

General Statement on behalf of Asia-Pacific Region at the 2First SAICM Intersessional Meeting, Brasilia 7-9 February 2017

by, Heidar Ali Balouji (Iran), the Asia – Pacific Regional Focal Point for SAICM

Madam President, Distinguished delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia and Pacific region which is the views expressed by the participants in the regional meeting.

Madam President,

The members of the Asia and the Pacific regional group are congratulating Madam Zahler's presidency for ICCM-5 and election of the two co-chairs. We are confident of your able leadership and are ready to work with you for a successful process and meeting. We further take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for all the logistics provided and the documents prepared. I am also obliged to express on behalf of the region our sincere appreciation for the Brazilian government hospitality.

Madam President,

The Asia-Pacific region made all its efforts to progress in the activities towards the goal of SAICM, especially sound management of chemicals. The regional countries are doing their best to establishing mechanisms that coordinate among different national stakeholders for better management of chemicals and waste. Also we are working to provide accessible information to the public on the hazardous chemicals and waste as well as to persuade all stakeholders to get involved in the relevant programs.

Madam President,

While we have been successful in achieving some of SAICM goals, however, we believe that in order to realize a comprehensively desired result we need to address the needs of all developing countries in terms of financial aids and technological cooperation. Needless to say that in this regard, capacity building and knowledge sharing are of utmost importance. Therefore, the region appreciates and urges the contribution of donors to SAICM and expects the efforts to be continued to mobilize existing and new predictable, sustainable and dedicated sources of financial support to provide additional resources for the implementation of the Strategic Approach in the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, technology transfers including green technologies are key elements in helping the region to achieve the 2020 goal and this is a prerequisite to proceed forward.

Surely, the women and children are among those who need an accurate attention in any policy making and strategy planning with regards to chemical safety.

The Asia-Pacific Region recognizes the existing gaps on sound management of chemicals and emphasize the need for sustainability funding allocation and resources.

We emphasize on necessity of paying proper attention to the existing challenges and needs including financial support as well as new technologies. Furtherer, an overwhelming majority of the countries of the region believe the internationally accepted principle of "Common But Differentiated Responsibilities" should be a guiding element in persuading all of the relevant policies.

The region underlines importance of the Sustainable Development Goals, regional and international cooperation and their contribution to chemical safety as a whole.

Madam President,

in closing, the Members of the Asia Pacific group will remain constructively engaged in all future work of SAICM and we assure you our all-out support in carrying out our efforts towards achieving the goals of environmentally sound management of chemicals