Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

First of all, the Brazilian government would like to thank the Secretariat, the Bureau and the Presidency of ICCM5 for the efforts to find proper solutions to make SAICM intersessional work possible despite this difficult moment of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We also take this opportunity to make some remarks about the main outcomes of the discussions held in the ninth meeting of the Bureau of ICCM5.

Regarding the fourth meeting of the intersessional process (IP4), we would like to endorse the comments of the representatives of GRULAC before the Bureau. It is indeed fundamental to hold a face-to-face meeting to provide participants with the opportunity to really advance with the negotiations and the preparation of the recommendations to be presented at ICCM5 on equal terms. We agree with the idea that the third option (2-3 days back-to-back with ICCM5) is not ideal and should only be considered in a worst-case scenario.

When it comes to the timing of the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), the fact that there are other important international events also scheduled for July 2021 may cause serious problems especially for developing countries in terms of funding and logistics. Many of them have limited financial and human resources. In many cases, their technical teams would not be able to spend a whole month abroad. In this regard, we think it would be advisable to delay some of those international meetings.

As for next steps towards ICCM5, we kindly ask for clarification on how those small virtual working groups would work and what type of outcome is expected. From Brazil’s point of view, the main forum for international discussions and negotiations regarding the recommendations to be presented at ICCM5 is IP4. In our opinion, undertaking intersessional work until IP4 may allow deeper technical debates, the exchange of views and experiences among delegations, as well as the compilation of those opinions, especially on key issues. However, it should not play the role delegations have defined to IP4. The meetings of the intersessional process are the only legitimate arena for delegations to discuss and negotiate language and proposals about the future of SAICM – for further consideration by ICCM5 – on equal terms, ensuring transparency and inclusiveness.

In view of the importance of the negotiation of a High-Level Declaration to be considered by ICCM5, we do not think the idea of establishing a group of “Friends of the President” is advisable for this purpose, inasmuch as this type of institutional arrangement is not capable of ensuring the necessary transparency and inclusiveness in the process.
Finally, regarding the conduct of business until ICCM5, we think it is fundamental to achieve consensus among participants in every proposal to be made to ICCM5 and respect general provisions enshrined in the rules of procedure.

We thank the Secretariat in advance for the attention and kind cooperation.

Please accept the assurances of our highest regards.

Marco Tulio Cabral
Head of the Division of Environment II
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Brazil