



ICCA Input on Essential Elements for a Possible ICCM5 High-level Declaration on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020

The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), which represents chemical associations and companies around the globe, welcomes the opportunity to comment on the elements of a potential ICCM5 High-level Declaration (HLD) on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, adopted in 2006, provides a strong basis for the drafting of a HLD. ICCA encourages that the HLD for ICCM-5 build on the foundation of the Dubai Declaration, which expressed a high-level commitments from governments, civil society, and the private sector to SAICM. Because the new SAICM will be a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder framework, we encourage the HLD to also reflect the commitment of all stakeholders to the new Beyond 2020 structure and ambitions.

Below are ICCA's responses to the questions posed by Ms. Gertrud Sahler, ICCM5 President.

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?

Chemicals and the products of chemistry make modern life possible and contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We share a global responsibility to ensure that the benefits of chemicals are maximized and risks of adverse effects to human health and the environment are minimized. The establishment of a new SAICM Beyond-2020, which continues the voluntary, multi-stakeholder framework of SAICM and elevates the commitments by all stakeholders to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste (SMCW) is critical. This multi-stakeholder commitment at the highest levels of government, civil society, and the private sector to the new Beyond-2020 framework should anchor the HLD.

In this regard, a key element of the HLD would be the commitment by all SAICM stakeholders to enhance efforts in those regions where there is a lack of capacity to produce, handle, and use of chemicals safely. It is important to make tangible progress on the ground in order to close the gap between the developed and developing regions. Consequently, we believe it is instrumental to increase both the efficiency and the effectiveness of all current capacity building activities.

The HLD should recognize that the implementation of this common, overarching global framework for sustainable chemicals policy is an essential tool for promoting international cooperation to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries in the SMCW. The HLD should underscore the importance of establishing and enforcing risk-based chemical management systems, global implementation of the UN Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling (GHS), and promoting science-based regulatory decisions in all countries as the foundation of the SMCW. To achieve this goal, we need to accelerate and more effectively coordinate capacity building for developing countries and small and medium-sized enterprises throughout the value chain, including

establishing a follow-up mechanism on some clear and selected targets that should be achieved within an agreed timeframe. This commitment from all stakeholders is critical.

We must also emphasize the need for sustainable and circular approaches to chemicals and waste to achieve the SMCW and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes the development of safer and more sustainable chemicals and production processes as well as improving risk management throughout chemicals' life cycles. It also includes recognition of chemicals as a valuable resource that should be kept in a circular economy, and promotion of circularity.

Finally, we should recognize the progress made so far and the many ongoing efforts and activities by SAICM stakeholders. It is important to create synergies among these various efforts and remain targeted and focused to achieve tangible outcome on the ground.

What should the scope, key elements and messages of the ICCM5 HLD cover?

The global SMCW is critical, particularly as the world is facing an unprecedented crisis in the Covid-19 pandemic. The HLD should emphasize that international cooperation is critical to build back from this crisis in a manner that supports the health and economic well-being of all citizens, especially the most vulnerable ones, while implementing measures to protect the environment. The products of chemistry are essential to the pandemic response, including through medical personal protective equipment (PPE), antiseptics, and food hygiene packaging. However, we must ensure that these items are used and disposed in a responsible, sustainable manner.

The HLD should also note the value of knowledge and information sharing. Noting the data and evaluations completed by companies and jurisdictions in various parts of the world, the HLD should maximize the value of these existing chemicals data and knowledge. The new Beyond-2020 Framework should work to ensure that there are systems in place to allow all people to access safety and environmental information about chemical substances. The new framework should also foster the education of consumers, including the safe use of chemical substances, handling of waste to allow circularity, etc. Targeted information disclosure and transparency is critical.

How should the ICCM5 HLD be structured, including participation, responsibilities, and processes to address current challenges?

ICCA recommends that the HLD emphasize that the responsibility for achieving the SMCW is a shared responsibility among all stakeholders. It is only by fostering dialogue and cooperation, and ensuring participation and commitment from all parties, that we can achieve the goals of a SAICM Beyond 2020. We note the importance of recognizing general roles for stakeholders and integrating multiple sectors in the text of the HLD.

The private sector has a responsibility to comply with government regulations and makes a commitment to go beyond these requirements with voluntary commitments. The chemical industry showcases this commitment through its Responsible Care® program, the industry's commitment to environment, health, and safety. ICCA is committed to capacity building to support implementation of sound chemical management practices globally. ICCA also notes the commitment of its member associations and companies to sustainability, with multiple initiatives and programs underway. We encourage the HLD to similarly note the responsibilities of other stakeholders.

Finally, the HLD should emphasize the commitment of all stakeholders to progress on the Objectives and Targets set out by the new Beyond 2020 framework. It is critical that stakeholders commit to reporting on progress towards the agreed objectives, utilizing an agreed methodology, to the Secretariat on a regular basis.