



**Call for stakeholder submissions on essential elements for a possible ICCM5 High-level Declaration (HLD) on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

**2 October 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

the Co-chairs together with the SAICM Bureau have developed what I consider a promising plan to continue the dialogue and keep up momentum towards agreement on a successor to SAICM for strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste (SMCW) for a just and resilient world beyond 2020.

One further and essential element that has not yet been addressed is a possible ICCM5 High-level Declaration (HLD). This declaration could renew the commitment enshrined in the Dubai Declaration from 2006. In my consultations and with guidance from Bureau members on a possible HLD process, it became clear there is a strong need for this to be an open, transparent and inclusive process. Building on this desire, and inspired by the process followed by UNEA, I am convinced the work needed to develop a possible ICCM5 HLD should first and foremost be based on input, ideas, suggestions and views of all stakeholders in the Intersessional Process.

With this letter, I would like to invite your written submissions containing inputs and views on key elements of a possible ICCM5 HLD. To organize our work, you could consider the following questions:

- What would you consider the most important aspects and key messages for strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste and political commitment for a just and resilient world that require anchoring in an HLD?
- What should the scope, key elements and messages of the ICCM5 HLD cover?  
Considering, *inter alia*:
  - The current context (COVID-19, economic recovery interventions, and the need to make significant progress on SMCW).
  - The enhanced contribution of the SMCW to implement the 2030 Agenda and address present and future needs.
  - Progress in efforts undertaken to date, and critical gaps to be addressed.
- How should the ICCM5 HLD be structured, including participation, responsibilities, and processes to address current challenges?

I would kindly request your written input by 21 October 2020 through the SAICM Secretariat, [saicm.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@unep.org), and the German Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, [IGI13@bmu.bund.de](mailto:IGI13@bmu.bund.de).

As you may be aware, in June I invited all stakeholders to nominate representatives for a virtual informal group. This group will be asked to compile the essential and initial input by all stakeholders.

The input received will inform the work of the informal group, and a first outline will be shared with all IP participants, through the SAICM website. This will enable the Bureau and all IP participants to provide further input and views on the initial outline. As circumstances evolve, further iterations may be published and consulted on ahead of a rescheduled IP4 or ICCM5, as the case may be.

I look forward to your contributions to the important work ahead and, given the current uncertainty, we will update you with further dates and milestones as the process unfolds.

I would invite all of us to continue our dialogue to prepare recommendations for a robust, inclusive and ambitious ICCM5 outcome, even in these times of economic and social difficulty. We owe it to future generations to scale up our efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals by contributing to strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Yours sincerely,

Gertrud Sahler

ICCM5 President