

7th Inter-agency Meeting on Sound Chemicals Management

Tuesday, 29 June 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The seventh “Inter-agency Meeting on Sound Chemicals Management” was held virtually on 29 June 2021 and brought together 29 participants from 16 different agencies and Secretariats.¹ The goal of the meeting was once again to provide an opportunity for direct dialogue between interested agencies and organisations and promote collaboration on the way forward towards the 2020 goal and beyond, in the context of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The theme of IAM-7 was “green and sustainable chemistry (GSC)”.

Topics Discussed and Agreed Action Points

During the meeting, participants considered a number of specific issue areas:

(1) An overview on green and sustainable chemistry: UNEP framework manual

UNEP provided an introduction to GSC via a presentation about their framework manual which has the purpose to foster general learning, reflection, and scaling-up action based on a common global understanding of green and sustainable chemistry. UNEP further noted they were also finalising a “Specialized Manual on Green and Sustainable Chemistry Education” and plans for future work including development of a GSC “action roadmap template”, as well as learning materials (possibly with UNITAR) and presenting this work and doing outreach towards UNEA-5 in February 2022.

(2) Information from all agencies related to activities on green and sustainable chemistry

Participants provided information from their agencies related to activities on GSC and to provide an opportunity to identify ways of working synergistically together. Summarising the discussions, the Chair noted the following key points:

- the issue of GSC is very relevant to almost all UN and EMG agencies, as well as others
- there are a number of cross-cutting issues and a possibility to consider different dimensions such as human rights, drugs and crime, training, or health and children’s perspectives
- the opportunities that exist call for innovation - collectively agencies can consider areas of innovation that should be addressed
- there is a willingness and camaraderie to work together which is an important element going forward
- helping to make progress in the green and sustainable management of chemicals and waste can bring many benefits, also in the context of the Beyond 2020 process.

Possible areas for suggested follow-up discussions included:

- financing for work on GSC and GSC activities, e.g. possible tracking or mapping exercise
- discussions regarding what criteria organizations are using for specific GSC topics

For more information about the Inter-Agency Meetings, please visit:

<https://partnership.who.int/iomc/inter-agency-meetings>

¹ Participants included representatives of the nine IOMC organizations, as well as OPCW, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, UNECE, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN OHCHR, and UNU-FLORES.