

**Invitation to the technical meeting on the WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020 hosted by World Health Organization**

**Date and time**

Tuesday 19 October 2020, 14:00 – 16:00 (Geneva time).

**Location**

Web meeting. Link for registration:

<https://nih.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIscOmspzwpHmypi7RfilS9dP-p-_txM5s>

**Participants**

Ministries of Health

**Background:**

The WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network (GCHN) was established by the WHO Secretariat as called for in the WHO Chemicals Road Map. The network represents a strategic opportunity to create a nexus within the health sector, to mobilize and engage national and regional health representatives in the broader international chemicals management dialogue. The network serves as a global forum for discussion among senior-level policymakers and representatives about issues related to health and chemicals, providing a mechanism to support health sector engagement in chemicals management and for leveraging an enhanced presence by the health sector within the international discussion.

The goal of the network is to facilitate implementation of the road map by promoting collaboration on common policy challenges, perspectives and priorities of health ministries in managing chemicals, especially considering the intersessional process on the [Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)](https://workspace.who.int/sites/GlobalChemHealthNetwork/SitePages/Beyond%202020.aspx) and the sound management of chemicals and waste [beyond 2020](https://workspace.who.int/sites/GlobalChemHealthNetwork/SitePages/Beyond%202020.aspx) (the intersessional process), and to facilitate continuity of contact among health ministries and with WHO. From December 2019, the GCHN SharePoint site is available to its members.

The virtual meeting aims to introduce Member States to the WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network including the Network’s intended role in implementing the road map, contacting stakeholders, fostering cooperation and working to achieve the SAICM current and beyond 2020 objectives. Furthermore, the participants will be familiarized with the Network SharePoint site with a presentation of its content, technical features and instructions on how to join and use it.

In addition, a representative of the SAICM Secretariat will present the state-of-play regarding the Intersessional Process. Participants will be informed about the organization of work under the ongoing SAICM Beyond 2020 Intersessional Process and planned preparations for ICCM5 (July 2021) including the formation of a number of Virtual Working Groups (VWGs) to further these preparations. The scope and mandates of these VWGs will be described, and meeting participants encouraged to join the discussion under each of them so that ministry of health views are well-represented.

Finally, the WHO will present on the important role of the health sector in the process and members may wish to discuss how the health sector could prepare for these important discussions, as well as for the Fourth Session of the Intersessional Process to be held in March 2021, followed by ICCM5 in July.

The meeting will be conducted in English.

**Agenda of the meeting**

1. Opening of the meeting

Ms Carolyn Vickers, Head, Chemical Safety and Health Unit, WHO.

1. *Introduction to the meeting: SAICM and WHO*

Ms Carolyn Vickers, Head, Chemical Safety and Health Unit, WHO.

1. *Intersessional Process Co-chair’s message to the health sector*

Mr David Morin, Co-Chair of the Intersessional Process, Director General, Safe Environments Directorate, Health Canada

1. Discussion, Q&A
2. *State-of-play under the Intersessional Process, and preparations for ICCM5* Ms Brenda Koekkoek, SAICM Secretariat.
3. *Expectations of the health sector and the role of the Global Chemicals and Health Network in the Intersessional Process*

Ms Carolyn Vickers, Head, Chemical Safety and Health Unit, WHO

1. Discussion, Q&A
2. *The WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network and its SharePoint site.*

*Future virtual meetings of the Network*

Ms Magdalena Frydrych, WHO.

1. Discussion, Q&A
2. Closure of the meeting.