

IPEN Submission on Elements of an ICCM5 High-Level Declaration

October 2020

Key points

- The High-Level Declaration (HLD) could use the same basic three-part format as the Dubai Declaration: 1) Overarching statements; 2) Advances and gaps; and 3) Commitments
- Overarching statements should include the first paragraph in the Dubai Declaration: *“The sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development.”*
- Other key overarching statements that are linked to Sustainable Development Goals and have been noted in previous declarations include: the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; the wide range of current chemical safety concerns as a reason for concerted action; and integrating the agreement into the work programs of all relevant UN organizations.
- Fundamental issues should be highlighted in the HLD including right to know; no data, no market; substitution; precaution; and gender equality.
- Elements covering advances and gaps should include references to the COVID-19 pandemic and building back better along with the need for progress in chemicals and wastes management.
- Gaps should include not only the consequences of poor management, but also gaps in financing and political priority.
- Commitments should include: sustainable agriculture; ecological restoration; public awareness; occupational health and safety; zero waste; public participation in decision-making; private sector responsibilities; and commitments to address plastics, lead paint, and ocean pollutants, among others.

Introduction

This submission is in response to a 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.

The SAICM President, Ms. Gertrud Sahler, suggested including the following inputs in a submission:

- Important aspects and key messages for strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste and political commitment for a just and resilient world
- Proposed scope and key elements of the HLD such as:
 - Current context (COVID-19, economic recovery interventions and the need to make significant progress on the sound management of chemicals and wastes
 - The enhanced contribution of the sound management of chemicals and wastes to achieving the 2030 Agenda and address present and future needs
 - Progress in efforts undertaken to date and critical gaps to be addressed
- Thoughts about how the HLD should be structured, including participation, responsibilities and processes to address current challenges

Note that the Dubai Declaration adopted by Ministers from more than 100 governments in 2006 provides many important elements that would be useful to include in the new HLD. There are other ministerial declarations and UNEP reports that also can provide useful elements as described below.

This submission includes the following sections:

Key points

Introduction

Key messages

Current context

- COVID-19
- Need for progress

Connections to Agenda 2030

Progress and gaps

Commitments

Structure of the HLD

Key messages

The HLD should demonstrate key ministerial support for these fundamental elements, which are all linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- The right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- Right to know; data relevant to the health and environmental impacts of chemicals will be made available not only to the government, but will also be made available to the public. Reveal pollution and chemicals in products and processes and uphold and implement the right to information about emissions of chemicals and wastes and full disclosure about their presence in products. (SDG12, Rio Principle 10)
- No data, no market; to place a substance on the market, a comprehensive set of data and information about the chemical must be provided to regulators and users. (SDG12)
- Substitution principle; progressive substitution of the most dangerous chemicals should occur when suitable alternatives have been identified. (SDG12)
- Precaution; take preventive action in the face of uncertainty; shift the burden of proof to the proponents of the activity; explore alternatives; increase public participation in decision-making. (Rio Principle 15)
- Gender equality; Advance equal participation of women in decision-making, work to obtain gender disaggregated data, and promote policies that protect women from harmful chemicals and wastes. Rio Principle 20 states, “*Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.*” (SDG5)

Several declarations could provide useful elements for key messages:

UNEP, “Dubai Declaration”

1. The sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development;
6. The need to take concerted action is accentuated by a wide range of chemical safety concerns at the international level, including a lack of capacity for managing chemicals in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, dependency on pesticides in agriculture, exposure of workers to

harmful chemicals and concern about the long-term effects of chemicals on both human health and the environment;

9. We commit ourselves in a spirit of solidarity and partnership to achieving chemical safety and thereby assisting in fighting poverty, protecting vulnerable groups and advancing public health and human security;
10. We commit ourselves to respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, understanding and respecting ecosystem integrity and addressing the gap between the current reality and our ambition to elevate global efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals;
18. We will work towards effective and efficient governance of chemicals management by means of transparency, public participation and accountability involving all sectors of society, in particular striving for the equal participation of women in chemicals management;
23. We recognize the need to make special efforts to protect those groups in society that are particularly vulnerable to risks from hazardous chemicals or are highly exposed to them;
24. We are determined to protect children and the unborn child from chemical exposures that impair their future lives;
27. We will strive to integrate the Strategic Approach [or new name] into the work programmes of all relevant United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes consistent with their mandates as accorded by their respective governing bodies
30. We are determined to cooperate fully in an open, inclusive, participatory and transparent manner in the implementation of the Strategic Approach [or new name]

OECD, “[Building Back Better: The Role of Green Fiscal Policies](#)”

“Governments need to treat waste management, including medical, household and other hazardous waste as an urgent and essential public service in order to minimise possible secondary impacts upon health and the environment.”

