IOMC

INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

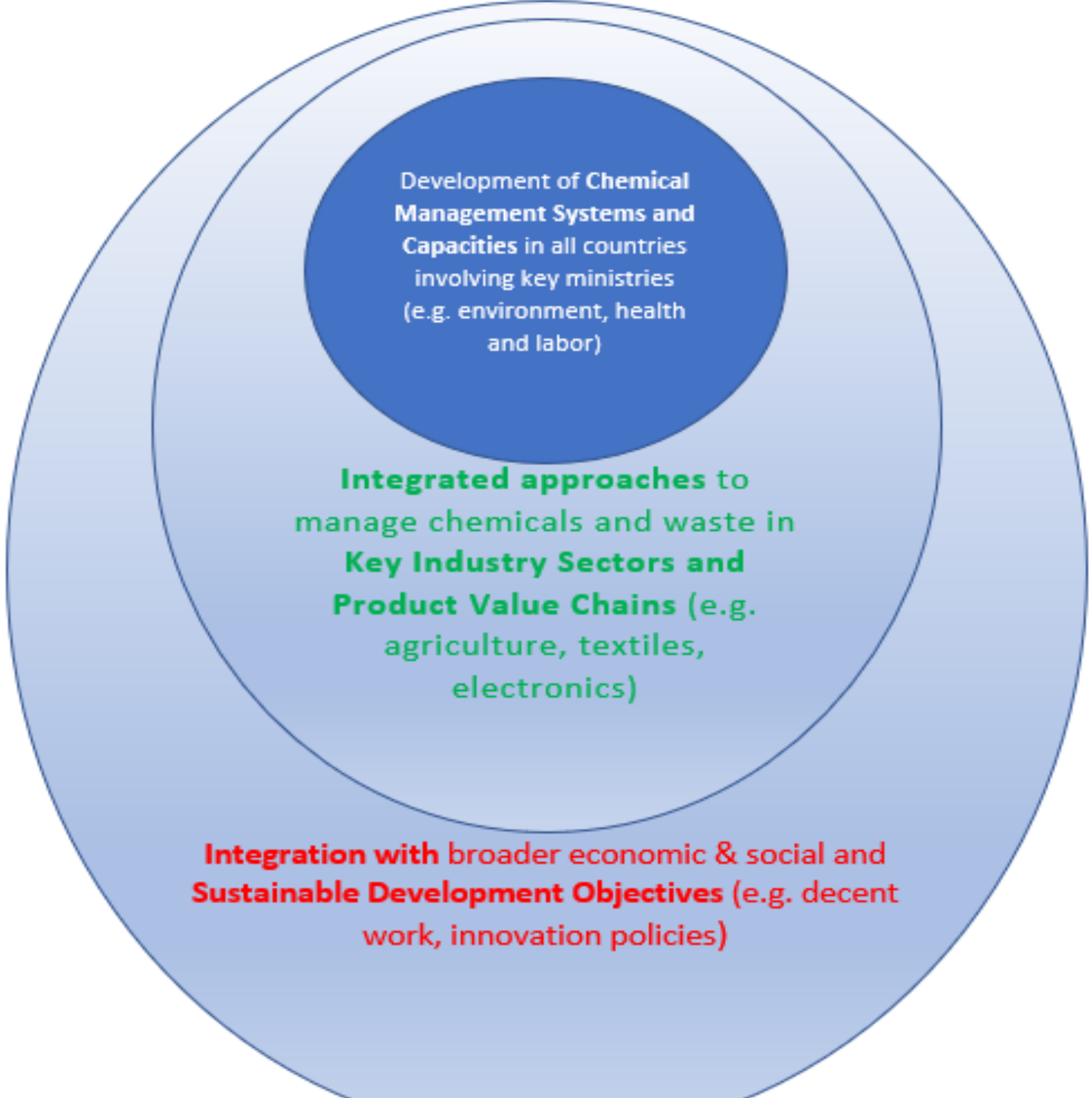
A cooperative agreement among FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank and OECD

