

Distr.: General
14 November 2023
English only

**First meeting of the Bureau of the
Global Framework on Chemicals
- For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste¹**
Online, Wednesday, 25 October 2023

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK ON CHEMICALS – FOR A PLANET FREE OF HARM FROM CHEMICALS AND WASTE

1. Opening and welcome

The President of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, Mr. Zaigham Abbas (Pakistan, Asia-Pacific) welcomed participants to the 1st meeting of the Bureau. He extended his gratitude to the President of the Fifth Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), Ms. Anita Breyer (Germany, Western Europe and Others) and other expanded ICCM5 Bureau members and the Secretariat for their commitment and work at the ICCM5 that took place in Bonn on 25-29 September 2023. The President welcomed the members of the Bureau of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and wished them a very fruitful period until the next Conference scheduled to be held in 2026. The President continued by introducing himself and expressing his gratitude for being elected as the President. He highlighted his full commitment to the success of the new Framework.

The President explained that the main purpose of the first meeting was to meet and introduce each other in an informal setup. The first meeting was not expected to take decisions on the way forward, rather, the purpose was to briefly discuss the main outputs of and reflections on the ICCM5 as well as the status of the post-meeting documents. He noted that a discussion on the date of the next, more substantial Bureau meeting, would take place under a dedicated agenda item.

The President informed the meeting that the rules of procedure of the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted at the second session of the Conference continued to apply.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Mr. Abbas presented the provisional agenda for the meeting that was circulated on 17 October 2023 and invited Bureau members to raise additional points under any other business. With no further items, raised, the agenda was adopted.

3. Introduction of the Bureau members

The President invited the extended Bureau members to briefly introduce themselves. The extended Bureau members introduced themselves in the following order:

- Four Vice Presidents of the Bureau from Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and Others, and Africa regions;
- Representatives of non-governmental participants representing the health, industry, trade union, and public interest groups as well as the representative of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC);
- Regional Focal Points from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and Others regions.

¹ In subsequent communications, the Bureau members overwhelmingly requested to retain the original name of the framework and it has been reflected in this report for consistency.

4. Initial discussion on the outcomes of the ICCM5 and next steps

The President provided his reflection on the outcomes of ICCM5. He underlined the historic global success achieved in Bonn by adopting the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. He highlighted the importance of having eliminated all brackets in the documents that was a testimony to the Bonn spirit. He also noted the importance of the adoption of targets for the Framework and of the Fund to support its implementation.

The President opened the floor to the Bureau Members to share their views on the outcomes of ICCM5.

Mr. Audun Heggelund (Norway, Bureau member for Western Europe and Others region) concurred with the views of the President. He underlined the importance of agreed targets and noted that further work on indicators and measurability structure is essential to measure them. He pointed out that to keep the momentum, information about the outcomes of ICCM5 needed to be spread out and the speedy availability of the ICCM5 documents was therefore essential. He also noted interest in the developments in relation to the issues of concern in the intersessional period.

Mr. Bob Diderich (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, IOMC) agreed with previous speakers. He underlined that the text of the Framework is more focused and has more specific targets than SAICM had. He informed that IOMC Participating Organizations will meet in November 2023 to discuss how they can contribute to the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. He noted that the Bonn Declaration calls on international organizations to reflect the implementation of the new Framework in their work programmes. He informed that the OECD Chemicals Committee will discuss this in February 2024 and other IOMC Participating Organizations are expected to undertake similar exercises.

Ms. Sara Brosche (International Pollutants Elimination Network public interest group) congratulated all on the successful outcome of ICCM5 and informed that her constituency is looking forward to begin implementing the the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and to work on how the Framework can be leveraged in the global agenda and under international agreements. She highlighted the two priorities for her constituency to start working on - the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides and the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund. She also expressed interest in having a face-to-face meeting of the Bureau. The President agreed with the need to organize a face-to-face meeting of the Bureau.

Mr. Rory O'Neill (International Trade Union Confederation, trade union) congratulated all on the heroic work undertaken in Bonn and informed that ICCM5 outcomes created enthusiasm among the members of his constituency. He concurred with earlier views that the availability of the texts of the adopted ICCM5 outcomes is essential to keep the momentum. He noted that ongoing UN negotiations on human rights already used the language from the Bonn Declarations in its deliberations. He also supported the idea of face-to-face meeting of the Bureau.

Ms. Magdalena Frydrych (Poland, Bureau member of Central and Eastern Europe region) agreed with previous speakers on the outcomes of ICCM5. She underlined that these outcomes give a lot of hope for further work and are a great beginning of something important. She added that from the perspective of the health sector the new Framework is a basis for a realistic involvement of various sectors. She added that a financial mechanism to support implementation of the Framework should be accessible to all sectors. The President agreed with this view.

Mr. Santos Virgilio (Angola, Bureau member for Africa region) congratulated all the Bureau members and informed that the expectations of his region were met at ICCM5 and the region is positive about the ICCM5 outcomes. He informed that region has already started to report back on the outcomes to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the region is preparing itself to start implementing the Framework. He concurred with earlier views that the availability of the texts of the adopted ICCM5 outcomes is important.

Ms. Anita Breyer (Germany, ICCM5 President) thanked all for their very active participation in the Bonn meetings and contribution to the great success achieved there. She expressed her satisfaction with the clear and understandable text of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. She highlighted the importance of the agreed targets and that the Framework tackles value chains, the life-cycle of chemicals and circularity. She noted the importance of the ICCM5 outcomes related to Highly Hazardous Pesticides reflecting their impacts on human health and biodiversity. She concurred with the President's view on the importance of removing all brackets in the texts and the constructive spirit of cooperation that allowed for this to happen. She also expressed her readiness to share

experience with the Bureau if needed.