WHO, “[Manifesto for a Healthy Recovery from COVID-19](#)”

“We should stop paying the pollution bill, both through our pockets and our lungs.”

UNEA4 Ministerial Declaration, ([UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1](#))

“We will address the damage to our ecosystems caused by the unsustainable use and disposal of plastic products, including by significantly reducing the manufacturing and use of single-use plastic products by 2030, and we will work with the private sector to find affordable and environmentally friendly alternatives.”

“We will promote innovation and knowledge sharing in chemicals and waste management to achieve safer and less toxic material flows in order to protect human health and the environment.”

17th African Ministerial Conference on the Environment ([AMCEN/17/L.2](#))

“We commit ourselves to supporting global action to address plastic pollution, which will require further work in order to engage more effectively on global governance issues relating to plastic pollution, including reinforcing existing agreements or the option of a new global agreement on plastic pollution that takes a comprehensive approach to addressing the full life cycle of plastics, from production and design to waste prevention and management, while ensuring coherence among and coordination of activities undertaken by existing regional and international instruments while highlighting the importance of technology transfer, research on alternatives to plastic, and adequate financing to enable African countries to deal with plastic pollution.”

UNEP, [Global Chemicals Outlook Synthesis Report \(2013\)](#)

“..the economies of all countries are becoming more chemically intensive and all would benefit from improved chemical management.”

“Demonstrating the economic benefits of sound chemicals management proves that this is as valid an area for investment as education, transport infrastructure, direct health care services and other essential public services and could foster the creation of many green, decent and healthy jobs and livelihoods for developed and developing countries.”

“Sound chemicals management is a vital element that underpins each aspect of a Green Economy and should be integrated not only by investments in natural capital in the realm of agriculture, fisheries, forest and water, but also in the investment in energy and resource efficiency, manufacturing, waste management, building and urban design, tourism and transportation. Sound chemicals management must become a national and international environmental, public health and economic and business development priority.”

UNEP, [Independent SAICM Evaluation \(2019\)](#)

“The chemical industry is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for over 12% of global greenhouse emissions.”

“Freshwater biodiversity was also found to have been adversely impacted by the chronic effects of micro-pollutants that included pesticides, pharmaceutical residues, plastics and dissolved metals.”

FAO, [International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management \(2014\)](#)

“adopt the “life-cycle” approach to management of pesticides to address all major aspects related to the development, registration, production, trade, packaging, labelling, distribution, storage, transport, handling, application, use, disposal and monitoring of pesticides and pesticide residues as well as management of pesticide waste and pesticide containers;”

“...designed to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Vector Management (IVM)... These should be based on strategies that promote in-creased participation of farmers,(including women’s groups), ex-tension agents and on-farm re-searchers, communities, and rel-evant entities from the public health and other sectors.”

“...promote participation in information exchange and international agreements identified in Annex I, in particular the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.”

“Governments, with the support of relevant international and regional organizations, donor agencies and research funds, should encourage and promote research on, and the development of, alternatives to existing pesticides that pose fewer risks such as biological control agents and techniques; non-chemical pesticides and pest control methods...”

“Governments should...carry out health surveillance pro-grammes of those who are occupationally exposed to pesticides and investigate, as well as document, poisoning cases;”

“Governments should...utilize all possible means for collecting reliable data and maintaining statistics on health effects of pesticides and pesticide poisoning incidents.”

“Governments should...halt sale and recall products as soon as possible when handling or use pose an unacceptable risk under any use directions or restrictions and notify the government.”

“Governments should...prevent the use of pesticides by and sale of pesticides to children.”

Current context

This section could include references to COVID-19, economic recovery interventions and the need to make significant progress on the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

COVID-19

Overall, highlighting elements of a green recovery that are relevant to chemicals and wastes management would be important to include since the recovery represents an historic opportunity to change course to a more sustainable future. The elements below may be useful as is, or slightly modified to focus more directly on chemical safety.