Strengthening integrated chemicals and waste management

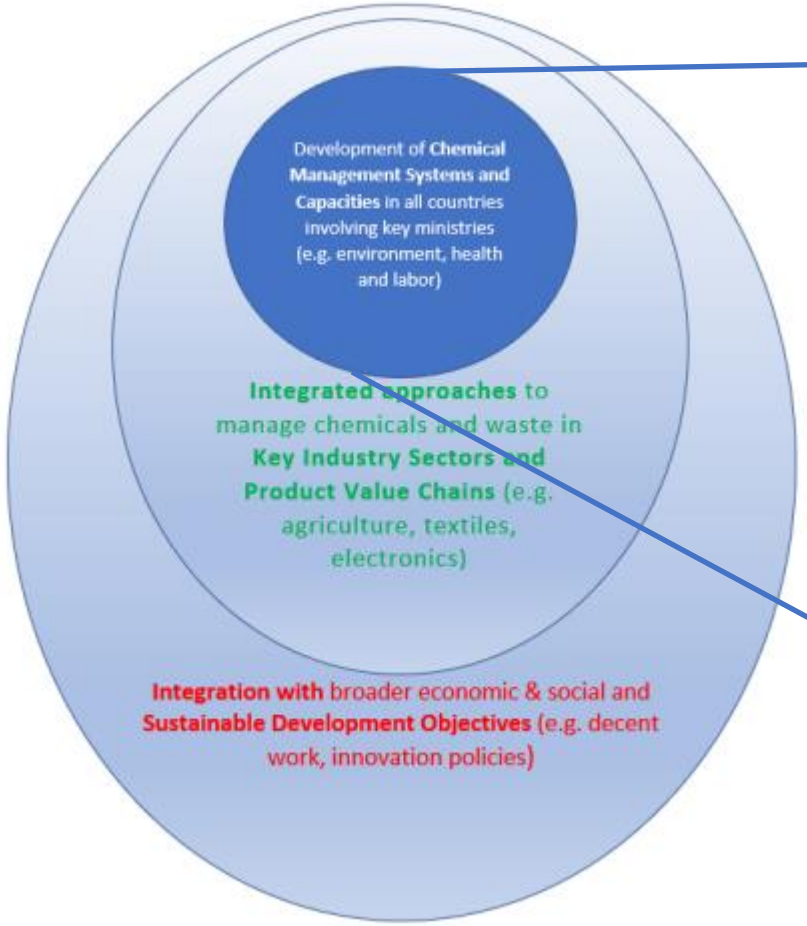
Context for the IOMC Inf Paper on Integrated Chemicals and Waste Management: An ambitious global framework is needed

- GCO-II (UNEP 2019) concluded that the global 2020 goal to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste was not achieved:
  - The global chemical industry is projected to double by 2030. Yet, the majority of countries lack GHS implementation and basic chemical management systems.
  - A chemical-by-chemical approach at the international level is resource and time intensive. A more strategic approach addressing key industry sectors and product value chains could be valuable.
  - More ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders in urgently required. “Business as usual is not an option” (GCO-II).
- Reinvigorating the concept of integrated chemicals and waste management may contribute fresh thinking and engage new actors in the “Beyond 2020” process (e.g., downstream industry sectors).

Three key dimensions of integrated chemicals and waste management



Dimension 1 (Section 2.1)



Development of Chemical Management Systems and Capacities in all countries involving key ministries (e.g. environment, health and labor)

Priority elements of a national chemicals management system (section 2.1)

1. Ensuring classification and labelling (i.e. implementation of the GHS for industrial chemicals, agricultural chemicals, consumer product chemicals and chemicals in transport/storage)

2. Generating knowledge about hazardous chemicals in the country (e.g. chemicals inventory)

3. Integrated approaches to assess and manage chemical risks that address environment, labor, health considerations

4. Integrated and life cycle approaches to enable a circular economy

Enabling framework to support a national chemicals management system

1. Effective national institutions, coordination and stakeholder engagement (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating mechanism, chemicals agency)

2. Legislation and enforcement covering the life cycle of chemicals, products and waste (e.g. GHS implementation, product standards)

3. Creating linkages with other relevant initiatives at the national level (e.g. health-based monitoring, waste management)

