



OPENING STATEMENT OF THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Thank you, Madame C-Chair

It is a real pleasure for the EU and its Member States to participate in this important meeting on the intersessional process for chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

We would like to thank the Brazilian government for hosting and organising this meeting and the generous hospitality in this welcoming city.

Thanks also to the secretariat for the documents put forward which will give a good basis for our discussions and their part of the organisation. Finally, our thanks also go for all the work of the bureau.

We would also like to congratulate both, co-chairs, for their appointment to guide us through this important process. We are delighted to work under your joint chairmanship.

Chemicals are part of our daily lives and as their production and use are increasing and they are traded globally, there is a continuous need to prevent and minimise the adverse effects on human health and the environment. Waste management is a growing challenge that needs to be addressed in conjunction with chemicals .

We recognize and appreciate the results SAICM has accomplished so far.

We continue to support the overall aim of SAICM to close the gap and to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste and, as



highlighted in UNEA resolution 1/5, we must continue our work to reach this goal.

We also support the timeless vision set out in resolution ICCM4/IV on the sound management of chemicals and waste and stress that we should build on the process which led to the adoption of the annex of UNEA resolution 1/5. The intersessional process that we have started today should result in an enabling multilateral platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and I have to emphasise that building on what already exists but with the ambition to be broader than SAICM.

A continuous and strengthened multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial approach will be essential also after 2020. It is precisely this involvement in SAICM that provides a unique potential to address issues of relevance at a global level.

The sound management of chemicals and waste is a precondition for a sustainable development. Therefore it is embedded in many of the objectives and targets of Agenda 2030. Agenda 2030 offers a great opportunity to renew our commitment to integrate chemicals and waste issues in the national development planning and sectoral policies and actions.

The development of the new framework provides a unique opportunity to enhance cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and waste cluster and forge strong links to other areas, such as biodiversity and climate change.

The EU and its Member States remain fully committed to SAICM and the Beyond 2020 process and look forward to actively engage in this work in the coming years. Finally, we look forward to having a fruitful and thorough discussion over the next days and throughout the intersessional period on the functions of a new enabling platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. We thank the

07 February 2017
SAICM Agenda Item 5

co-chairs for their suggestions regarding the process to be followed after this meeting and we are confident that we will be able to come back and, as appropriate, review them in the light of the discussions and views from stakeholders.

