

Statement by
Dr. Mohsen Naziri Asl,
The SAICM Asia – Pacific Regional Focal Point
Bangkok, Thailand, 1-4 October 2019

Madam President,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a profound honor for me to deliver this statement as the representative of the Asia and Pacific region which is the views expressed by the participants from Asia-Pacific in this meeting.

Madam President,

The Group of Asia-Pacific would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Sahler, distinguished President of ICCM 5, the Secretariat and the Bureau for all preparations to have this meeting in Bangkok. We extend our special appreciation to the government and people of Thailand for hosting IP3 and their kind hospitality. We also thank the co-chairs of the IPs for their papers as an input to our discussions.

As many people are benefitted from chemical substances that provide convenience to modern life, many of them are also suffering from the adverse effects of the chemicals and their waste. In this context, the Asia-Pacific region either in national and regional level has made all its efforts to progress in sound management of chemicals and waste including establishing mechanisms that coordinate among different national stakeholders for better management of chemicals and waste, 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.

As we approach 2020 and with considering the importance of cooperation at international level, the Asia-Pacific region believes that the time has come to elevate the chemicals agenda and begin a new and serious era on the sound management of chemicals and waste that provides concrete contribution to SDG's agenda and reduces and eliminates adverse effects in our communities. In

the meantime the existing challenges to achieve the set goals of sound management of chemicals by 2020 should not be overshadowed by our ambitious goals for beyond 2020.

The ongoing activities to implement the sound management of chemicals and waste should be further strengthened. All countries in the region believes that all Rio principles are still relevant in SAICM context. These principles include principle 7 that reads “In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities.”

The previous elements of SAICM such as the Dubai Declaration, Overarching Policy Strategy and Global Plan of Action as well as the Overall Orientation and Guidance provide important objectives, activities and assessment tools to improve and evaluate implementation of SAICM towards 2020.

We must consider the existing realities that have been recognized in the SAICM Evaluation, the Global Chemicals Outlook II and other relevant documents; some of which are as follows:

- The gaps between developed and developing countries regarding the sound management of chemicals are widening,
- Growth in the international trade of chemicals and advancement of previous gaps,
- The lack of specific financial source for developing countries to strengthen Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste,
- The necessity for technical assistance, financial support and technology transfer for the sound management of chemicals and waste based on findings of the SAICM independent evaluation,
- A specific, sustainable, adequate and accessible financial resource is key element in achieving sound management of chemicals and waste,
- The IOMC organizations contribution to sound management of chemicals and waste should be strengthened,
- The importance of implementing the “Extended Responsibility of Producers” in the whole life cycle of chemicals.

We are of the view that achieving a comprehensive, voluntary, multi-sectoral and attractive approach and structure for SAICM beyond 2020 could be realized by thorough, inclusive and transparent deliberations. In the other words, we should be fully involved in considering all options and choosing the best one to maximize the effectiveness of new framework.

We are optimistic about the future and 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 meet the needs of all regions including Asia -Pacific countries.

Madam President,

In closing, the Members of the Asia-Pacific group will remain constructively involved in all future work of SAICM and we assure you of all support in carrying out our efforts towards achieving the goals of environmentally sound management of chemicals. Our success depends on strong cooperation and how effectively we deal with the challenges which we have in facing with chemicals and their waste management. We will spare no effort to achieve SAICM goals in a very efficient and appropriate way.

Thank you

-