

Submission on Science Policy Interface from the following organizations and stakeholders:

Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport)
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
Pesticide Action Network (PAN International)
groundWork South Africa
Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)
Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)
Toxisphera, Brazil
Commonweal
BUND/Friends of the Earth, Germany
German NGO Forum on Environment and Development
Chemical Safety Agency, Ukraine

The assessment report of options for the Science Policy Interface (SPI) for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste¹ describes different expectations envisaged from the SPI platforms in the context of the policy making process. Examples of the function of SPIs in connection with some of the earlier policy initiatives are provided.

We see a need for a global SPI to inform the work on chemicals, waste and associated effects on human health, biodiversity, and the environment. We believe that an SPI should be independent from any political or financial process and should only be based on the scientific knowledge of involved experts to foster credibility and trust among stakeholders.

We agree that an SPI may play a role in:

- conveying the state of available data and contributing to the definition of problems;
- horizon scanning;
- encouraging dialogue between scientists, governments and all other stakeholders;
- enhancing stakeholder, political, and public awareness of a problem.

We also believe that an SPI should play the role in generating assessed knowledge to inform negotiations of binding or non-binding instruments, and the work of all stakeholders, including governments, industry, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the general public, at all levels from local to global.

We also share the view that an SPI platform may guide monitoring studies and contribute to periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of the work on chemicals and waste. For example, an SPI platform could provide input to the work of a multi-stakeholder periodic review group (committee) that should be set up within the Beyond 2020 framework to prepare periodic

¹ Assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste
(<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33808/OSSP.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>)

outcome reports of the SAICM 2.0 implementation based on the responses from the countries along with recommendations for implementation.

The function of the SPI should provide actual data, assessments and recommendations.

Furthermore, we believe that the SPI should serve SAICM 2.0 in its work on chemicals, waste and their impacts, without duplicating but being informed by existing SPI functions, e.g. the POPs review Committee of the Stockholm Convention or the Chemicals Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention.

The membership and structure of an SPI platform

From the administrative point of view, we prefer option A, i.e. an independent SPI platform, but in combination with certain elements of the C model, under the auspices of the IOMC.

An SPI platform should have an Advisory Group comprised of government representatives from all regions, equal number of representatives of civil society organisations and private sector entities, and international organizations.

The recruitment to the Advisory Group must be transparent to all SAICM 2.0 stakeholders, and this needs to be clearly laid down in the rules of procedure and terms of reference of the Advisory Group.

Building upon the C model suggestion from the assessment report, the platform could have a number of long-standing panels for key topics where scientific advice for policy making will be infrequent need for the foreseeable future, such as for Issues of Concern, Waste, non-chemical alternatives, Green Chemistry, and Circular Economy. On a needs-basis, the platform should be able to suggest to the SAICM Bureau that additional scientific *ad hoc* taskforces are formed.

Scientists to these additional taskforces are then recruited by the SAICM Secretariat in the same manner as the scientists for the SPI platform. This will give the model the necessary flexibility that can foster responsiveness. In case of conflicts of interest, the Advisory Group should have the right to object the nominated scientists.

The actual SPI platform should consist of representatives from multiple scientific disciplines relevant to chemicals and waste, recruited in open calls purely based on their scientific merits and no conflict of interests. The selection of the scientists for the SPI should be done by the SAICM Secretariat, in a transparent mode to all SAICM 2.0 stakeholders. In case of conflicts of interest, the Advisory Group should have the right to object the nominated scientists.

All SAICM 2.0 stakeholders should be able to participate in the plenary as observers and make interventions, which also needs to be laid down in the rules of procedures.

SPI Terms of Reference

For a possible SPI to be useful, precise terms of reference would be needed to ensure that scientists knowledgeable in the work of all relevant SAICM stakeholder groups and representing the full spectrum of scientific disciplines related to chemicals and waste are able to fully

participate. Procedures need to be developed to ensure the inclusion of indigenous and traditional knowledge, data and information generated by non-governmental organisations and community groups (citizen science). Gender disaggregated data and better consideration of gender-dependent hazards in the work on chemicals and waste should be among key focus of the science-policy interface that should help improve how protective and preventive measures are designed and implemented. The terms of reference must include a conflict of interest policy.

The ensure broad participation in the SPI meetings

It is important to ensure that experts, for example, knowledgeable in citizens' and community science, indigenous peoples knowledge, and gender disaggregated data are provided with the financial support so that they could attend the SPI meetings as needed.