

xx October 2020

Dear Focal Points,

As you will recall, I have decided as President of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 5) in consultation with the Bureau to postpone ICCM5, which had been scheduled to take place between 5 to 9 October 2020. Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) ICCM5 is now rescheduled for 5 to 9 July 2021 in Bonn, Germany.

However, it is essential prior to the convening of ICCM5 in July 2021 for ICCM to take a limited number of decisions in order to ensure the continuation of its mandated activities and those of the Secretariat.

To that end and after consultation with the Bureau and the Secretariat, I am submitting the attached draft decision for your review that will authorize me as President of ICCM 5, after consultation with the Bureau, to circulate draft decisions of ICCM to all SAICM focal points under a silence procedure and allow at least 15 working days for a response.

As the attached draft decision indicates, the formal communication from the President shall be in the form of a signed letter that shall include the text of the draft decision and an indication of the specific time frame by which any formal objections should be raised by the SAICM national focal points through their respective Bureau members.

Should the silence not be broken by national focal points and no formal objection be received, by them the decision shall be considered as adopted and I will circulate a letter confirming its adoption. This process is all comprehensively explained in the attached draft decision.

In this connection, while all SAICM focal points will receive the draft decision recommended for adoption, only national focal points, i.e. the representatives from Governments will be able to formally object as only Governments formally participate in decision-making under the ICCM rules of procedure.

In line with the provisions contained in the draft, I am placing the attached draft decision under a silence procedure. SAICM stakeholders wishing to comment can do so through their Bureau members. In the absence of any formal objection by the SAICM national focal points communicated to the President, the decision shall be considered as adopted effective _____[place date].

I would also recall that this is in line with the practice of the General Assembly whereby General Assembly Decision 74/544, authorized the President of the General Assembly, where, in his view a plenary meeting of the General Assembly is not practicable due to the coronavirus pandemic, to circulate, after consultation with the General Committee, draft decisions of the General Assembly to all Member States under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours; and decided “that, if the silence is not broken, the decision shall be considered adopted, and the General Assembly shall take note of the decision at its first plenary meeting held after the cessation of the precautionary measures as soon as the circumstances allow.”

Once the attached decision is adopted authorizing the taking of decisions by ICCM by silence procedure, I may, after consultation with the Bureau, forward a limited number of decisions to SAICM focal points that the Bureau and I deem essential for the functioning of the activities of ICCM until ICCM can meet either in person or virtually.

Yours sincerely,
Ms. Gertrud Sahler, ICCM 5 President