

*Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group - OEWG-3*

*Montevideo, Uruguay, 2-4 April 2019*

**Opening Remarks, for delivery by IOMC Chair (UNDP) - DRAFT**

***After the completion of point 2 of the agenda (Organizational Matters)***

Thank you, Madame President,

The IOMC participating organizations are pleased to participate at this 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Open Ended Working Group.

Since ICCM4 the IOMC organizations have been working hard to implement a wide range of activities that contribute to implementation of SAICM, as set out in INF Document 6, "Activities of the IOMC to support SAICM Implementation". This work is done in coordination, with each of the organizations contributing their expertise. This is exemplified in the work of the organizations to implement the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues, where a number of the organizations collaborate on each issue. This is what SAICM is about - bringing together a range of actors to address shared problems.

As we have observed at previous meetings, a strength and uniqueness of SAICM is its multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder character. However, in practice, the participation of the different sectors and stakeholders is uneven. This has resulted in some sectors and stakeholder groups being more strongly represented in SAICM than others.

Therefore we would like to reiterate the importance of rethinking how to ensure a stronger multi-sector and multi-stakeholder engagement in the beyond-2020 framework, and we will provide suggestions in this regard related to the Co-Chairs paper.

We believe the purpose of the beyond 2020 framework should be to improve the health of people and ecosystems, and take into consideration national and regional priorities and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development .. This is very much in line with the IOMC objective to strengthen international cooperation and to increase the effectiveness of organizations' international chemicals programmes included as part of the broader drive for reform in the UN.

In preparation for this meeting, the IOMC has submitted a number of documents, including INF 6 which I mentioned previously, INF 9 "Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern - IOMC response to requests from the fourth session of the International Conference", and INF 15 "IOMC plans for future actions to implement the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda"; a number of the IOMC organizations have also submitted INF papers on an individual basis. Of the remaining 43 meeting documents, the IOMC or its participating organizations provided input or comment to more than 15 of those documents.

IOMC would like to reiterate its commitment to SAICM and the Beyond 2020 process in which we remain fully involved.

We hope that these contributions are helpful and look forward to active and constructive discussions at this meeting, as well as to the opportunity to contribute further to the Beyond 2020 process.