WHO, [Manifesto for a Healthy Recovery from COVID-19](#)

1. Prescription 1: Protect and preserve the source of human health: Nature; *“Promote agrobiodiversity and the use of integrated pest management to reduce the need for chemical pesticides and herbicides.”*
2. Prescription 2: Invest in essential services, from water and sanitation to clean energy in healthcare facilities; *“Scale up coverage with essential interventions and basic occupational health services of all workers for primary prevention of occupational and work-related diseases and injuries and promote healthier and safer workplaces, including for migrant and contractual workers and those in the informal economy.”*
3. Prescription 3: Ensure a quick and health energy transition; *“Rapidly transition away from fossil fuel combustion (oil, coal, fossil gas) for large-scale energy production, and diesel generators for small-scale production.”*
4. Prescription 4: Promote healthy, sustainable food systems; *“applying sustainable food production and natural resource management practices.”*
5. Prescription 5: Build healthy, liveable cities; *“Provide well-managed water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, adequate waste management and access to safe and healthy food.”*
6. Prescription 6: Stop using taxpayers money to fund pollution; *“Stop subsidies on fossil fuels, such as for power generation and transport.”*

OECD, [“Environmental health and strengthening resilience to pandemics”](#)

“Limiting people’s exposure to hazardous physical, chemical, and biological agents in air, water, soil, food, and other environmental media will reduce their vulnerability to future pandemics, increase their health and well-being, and provide an important complement to public health systems.”

“Improving air quality reduces the incidence of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases that increase the vulnerability of individuals and communities to pandemics similar to COVID-19, and generates wider benefits for public health, well-being and resilience. Better access to clean water and sanitation can lower transmission of infectious diseases. Effectively addressing waste generation, management and recycling minimises health and environmental risks from poor handling of contaminated waste. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss protects people from the transmission of pathogens.”

UNEP, [“Building Back Better: The Role of Green Fiscal Policies”](#)

“Greening recovery efforts can also help reduce the probability of future pandemics, support public health efforts, reduce environmental and climate change risks, and strengthen resilience to future crises.”

“As part of countries COVID-19 recovery efforts, such inefficient/ineffective agriculture subsidies could be repurposed and directed towards strengthening smallholder farmers and scaling up nature-based farming practices.”

“The current low oil price provides a particular opportunity to reform inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and support a shift towards a more resilient, sustainable energy system over the long-term.”

“Environmental taxations can also raise additional public revenues which can be used to finance recovery efforts and support needed investments in priority sectors...”

World Resources Institute and German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, “[5 pillars](#) for green and resilient recovery from COVID-19”

1. People must be at the heart of a green and resilient recovery; *“countries must pursue a recovery that puts the well-being of people at the center.”*
2. Governments must ramp up their investment in a green recovery; *“redesigning our power sector, buildings, transportation and food systems that can put us on a transformational path.”*
3. Building resilience is key for an effective recovery; *“favoring nature-based solutions.”*
4. Global crises are often interlinked; *“building strong alliances with other movements and constituencies such as those on health, labor, inequality and nature.”*
5. International cooperation and solidarity are critical; *“Developing countries will need additional resources to build back better.”*

Need for progress

UNEP, “[Dubai Declaration](#)”

7. The global production, trade and use of chemicals are increasing, with growth patterns placing an increasing chemicals management burden on developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, and presenting them with special difficulties in meeting this challenge. As a result, fundamental changes are needed in the way that societies manage chemicals;

UNEP, UNEA3 Ministerial Declaration ([UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1](#))

“Every day, 9 out of 10 of us breathe air in which concentrations of air pollution exceed the limits set out in the World Health Organization’s air quality guidelines and more than 17,000 people will die prematurely as a consequence.”

“Hundreds of children below the age of five die from diseases caused by contaminated water and poor hygiene daily. Women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected, whether it be as a result of cooking with dirty fuel or walking long distances to find safe water.”

“Every year we dump 4.8 to 12.7 million tonnes of plastic in our oceans and generate over 40 million tonnes of electronic waste – increasing every year by 4 to 5 per cent – causing severe damage to ecosystems, livelihoods and human health.”

“We believe that it is both inexcusable and preventable that tens of thousands of chemicals are used in everyday objects and applied in the field without proper testing, labelling or tracking. Far too many communities either lack information about the chemicals and hazardous substances they use and are exposed to, or the capacity to manage them safely.”