4. Sustainable financing and cost recovery schemes (e.g. scaling up of international financing, registration fees)

5. Sustainable human resource capacities (e.g. National Learning Strategy)

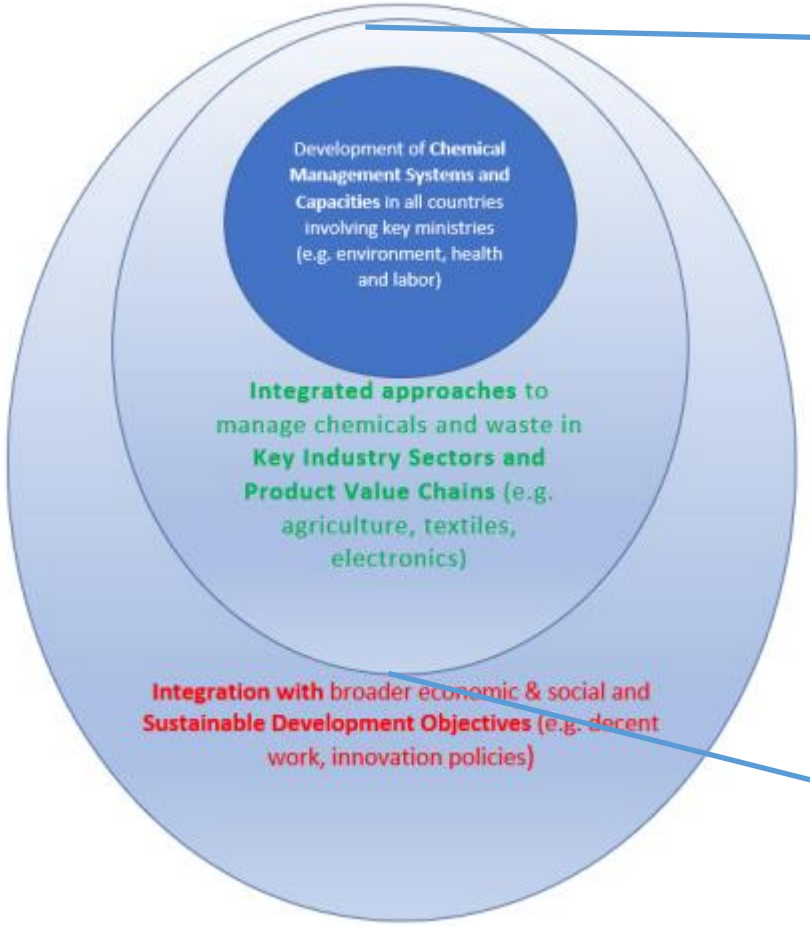
Discussion Question 1:
National chemicals management systems

- The development of basic national chemicals management systems and capacities in all countries has been on the international agenda for a long time. Yet, only limited progress has been made to date.

- What are the key determinants why progress has been slow?

- How can key challenges be overcome, including securing innovative and sustainable financing to operate national systems?

Dimension 2 (Section 2.2)



Integrated approaches to manage chemicals and waste in Key Industry Sectors and Product Value Chains (e.g. agriculture, textiles, electronics)

