

**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals**

Montevideo, Uruguay 2 al 4 de abril de 2019

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

**Plenary Session**

Thank you president,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the stakeholders of the Latin American and Caribbean Group. Given that this is the first GRULAC intervention at this meeting, we would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Uruguay for the warm welcome and hospitality during this 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Open-Ended Working Group considering SAICM and express our appreciation to the co-chairs for his outstanding work, and recognize the work done by the of the SAICM secretariat towards the preparation of this meeting.

As a region we recognize the need for a broad and comprehensive framework for the sound management of chemical and their related wastes that addresses the need for the development, implementation and application of basic management laws and policies, which include and integrate all international instruments in force and that seeks to achieve synergies and coherence.

GRULAC is willing to participate actively in these discussions in order to continue working together in search of a sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle in order to avoid or minimize adverse health impacts. human and the environment. In this regard, we reinforce the need to ensure that developing countries are present in all areas where these aspects are discussed.

We congratulate the co-chairs for the work done intersessionally, on the discussion of the future of SAICM, we believe that we have a solid base for the debate.

As GRULAC, we support the proposed vision as we believe it should be ambitious, timeless, inclusive, taking into account that it should be simple, clear and concise.

Regarding the scope, GRULAC considers that the framework of work should be the sound management of chemical products and any form of waste associated with chemical products in order to appropriately take into account the life cycle approach embodied in our goal for 2020 and thus contribute to the SDGs.

GRULAC understands that the proposed scope captures the multi-sectoral essence of the approach, given that for a successful sound management of chemicals and waste it is necessary to have a coordinated and collaborative work of the different sectors involved, with a focus on human rights. We consider that the participation of the health sector is essential within SAICM, this could be achieved through a specific body of the sector.

We underline the need for greater cooperation aimed at strengthening the capacities of developing countries for integrated management and promoting the proper transfer of cleaner and safer technology to those countries.

While we share the need to establish strategic objectives to guide our work, GRULAC is concerned that the mobilization of financial resources, a crucial element for the success of the new strategic approach, is not visible in the current draft. Therefore, we will suggest a modification to the language so that the mobilization of financial and non-financial resources is an objective of the approach. In order to move forward with the establishment of strategic objectives and goals, GRULAC proposes to include in the discussion the adequate means of implementation. From our perspective, these elements must be approached as a whole and not separately.

Having a long-term, sustainable, timely, predictable, adequate and accessible financing to all interested parties, accompanied by appropriate technical assistance, is crucial to ensure the rational management of chemical products and their associated wastes.

In this aspect, there is still much to develop. Private sector entities along the value chain should increase their contributions. With regard to specific external financing, the existing mechanisms such as the GEF and the Donations are indispensable and contribute positively to getting closer to the objectives. However, they are not enough and the consequences are observed in the lack of achievements regarding our targets.

To that end, we again propose the establishment of a specific fund for the sound management of chemical products and associated wastes, accessible to governments, the private sector and civil society, offering different types of financial instruments such as donations, loans at preferential rates and guarantees that could be develop capabilities and attract investments, making a real difference in our future.

GRULAC wishes to state that the sound management of chemical products requires that we have international, regional and national levels, with a robust interface between politics and science, and we would like to see this aspect sufficiently highlighted in the document of the co-chairs.

On the other hand, GRULAC wants to share that within the framework of the intergovernmental network of chemical and waste products from Latin America and the Caribbean, we have approved a regional plan, which includes cooperation actions to be carried out during the next biennium.

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the sound management of chemical and associated waste in the future can only be guaranteed through the highest-level commitment and among all relevant sectors. This is essential to increase the visibility of the related problems.

We would like to conclude reiterating the commitment of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean to participate actively in this process to achieve substantive results.

Thank you.