UNEP, [Global Chemicals Outlook Synthesis Report \(2013\)](#)

“Uncompensated harms to human health and the environment are market failures that need correction”

“Poor management of chemicals across their lifecycles comes with a price paid for by individuals, important economic sectors and public budgets, including through poor health and degraded ecosystem health and productivity.”

“A conservative projection of the 2005 estimate to 2009 shows costs of injury due to pesticide poisoning in sub-Saharan Africa to be USD \$6.2 billion. This suggests that the total ODA to general healthcare is exceeded by costs of inaction related to current pesticide use alone.”

“Sound management of chemicals is not a ‘no-cost’ proposition; but outlays are likely to be far less than the benefits of progressing on chemical management.”

“Corporations will need to assume more responsibility for safe chemical production and sound management all along the value chain. Governments will need to adopt and more effectively implement instruments and approaches, define responsibilities and improve administrative and strategic coordination. This also requires providing developing countries and countries with economies in transition with technical assistance, technology transfer, institutional capacity building and training on the new methods and tools that are being used today by developed countries, private sector and civil society.”

UNEP, [Global Chemicals Outlook II: Summary for Policymakers \(UNEP/EA.4/21\)](#)

“The size of the global chemical industry exceeded United States dollars 5 trillion in 2017. It is projected to double by 2030. Consumption and production are rapidly increasing in emerging economies. Global supply chains, and the trade of chemicals and products, are becoming increasingly complex.”

“Hazardous chemicals and other pollutants (e.g. plastic waste and pharmaceutical pollutants) continue to be released in large quantities. They are ubiquitous in humans and the environment and are accumulating in material stocks and products, highlighting the need to avoid future legacies through sustainable materials management and circular business models.”

“The benefits of action to minimize adverse impacts have been estimated in the high tens of billions of United States dollars annually. The World Health Organization estimated the burden of disease from selected chemicals at 1.6 million lives in 2016 (this is likely to be an underestimate). Chemical pollution also threatens a range of ecosystem services.”

“International treaties and voluntary instruments have reduced the risks of some chemicals and wastes, but progress has been uneven and implementation gaps remain. As of 2018, more than 120 countries had not implemented the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.”

“Addressing legislation and capacity gaps in developing countries and emerging economies remains a priority. However, resources have not matched needs. There are opportunities for new and innovative financing (e.g. through cost recovery and engagement of the financial sector).”

UNEP, [Independent SAICM Evaluation \(2019\)](#)

“...the gap between countries in different development categories... was widening rather than narrowing...”

“The potential of SAICM to deliver its outcomes has been limited by insufficient external donor funding.”

“...SAICM stakeholders continued to raise concerns over the lack of commitment at the highest levels of some UN agencies to formally commit to SAICM.”

“The SAICM process has been hampered by both uncertainty and shortfalls in planned financing.”

“Industry involvement was envisaged as...shift the external costs of production, use and disposal of chemicals away from the public sector to the private sector.”

“Gender was addressed in a minority of QSP projects.”

“The lack of information sharing by business was of concern in relation to the Chemicals in Products EPI, electrical and electronic products EPI, nanomaterials EPI...”

“...the workplans...and outcomes of some of the emerging policy issues were limited in their ambition and scope.”

“The low level of awareness within Government and among end-users of chemicals posed serious risks to public health and the environment.

“Just under 20% of survey respondents indicated that little or no success had been achieved in addressing the risk reduction objective.”

“...many countries did not have laws governing chemicals management, and for those that did, enforcement mechanisms for implementation remained weak.”

“...national focal points from Africa, CEE, AP and LAC all commented that the level of technical capacity to manage chemicals remained too low.”

“Over 55% (30) of the 52 National Focal Point respondents from all five regions assess progress in meeting the 2020 goal, as either ‘haven’t started the journey’ (6%) or ‘started the journey but still a long way to go’ (52%) ...”

UNEP; ICCM4 Resolution IV/3 ([SAICM/ICCM.4/15](#))

“...highly hazardous pesticides cause adverse human health and environmental effects in many countries, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries.”

“emphasis on promoting agroecologically-based alternatives...”

Connections to Agenda 2030

UNEP, UNEA4 Ministerial Declaration, ([UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1](#))

“We will ensure the active participation of civil society, citizens, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector, academia and other relevant stakeholders in achieving sustainable development, and we promote their effective engagement.”