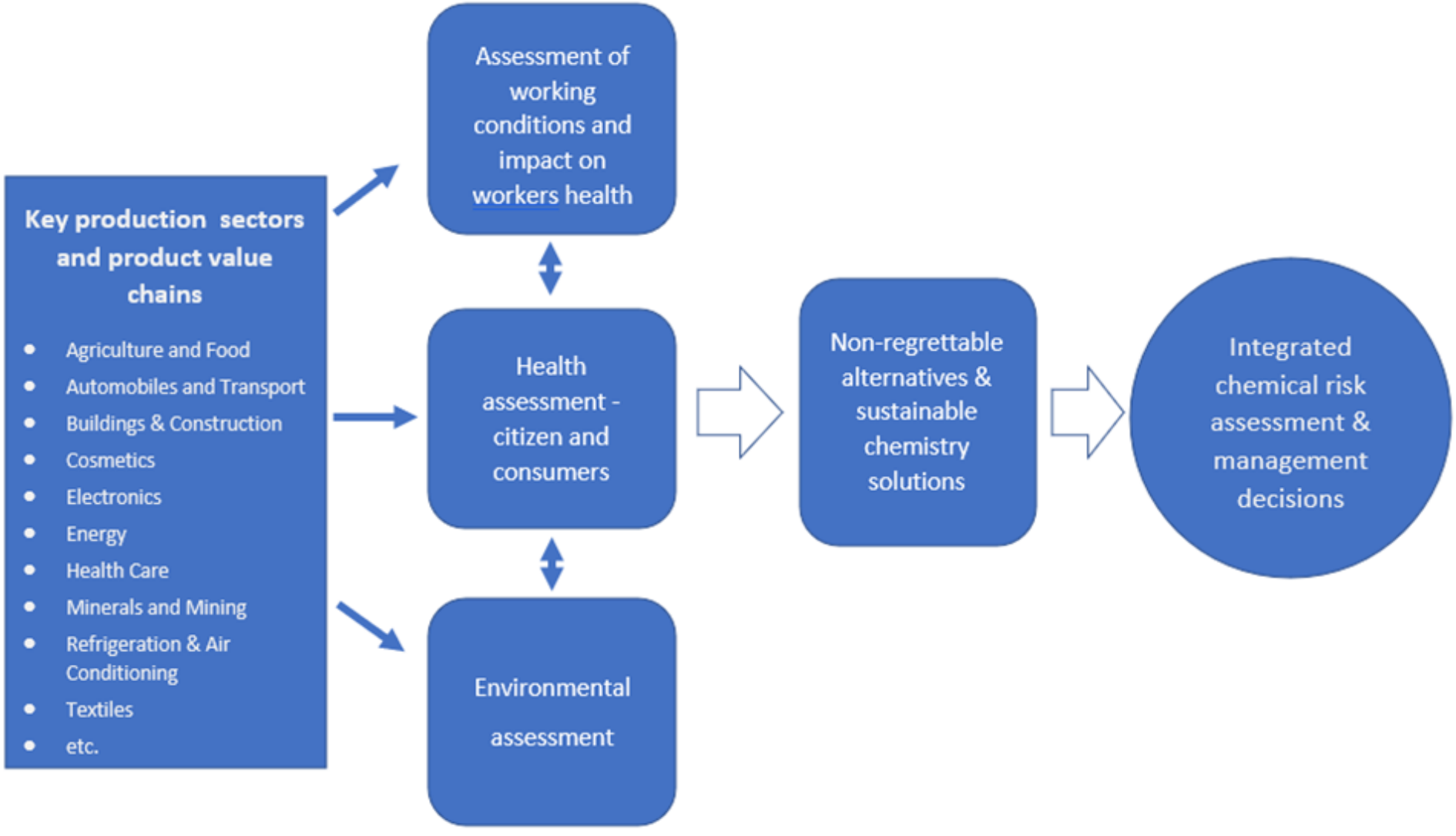
Integrating chemicals and waste management in chemical intensive industry sectors and product value chains

- Significant releases of chemicals occur in key industry sectors and their product value chains throughout the life cycle (GCO-II 2019)

- Chemical intensive industry sectors include but are not limited to:
  - Agriculture and Food Production
  - Automobiles and Transport
  - Construction and Building
  - Cosmetics/personal care
  - Electronics
  - Energy
  - Minerals and Mining
  - Pharmaceuticals
  - Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
  - Textiles
  - Others

- Lessons exist from certain sectors (e.g. agriculture and textiles)

An integrated approach to assess and manage chemical risks covering key industry sectors and product value chains



What can industry front-runners do?

- Committing to transparency, information disclosure and accountability in the supply chain
- Developing industry-wide guidelines or standards (e.g. guidelines for production, chemical substance and material disclosure, testing of final product for MRLs*)
- Systematic adoption of corporate management instrument, such as Sustainable Supply Chain Management, Extended Producer Responsibilities and Life Cycle Assessment
- Knowledge-sharing and wide dissemination of good practices including of green and sustainable chemistry solutions
- Development of capacity through training of people in the relevant sectors at all levels

