

Statement by the Asia Pacific Group

**Thank You Madam Co-Chairs,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Asia and Pacific region.

The Group of Asia-Pacific would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the President, Bureau and IP Co-Chairs, for their leaderships and support during the ongoing IP-4. The Region would also like to congratulate the SAICM Secretariat for the successful and smooth organization of this IP process that has helped in advancing the good work of IP-3 and to make progress on the SAICM beyond 2020 instrument.

The Region would also like to convey its sincere thanks to the Government and the people of Romania, and place on record its appreciation for extending kind hospitality and successful convening of the IP-4 meeting.

Madam Co-chairs,

The Asia Pacific Region believes that the IP-4 meeting has helped in advancing the text of the proposed instrument. However, it is also pertinent to note that there are still many outstanding issues such as issues of concern, Targets and Finance etc. which need to be addressed through larger participation.

Therefore, we would like to propose that the ICCM-5 President and Co-Chairs, in consultation with SAICM Secretariat, may consider adjourning this session of IP-4 for reconvening IP-4.2 with increased participation of the stakeholders

from Asia-Pacific region. The majority of stakeholders in the region are also open to holding OEWG for finalizing the proposed instrument for larger stakeholder consultation, in case, the Bureau, in consultation with the President and the Co-chairs deems it appropriate.

This extra effort will immensely help in improving the proposed instrument and help in achieving the meaningful engagement and representation of the region.

Madam Co-chairs,

The majority of stakeholders of the Region would like to again highlight the challenges of undertaking work through virtual working groups (VWGs) due to various limitations, and like to reiterates that all the future discussions, such as IP-4.2 or OEWG, as the case may be, are held in-person only.

Finally, the Asia-Pacific region remains committed to a strong and implementable framework for sound management of chemicals and waste, and promises to remain fully supportive and engaged in the process and cooperate with all the stakeholders for a successful ICCM-5 meeting next year in Germany.

Thank you