“We will invest in environmental research, education and awareness-raising in the framework of sustainable development, with a strong focus on women and youth, and we will promote wider use of innovative approaches, such as inclusive citizen science.”

“We will respect indigenous and local knowledge on environmentally friendly practices and promote the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities.”

AMCEN, 17th African Ministerial Conference on the Environment ([AMCEN/17/L.2](#))

“We reaffirm our commitment to using all policy tools at the national and regional levels to achieve strong, harmonized, coherent delivery of environmental and natural-resources-related programmes to enable the achievement of a sustainable development path and eradicate poverty.”

Progress and gaps

UNEP, “Dubai Declaration”

2. Significant, but insufficient, progress has been made in international chemicals management through the implementation of chapter 19 of Agenda 21¹ and International Labour Organization Conventions No. 170 on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work and No. 174 on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, as well as in addressing particularly hazardous chemicals through the recent entry into force of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the adoption of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;
5. Progress in chemicals management has not, however, been sufficient globally and the environment worldwide continues to suffer from air, water and land contamination, impairing the health and welfare of millions;
6. The need to take concerted action is accentuated by a wide range of chemical safety concerns at the international level, including a lack of capacity for managing chemicals in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, dependency on pesticides in agriculture, exposure of workers to harmful chemicals and concern about the long-term effects of chemicals on both human health and the environment;

Commitments

The HLD provides an opportunity for ministers to declare commitments to some key chemical safety actions. This will set the ICCM5 HLD apart from the more general declarations issued by UNEA. They are also key for raising the political priority of the chemicals agenda and helping the public to understand the objectives of the global community. These commitments should include:

- The [right](#) to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Agenda 2030 Declaration)
- Right to know; data relevant to the health and environmental impacts of chemicals will be made available not only to the government, but will also be made available to the public. Reveal pollution and chemicals in products and processes and uphold and implement the right to information about emissions of chemicals and wastes and full disclosure about their presence in products. (SDG12, Rio Principle 10)
- No data, no market; to place a substance on the market, a comprehensive set of data and information about the chemical must be provided to regulators and users. (SDG12)
- Substitution principle; progressive substitution of the most dangerous chemicals should occur when suitable alternatives have been identified. (SDG12)
- Precaution; take preventive action in the face of uncertainty; shift the burden of proof to the proponents of the activity; explore alternatives; increase public participation in decision-making. (Rio Principle 15)
- Gender equality; Advance equal participation of women in decision-making, work to obtain gender disaggregated data, and promote policies that protect women from harmful chemicals and wastes. Rio

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

Principle 20 states, “*Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.*” (SDG5)

- Protect children; Advocate for best interests of children during the design, implementation and enforcement of public health, environmental and labor laws to protect children from toxics and pollution. (SDG3, Rights of the Child)
- Sustainable agriculture; Work to phase out the production and use of chemical pesticides, especially highly hazardous pesticides and develop national programs to promote and implement agroecology to support sustainable agriculture. (SDG2)
- Ecological restoration; Identify, characterize, and advocate for sustainable clean-up of contaminated sites including the meaningful participation of communities, and ensure intergenerational equality and promote ecological restoration. (SDG15)
- Public awareness; Raise public awareness about harmful chemicals and wastes including through monitoring air, land, water, food, products, and people and promote the development and implementation of safer processes and alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives, and strengthened laws to minimize and prevent pollution. (SDG6, 12, 16)
- Reduce and eliminate ocean pollutants; Work to reduce and eliminate ocean pollutants including mercury, persistent organic pollutants, endocrine disrupting chemicals, and plastics. (SDG12, 14)
- Zero waste; Conduct waste audits, promote recycling and zero waste, and push for cradle to cradle policies without toxic chemical recycling into new products. (SDG11)
- Occupational safety and health; Advocate and enforce occupational health and safety policies that provide meaningful right to know, prioritize prevention and precaution, establish exposure limits protective of the most vulnerable, and provide equal protection in the workplace and the community. (SDG8, 9)
- Ban single-use plastics and lead paint; Ban single use plastic packaging and products and lead in paint, varnishes, lacquers, stains, enamels, glazes, primers and coatings. (SDG3, 12, 14)
- Public participation in decision-making; including implementation of policies and agreements on chemicals and wastes at the national, regional, and global levels. (SDG16, Rio Principle 10)
- Sustainable private sector; private sector complies with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; takes responsibility to internalize all costs of chemical production including wastes and recycling infrastructure; adopts extended producer responsibility; provides comprehensive toxicity information on chemicals including nanomaterials; achieves zero discharge of toxic chemicals and wastes in production; and implements green chemistry to make products that are non-toxic, durable, and reusable. (SDG8, 9, 12, 17, Rio Principle 16)

