

Thank you,

Excellencies, Delegates,

On behalf of the CEE region, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Uruguay for hosting and organizing this meeting and for the generous hospitality in this welcoming city and especially for yesterday's reception which all of us enjoyed tremendously.

We would like to express appreciation for the work done by, SAICM Secretariat, Bureau Members, and especially you Madam President for all your efforts to prepare this meeting and for the opportunity to have preceded CEE preparatory regional meeting.

CEE region recognizes that regional meetings play an essential role in the implementation of the Strategic Approach by providing a forum for reviewing progress in regional implementation. On Sunday we had an opportunity to discuss in details both implementation of SAICM as well as regional priorities for the future.

Last but not least, we would like to thank co-chairs of the intersessional process for their paper prepared in consultation with the Bureau and with the support of Secretariat.

We believe that the documents will serve as a good basis for our discussions and allow us to move from general exchange of views to the preparation of concrete recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 as measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation.

We found in the document many elements such as Vision, Scope, Principles, and Approaches, or Strategic objectives and targets for the sound management of chemicals and waste, which are close to be finalized and has potential to become universal and recognized by a broader number of stakeholders. We hope that by the end of the meeting many of the elements can become operational, and we will be ready to take ownership of the document and send concrete text proposal of draft recommendations to ICCM5 for its further approval.

This is the historical moment, in which we are ready to look back for what we achieved today and have to consider why we haven't fully achieved the 2020 goal. In this context we would like to thank the whole team responsible for preparation of the Global Chemical Outlook II and for SAICM secretariat for the Report on progress in the implementation of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal on

sound management of chemicals which gives us an overview of current state of global chemical management.

It is crucial to secure political support and sufficient capacities in the long term. The GCO-II shows that particularly now, when production, consumption and global trade of chemicals are increasing, and the global production has moved from developed to the developing countries and to the countries with the economies in transition, we have to be sure that we all will be well prepared to face the new challenges in the field of chemical management, and that no one will be left behind.

During the meeting, we will have the opportunity to reflect on what we would like to address in the framework of beyond 2020 process and how to increase a high-level political commitment and visibility.

We strongly believe that the main element needed to secure political support is the public awareness of the importance of the Sound Chemical Management. We learn from the most well recognized agendas, such as Climate Change and the Plastic waste, that to achieve political attention and sufficient financial support we need to increase our visibility. Behind the success of both, there is a solid scientific justification, defined cost of inaction and the message which is easy to deliver to the general public.

We also believe that Sound Chemicals Management has a potential to repeat those successes by strengthening synergies with others chemicals and waste MEAs and with other policy concepts and initiatives such as 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Climate Change Agreement, Sustainable Consumption and Production Initiative, Inclusive Green Economy, Sustainable Chemistry and Circular Economy Concept. The further framework should cover the whole life cycle from production and consumption to waste management.

In the future framework we should give due consideration to the assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste, which has been requested by the UN Environment Assembly, taking into account existing mechanisms, including those developed under UNEP, and relevant examples in other areas, in order to maximize cost-effectiveness, make the best use of new technologies, track progress and improve implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements at the national level.

The Global Chemicals Outlook and the Global Waste Management Outlook, offer a good starting point to better integrate science in policy-making and action on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Their conclusions and recommendations should be considered and followed-up by all stakeholders.

We believe that the future approach should complement the 2030 SDG Agenda and reaffirm core Strategic Approach documents, such as the Dubai Declaration. The new framework should give the answer to how sound chemical management could support the implementation of many, if not all, SDGs goals. Sustainable Development Goals clearly show that sound chemical management is not a stand-alone issue, but is relevant to many crosscutting areas.

We should ensure participation of all sectors including those, that have not traditionally been involved before. Such collaboration should address the strong interlinkages with sectors such as health, education, labour, mining, the environment, agriculture, water and industry, and explore the linkages with other issue areas such as climate change and biodiversity. In this context we would like to appreciate enhanced engagement of WHO in the SAICM agenda in particular adoption of the WHO Chemicals Roadmap.

Madam. President, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

We are fully convinced that our discussions will be conducted in a traditional positive way and a productive spirit. We hope that the 3d session of OEWG will give us a great opportunity to show political will and motivation for renewing our commitments.

Thank you very much!