Ms. Sheila Aggarwal-Khan (UNEP) noted that the secretariat stands ready to support the President and the Bureau and to play the role the Bureau expects from it. She noted that the secretariat is looking to see how to transition to the new Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. She invited the Bureau to provide feedback on its expectations to the secretariat, in particular on how to move forward in a structured manner for instance in relation to targets or the future Bureau meetings and underlined the critical importance of this feedback. She also expressed thanks to Germany for its leadership at ICCM5.

The President gave the floor to the secretariat to inform about the status of post-ICCM5 meeting documents. Mr. Pierre Quiblier thanked the Bureau for its patience in relation to the publication of ICCM5 meeting outcomes. He informed that an advance version of the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste is already available. He informed that the text reflects some editorial considerations in relation to grammatical correctness and feasibility of translation in all official UN languages. He noted that the text of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and ICCM5 resolutions is in the hands of the editors. He informed that the advance version of the Framework is expected to be available by 10 November 2023. He pointed out that the editors are working hard to deliver the documents but that despite the workload from many concurring meetings on chemicals taking place now, the delay does not differ substantially from the usual practice.

Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez (UNEP) invited the Bureau members to inform the secretariat whether they would be present at the Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention (30 October – 3 November 2023) to potentially have an informal gathering during that Conference.

Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan, regional focal point for Asia – Pacific region) reiterated the importance of having available the texts of the adopted ICCM5 outcomes as soon as possible to provide them to both national and regional stakeholders. She also asked about guidance on the expected intersessional work until the next Conference and Bureau's involvement in this work and requested that the list of contacts of regional stakeholders be provided so that they could be kept fully informed on relevant issues.

Ms. Alvarez informed that the secretariat is preparing an implementation plan leading up to the next Conference. She noted that as this is a new Framework, reference should not be to "ICCM6" but to the "next Conference" until any other name was decided. She underlined that the following substantive Bureau meeting will be important to discuss next steps for many topics, and proposals in this respect will be shared with the Bureau ahead of that meeting and following discussions with the President. She indicated that the issues to be considered and where the guidance from Bureau is needed, are the funding needs assessment that is not reflected in the programme of work and budget adopted at ICCM5 as well as the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.

Mr. Ivo de Zwaan (the Netherlands, regional focal points for Western Europe and Other Groups) highlighted the importance to operationalise the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund as soon as possible to supports receiving commitments from donor countries.

Mr. Napoleon Garcia (El Salvador, regional focal point for Latin America and the Caribbean) asked about the availability of the ICCM5 outcomes in all six official UN languages. Mr Quiblier responded that all outcomes will be available in all six official UN languages, but he was unable to provide dates in that regard.

Mr. Diderich queried the reflection of representation of different sectors in the composition of the governmental representatives in the Bureau, as was agreed in Bonn. Ms. Alvarez noted that the composition of the Bureau agreed at ICCM5 follows the composition that was applied in previous ICCM meetings with no changes.

5. **Next meeting of the Bureau**

The President proposed to hold the next Bureau meeting virtually in late November or early December 2023 and opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Quiblier invited the participants to inform the secretariat in writing about their availability for a date of the next Bureau meeting within that time frame. The President requested the secretariat to propose the date for the next meeting based on the feedback received via a Doodle poll.

6. **Any other business**

Mr. Abbas asked if there were any points to raise under this agenda item. Ms. Kuroda requested secretariat support in contacting stakeholders in her region. Mr. De Mesa informed that contact details will be shared

with Ms. Kuroda to support her communication activities.

7. Closure of the meeting

The President thanked the secretariat for organizing the first meeting of the Bureau of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and all present for their active participation, and closed the meeting at 15h40.

Annex

Participants

Bureau Members: Mr. Zaigham Abbas (Pakistan, Asia-Pacific, President), Mr. Santos Virgilio (Angola, Africa), Ms. Magdalena Frydrych (Poland, Central and Eastern Europe), Ms. Vanesa Aliaga (Peru, Latin America and the Caribbean), and Mr. Audun Heggelund (Norway, Western Europe and Others).

Regional Focal Points: Ms. Moleboheng Juliet Petlane (Lesotho for Africa), Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan for Asia - Pacific), Mr. Napoleon Garcia (El Salvador for Latin America and the Caribbean), and Mr. Ivo de Zwaan (The Netherlands for Western Europe and Other Groups).

Representatives of non-governmental participants and the IOMC: Ms. Susan Wilburn (Health Care Without Harm, health), Ms. Chrysanthi Sofokleous (International Council of Chemical Associations, industry), Ms. Sara Brosche (International Pollutants Elimination Network public interest group), Mr. Rory O'Neill (International Trade Union Confederation, trade union), Mr. Bob Diderich (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, IOMC on behalf of Mr. Jorge Ocana, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, current chair of the IOMC).

Secretariat: Ms. Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, Mr. Pierre Quiblier, Mr. Rafal Brykowski, Mr. Jose de Mesa, Ms. Meera Laurijssen.

Observers: Ms. Anita Breyer (Germany, ICCM5 President).

Regrets: Regional focal point: Ms. Suzana Andonova (North Macedonia for Central and Eastern Europe).