UNEP, “[Dubai Declaration](#)”

8. We are determined to implement the applicable chemicals management agreements to which we are Party, strengthen the coherence and synergies that exist between them and work to address, as appropriate, existing gaps in the framework of international chemicals policy;
9. We commit ourselves in a spirit of solidarity and partnership to achieving chemical safety and thereby assisting in fighting poverty, protecting vulnerable groups and advancing public health and human security;

10. We commit ourselves to respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, understanding and respecting ecosystem integrity and addressing the gap between the current reality and our ambition to elevate global efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals;
17. We will work towards closing the gaps and addressing the discrepancies in the capacity to achieve sustainable chemicals management between developed countries on the one hand and developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the other by addressing the special needs of the latter and strengthening their capacities for the sound management of chemicals and the development of safer alternative products and processes, including non-chemical alternatives, through partnerships, technical support and financial assistance;
18. We will work towards effective and efficient governance of chemicals management by means of transparency, public participation and accountability involving all sectors of society, in particular striving for the equal participation of women in chemicals management;
23. We recognize the need to make special efforts to protect those groups in society that are particularly vulnerable to risks from hazardous chemicals or are highly exposed to them;
24. We are determined to protect children and the unborn child from chemical exposures that impair their future lives;
25. We will endeavour to prevent illegal traffic in toxic, hazardous, banned and severely restricted chemicals and chemical products and wastes;
27. We will strive to integrate the Strategic Approach into the work programmes of all relevant United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes consistent with their mandates as accorded by their respective governing bodies;
30. We are determined to cooperate fully in an open, inclusive, participatory and transparent manner in the implementation of the Strategic Approach;

UNEP, [Global Chemicals Outlook Synthesis Report \(2013\)](#)

“Regulate and reduce the use of chemicals of highest concern and substitute with safer alternatives.”

“Develop and implement national, regional and international approaches to financing adequate capacity and resources to support sound chemicals management.”

“Develop and strengthen global, regional and national integrated health and environment monitoring and surveillance system for chemicals to make timely and evidence-based decisions for effective information management of environmental risks to human health.”

“Strengthen national capacity to facilitate the appropriate use of economic instruments to internalize the cost of chemical management and create financial incentives to improve chemical management strategies and promote safer alternatives.”

“The financial sector should evaluate more thoroughly the chemical risks inherent in the activities and corporations which it finances, and work with other stakeholders to reduce them.”

“Civil society organizations should participate actively and meaningfully in decision-making processes on chemical safety at all levels.”

“Civil society organizations should actively participate in the implementation, and monitoring, of chemicals and wastes regulatory policies including national, regional, and global agreements and facilitate their enforcement.”

“Strengthen international and national chemical control activities including legislation to address gaps in current chemicals related MEAs.”

World Bank and FAO; International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)

- Reduce agrochemical inputs (particularly pesticides and synthetic fertilizers)
- Use energy, water and land more efficiently (not only as in precision agriculture, but also as in agroecology)
- Use agroecological management approaches
- Internalize the environmental cost of unsustainable practices and avoid those that promote the wasteful use of inputs (pesticides and fertilizers)
- Regulate environmentally damaging practices and develop capacities for institutional changes that ensure monitoring and evaluation of compliance mechanisms
- Adjust intellectual property rights (IPR) and related frameworks to allow farmers to manage their seeds and germplasm resources as they wish

Structure of the HLD

The structure of the ICCM5 High-Level Declaration could be a series of numbered paragraphs and follow a similar three-part format as the Dubai Declaration.

Part 1: Overarching statement

First, an overarching statement would be useful, and the first paragraph of the Dubai Declaration is still as relevant today as it was in 2006: *“The sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development.”*

Part 2: Advances and gaps

This section should update the Dubai Declaration. Several ministerial declarations, UNEP reports and other sources provide an ample number of items for this section.

Part 3: Commitments

This heading was not part of the initial submission criteria, but makes up more than two-thirds of the Dubai Declaration. The commitment section is extremely important to raise the political profile of chemicals management and to lay the political foundation for achieving the agreement’s objectives and targets.