- * maximum residue levels

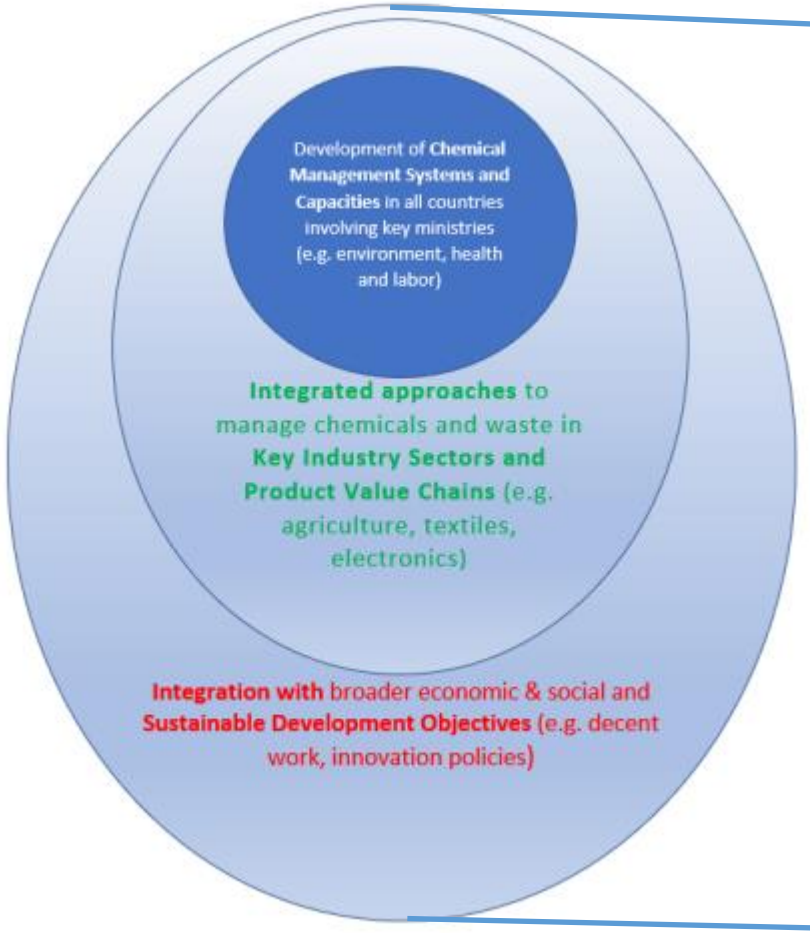
What can front-runner governments do?

- Phase-out particular chemicals of concern and enforcing them to establish a level playing field for all industries and companies
- Introduce community and consumer right-to-know and labelling schemes for chemicals and products
- Use tax incentives to foster market shifts towards safer alternatives, sustainable chemistry innovation, and cleaner production
- Promulgate the polluter pays principle
- Subsidize research and innovation to advance green and sustainable chemistry solutions
- Support sustainable procurement strategies for public actors

Discussion Question 2: Integrating chemicals management in key industries and value chains

- Scaling-up engagement and action of downstream industries (e.g. the textile, electronic, and construction industries) is critical in achieving chemicals and waste management globally.
- Yet, downstream industries have only played a limited role in SAICM and negotiating the Strategic approach and chemicals and waste management beyond 2020.
- What incentives and activities can be created to engage these actors more actively in the “Beyond 2020” process?

Dimension 3 (Section 2.3)



Integration with broader economic & social and sustainable development objectives (e.g. decent work, innovation policies)

Identifying relevant sustainable development topics

1. **Environmental sustainability topics**: biodiversity; climate change; pollutions, clean water, ozone layer protection, etc.

2. **Socio-economic sustainability topics**: industrial development and job creation; workers protection; public health, gender equality, etc.

