

Statement from Industry Stakeholders on Agenda Item 5(a)
Delivered by ICCA

- As we look to the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020, industry stakeholders remain strongly committed to playing an integral role, in partnership with other stakeholders. Through initiatives such as Responsible Care, industry is committed to chemical safety in our own operations, and in the use of chemicals throughout the value chain and across the product lifecycle.
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provide important context for our discussions this week. Chemistry will have a key role in addressing the challenges and opportunities set out in the 2030 agenda. In particular, products and technologies that depend on chemistry will play a critical role in meeting the challenges and targets set out across the SDGs.
- The sound management of chemicals features in several SDGs, including SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, and SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, but chemical products and technologies will contribute to the realization of almost all SDG goals and targets.
- It is important in this context to recognize the synergistic opportunities between the three dimensions of sustainable development in efforts to advance international chemicals management. Consideration of the contribution of chemistry to sustainable development should encompass the economic, social and environmental dimensions. This includes the economic and social value and contributions of chemical products and technologies (e.g. energy efficiency, clean water, reduced GHG emissions), as well as efforts to minimize harm to human health and the environment.
- Industry have been strong supporters of SAICM, and committed SAICM stakeholders from the beginning. SAICM, and its innovative, multi-stakeholder framework have brought governments and non-governmental stakeholders together to build trust and promote collaboration in addressing challenges related to chemicals management. For example, under a MoU, ICCA and UN Environment have worked together on multiple capacity building initiatives related to the sound management of chemicals, including conducting programs in Vietnam, China, and in western African countries.
- SAICM has facilitated extensive efforts to improve capacity for the sound management of chemicals, but significant gaps remain. Industry's capacity building efforts have been concentrated on improving the capacity of developing countries to manage chemicals safely. It is important to remember, however, that capacity is also a function of political and financial support, and political will, and efforts to improve capacity will not be sustainable without it.
- A multi-stakeholder framework enables all relevant stakeholders to contribute to building a stronger foundation for sound management of chemicals more broadly than any alternative approach, and as noted by the ICCM5 President this morning, there appears to

be broad convergence on the importance of maintaining a multi-stakeholder approach beyond 2020.

- SAICM's demonstrated value is its unique position to provide guidance and international support on a wide range of issues and topics. An important feature of SAICM is the substantive flexibility that is inherent in the approach.
- SAICM has made important progress, but we acknowledge there is still a long way to go. Industry stakeholders strongly believe the most effective means of assuring chemicals are managed safely throughout the value chain is through the implementation of clear policies and management methodologies at a national level, supported by the efforts and initiatives of non-governmental stakeholders including industry.
- The Global Chemicals Outlook identified the challenges involved in managing the shift of chemical production and use to the developing world. A comprehensive approach to addressing this shift is important, but we also need to focus on getting the major new producing countries engaged. For example, more than 30% of industrial chemicals, and around 50% of crop protection chemicals are currently produced in China, and we expect this trend to continue.
- In this context, it is important in our consideration of sound chemicals management beyond 2020 that we not lose sight of the importance of continued and renewed efforts to implement sound chemicals management at the national level. Further work is needed, particularly in the developing world, to ensure that the basic capacity to manage chemicals safely is put in place. This is a necessary prerequisite for sustainable development. A practical focus on addressing these basic needs must continue to be a focus of our efforts beyond 2020.
- Thank you co-chair.