance>

# Current Gaps and Challenges – Scope and Functions

- **Continuing challenges in**

- collecting, assessing, synthesizing and translating much existing scientific information into a policy-ready form;

- ensuring timely scientific advice to policy-makers on issues of concern;

- **A general lack of**

- scientific and technical support to policy-makers in monitoring and evaluation of progress in the implementation of policy measures;

- effective communication of policy-makers' needs back to academics;

- effective communication of outputs generated by many international interface bodies to national policy-makers, particularly those in developing and transition countries;

<https://www.ipcp.ch/activities/strengthening-the-science-policy-interface-in-international-chemicals-governance>

# Current Gaps and Challenges – Coordination

- **A general lack of**

coordination across all interface bodies to allow for basic exchanges of information and cooperative efforts, and to avoid duplication of work;

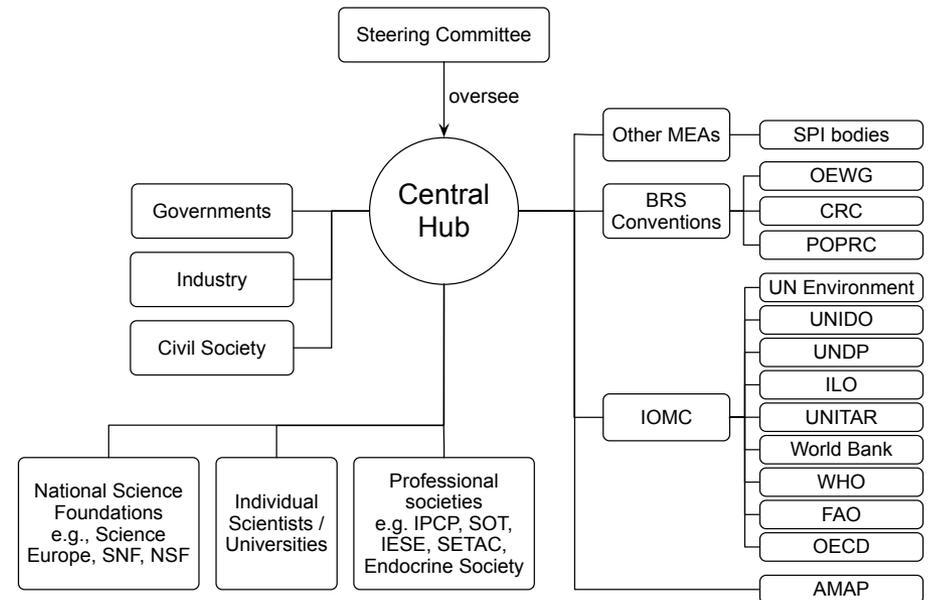
processes to ensure the effective inclusion and integration of scientific knowledge from different sources, sectors, disciplines and types (e.g., local and indigenous knowledge);

effective communication and use of existing knowledge, data and tools generated by existing interface bodies

<https://www.ipcp.ch/activities/strengthening-the-science-policy-interface-in-international-chemicals-governance>

# Options for Strengthening the SPI

- **Option 1:** Establishing an IPCC/IPBES-like **intergovernmental mechanism**
- **Option 2:** Establish a **“network-of-networks”** to connect existing interface bodies and others
- **Option 3:** Expand the activities of the **IOMC organizations** (e.g. GCO, GWMO, etc.)



**Form follows function!!**  
**No one size fits all!!**

<https://www.ipcc.ch/activities/strengthening-the-science-policy-interface-in-international-chemicals-governance>

# Acknowledgement

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# Thank you for your attention!

