

**3rd Meeting of the Intersessional Process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

Bangkok, Thailand 1 al 4 de Abril de 2019

**General Statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)**

**Plenary Session**

Thank you Madam President,

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean region. Given that this is the first GRULAC intervention at this meeting, we would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Thailand for the warm welcome and hospitality during this 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Intersessional Process considering SAICM and the Sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. We would also like to express our appreciation to the co-chairs for their outstanding work, and recognize the efforts done by the SAICM secretariat towards the preparation of this meeting.

At this stage, we have an important task ahead, to provide recommendations to ICCM5 in order to make informed decisions about future arrangements for SAICM and the Sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. In this regard, we must continue working together towards a sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle, in order to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

As a region, we recognize the need for a comprehensive framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste that addresses the development and implementation of legislations and policies that include and integrate all international instruments in force and seeks to achieve synergies and coherence.

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the sound management of chemicals and waste in the future can only be guaranteed through the highest level of commitment among all relevant sectors and stakeholders.

GRULAC in collaboration with the African Group, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Oman, Thailand and Tuvalu submitted a proposal at OEWG3 on financial considerations that looks after making possible the achievement of the challenging objectives of the Sound management of chemicals and waste. We want to extend the invitation for all to actively support this proposal in order to have concrete recommendations for the ICCM5.

It is crucial to allocate sustainable financial resources to ensure the sound management of chemicals and waste. The integrated approach to financing includes three equally important components: mainstreaming, private sector involvement and dedicated external financing. This Approach should provide predictable, adequate and accessible resources; essential for developing countries.

We strongly believe that the private sector should increase its contributions along the value chain for the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste, in an effort to prevent and mitigate the impacts generated from their activities to human health and the environment.

Though we recognize the legislative role of governments, we also acknowledge the challenge that developing countries have in implementing and enforcing legislation on sound management of chemicals and waste. We therefore call upon the private sector to level the playing field and eliminate double standards.

A new approach to the dedicated external financing should be established. If we expect new results, business as usual is not an option. Similarly to the response to climate change, we should have a specific dedicated fund for chemicals and waste. This fund should be accessible to governments, private sector and civil society in developing countries, offering different types of financial instruments, such as donations, loans at concessional rates and guarantees. The fund should receive resources from governments, private sector and philanthropists, among others.

In addition to its contribution in financial terms, this initiative will raise high level political attention, another key aspect that was identified as a constraint to achieve the 2020 goal.

We would also like to highlight the need for greater cooperation among stakeholders aiming at strengthening the capacities of developing countries for integrated management and promoting the adequate transfer of cleaner and safer technology.

SAICM has the potential to become a key instrument for increasing access to information. The benefits of shared information and lessons learned will lead to the improvement of its implementation. In addition, awareness of chemicals and waste issues has to be raised across agencies, encouraging multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

GRULAC stresses the need for a profound sectorial involvement in order to enhance coordinated and collaborative implementation and avoid duplication. Furthermore these efforts will elevate the visibility of the linkages with other clusters, such as Human Rights, labour, health, among others, as an essential component to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

GRULAC would like to call the attention on the need to have all working documents translated into the 6 UN languages in the future. The translation of documents for non-native English speaking countries represents an invaluable contribution for the adequate follow-up and comprehension of the issues discussed.

Finally, we understand the great challenge that lies before us and consider it crucial to guarantee the adequate participation of developing countries in all meetings where these aspects are discussed and to reiterate the commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to participate actively in this process to achieve substantive results.

Thank you.