

Workshop on strengthening governance for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

14 to 16 January 2020

Practical steps towards ICCM5

Information note

13 December 2019

Background

Governance and institutional issues have received significant attention during the intersessional process on the “Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020”, including at the third meeting of the [intersessional process \(IP3\) in Bangkok, Thailand, 1 – 4 October 2019](#).

As a contribution to support relevant discussions in the intersessional process, UNITAR is organising an informal workshop on governance topics considered of importance for the process. The workshop is supported by the Governments of Germany, Norway, and Switzerland and will take place in Frankfurt, Germany from 14 to 16 January 2020, hosted at DECHEMA¹. It complements earlier workshops on this topic which took place in February/March and September 2019. Building on the outcomes of the IP3, the workshop seeks to make a direct contribution and feed knowledge to the [fourth meeting of the intersessional process, taking place 23-27 March 2020, in Bucharest, Romania](#).

Workshop objectives

With only eight months to go before ICCM5, the workshop will provide participants with an opportunity collectively to consider progress to date on governance matters and to share views on priority areas for discussion at IP4 and the period immediately after. It will offer the chance to stand back from detailed wording aspects and consider:

- What are the main governance elements of the ‘package’ agreed to date?
- What, if anything, is missing or might require more detail, clarity or emphasis?
- What might be needed to ensure successful fulfilment of the mandate given to the intersessional process towards ICCM5?

¹ <https://dechema.de/en/anfahrt.html>

The workshop will build on the outcomes of IP3, particularly of Group B – Enhanced governance / institutional arrangements, and create an opportunity for stakeholders informally to discuss issues that came up, identify possible solutions, and seek points of agreement.

Workshop programme and methodology

The workshop takes place over 2.5 days, divided into sessions:

- strengthening global governance
- strengthening national governance
- strengthen private sector governance
- strengthening the science-policy interface and governance

Through a mix of plenary discussions and working groups, participants will be provided with an opportunity to share their experiences, develop a deeper understanding of relevant governance issues, and discuss options and suggestions that can be brought forward to IP4. More specifically, the workshop will help participants to advance their thinking and exchanges on the advancement of the sound management of chemicals and waste (SMCW) through identification of the organizations and processes that will be most crucial in building further on the synergies between the existing international and national bodies, to achieve the specific goals, targets and other elements that are to be agreed during the Intersessional Process and ultimately at ICCM5.

The workshop is not designed as a drafting or negotiating meeting: participants will be able to focus on key elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste going forward. This could include governance ‘building blocks’ that would be important to ensure, for example, greater transparency, coordination and efficiency in the pursuit of SMCW by all stakeholders in realizing the 2030 Agenda.

Workshop Outcomes

It is envisioned that the workshop will foster a clearer, shared understanding of the various building blocks of an effective governance system and the supporting rationale that might be used in ensuring support for any recommended changes or enhancements. This could include, but not limited to:

- The ICCM, IOMC and other intergovernmental bodies with responsibilities for SMCW;
- UNGA, Member States and IGOs;
- Role of national/regional focal points other national/regional level coordination;
- Private sector governance (e.g. standing setting);
- Civil society engagement; and
- Governance to strengthen the science policy interface.

A document summarizing key points will be shared at several relevant meetings, and with relevant bodies. More specifically, the document will be available in advance of the fourth meeting of the intersessional process and will be presented at the meeting.

Participants and collaboration

The workshop will bring together approximately 100 experts from around the world. This includes representatives from a cross-section of national focal points, NGOs and industry representatives, academia, as well as from the secretariats of SAICM, the BRS and Minamata Conventions, regional focal points, ICCM5 Bureau members, IOMC and other UN organizations.

Dinner – 15 January

Please note that a dinner will be organised and provided for all participants on Wednesday 15 January 2020, after the day's closure, at a restaurant in Frankfurt. As such, please add this to your planning.

Contacts

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