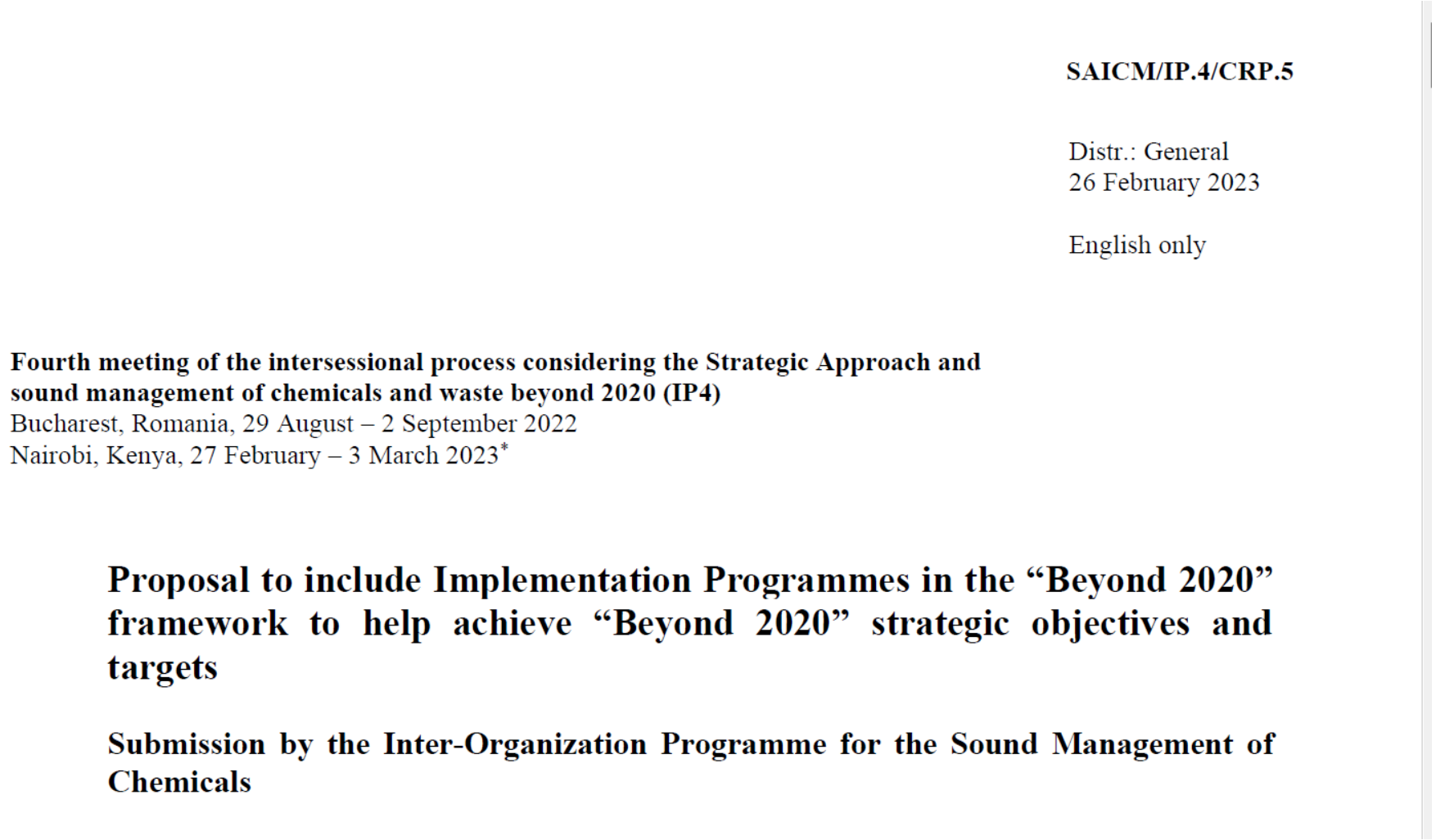
3. **Enabling sustainability topics**: education programmes; sustainability innovation, etc,

Discussion Question 3: Integrating chemicals management with sustainable development initiatives

- The implementation of a several SGDs (e.g. those addressing climate change, biodiversity, the world of work, innovation, etc.) depend on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Yet, relevant international fora do not pay full attention to these linkages.

- What are important relevant SDGs? Should “Beyond 2020” set priorities or refer to all important ones?
- What activities could be implemented under “Beyond 2020” to integrate chemicals and waste management considerations in relevant bodies and fora?

Integrated chemicals and waste management in the Beyond 2020 negotiations



SAICM/IP.4/CRP.5

Distr.: General
26 February 2023

English only

Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4)
Bucharest, Romania, 29 August – 2 September 2022
Nairobi, Kenya, 27 February – 3 March 2023*

Proposal to include Implementation Programmes in the "Beyond 2020" framework to help achieve "Beyond 2020" strategic objectives and targets

Submission by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals

Thank you for your attention!