

SUBMISSION OF COLOMBIA ON ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR A POSSIBLE ICCM5 HIGH-LEVEL DECLARATION ON THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE BEYOND 2020

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS OF THE DECLARATION:

- Colombia considers that the Declaration **should be concise and clear in its message**. It should not necessarily address the same issues that are being negotiated within the SAICM because that is already in the negotiation process, but rather go beyond that with a forward looking vision.
- The Declaration should consider launching processes and actions that are not been considered in the current negotiating framework.
- The discussion of **the declaration should not be a space to negotiate aspects that are under discussion** under the new framework or principles that are recognized at the international level.

1. What would you consider the most important aspects and key messages for strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste and political commitment for a just and resilient world that require anchoring in an HLD?

- **Science-policy interface:** There is growing recognition of the need to strengthen the science-policy interface through different options such as (i) setting up an independent inter-governmental body to provide scientific or evidence-based analysis for policy makers - similar to IPCC and IPBES for climate change and biodiversity respectively; or (ii) building on the approaches used for GCO-II and GWMO II; or (iii) establishing a science subsidiary body under UNEA or ICCM or following the example of the three expert Assessment Panels established under the Montreal Protocol. This would not replace existing bodies, nor would it determine policy, but it could make an important contribution to policy development, and to the wider understanding and implementation of policies for the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- The sound management of chemicals and waste should incorporate a **circularity and life cycle approach** which can help to transit towards sustainable consumption and production patterns and a circular economy.
- Should reaffirm the **commitment of countries with the framework** to be adopted for a period beyond 2020.
- **Financial aspects:** it is important that the declaration calls for the financial support required for the implementation of the new framework due to the challenges that it imposes on the stakeholders.
- **Stocktaking on the new framework and follow-up to the declaration:** it would be important to address in the text a date and actions to be developed for these two issues. We hope that this declaration will be clear in setting commitments and for this reason it is essential to evaluate the progress and outcome of these commitments.

2. What should the scope, key elements and messages of the ICCM5 HLD cover? Considering, inter alia:

- The current context (COVID-19, economic recovery interventions, and the need to make significant progress on SMCW).

The United Nations has warned that the coronavirus crisis could reverse human development for the first time in 30 years, striking particularly hard developing countries that are less prepared to deal with the socio-economic impacts of the virus. A -5.3% drop in the region's GDP is projected for 2020 in Latin American and the Caribbean.

While we make every effort to overcome COVID-19 and its devastating effects on health and the economy, there are other equally urgent life-threatening global crisis going on: climate change, loss of biodiversity and sound management of chemicals and waste. Therefore, recovery actions and plans in response to current health, economic and social crises should not exacerbate the environmental one and in consequence should be in line with the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. Those plans should not undermine national and international commitments and goals like those related to chemicals and waste management which should incorporate a building back better approach.

- The enhanced contribution of the SMCW to implement the 2030 Agenda and address present and future needs.

We consider it relevant that the new framework be recognized as one of the instruments that will contribute to the objectives we have set ourselves in the 2030 agenda, as well as complementing the international efforts adopted in other legally binding frameworks on linked matters such as biodiversity and climate change.

- Progress in efforts undertaken to date, and critical gaps to be addressed.

Progress and areas for further work should be briefly outlined. (we suggest to take into account the Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach 2006 – 2015 as well as the UNEP assessment report on issues of concern, sept 2020).

Also, the Declaration should encourage governments to adopt, on a short term basis, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and call to implement national inventories and/or registries of chemicals, as basic tools to improve their management at a global level.

Finally, we suggest that the Declaration emphasize the need to improve the management of substances included in the current SAICM "issues of concern"; particularly about research on endocrine disruptors and manufactured nanomaterials, as well as emerging issues of concern that can be considered by stakeholders based on scientific reports, as those identified in the UNEP Assessment Report on Issues of Concern (September 2020).

3. How should the ICCM5 HLD be structured, including participation, responsibilities, and processes to address current challenges?

We suggest a structure for the Declaration based on the following three points:

1. **An introductory section:** It is important to recognize the progress made to date. At the same time, to recognize the need for continuous hard work by all stakeholders for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste. Not only governments should work on this, but also academia, the private sector, industry, and non-governmental organizations, among others.
2. The declaration should contain a section of **clear commitments** (including deadlines for achieving them and taking stock of them) that are complementary and supportive of the new post-2020 framework.
3. We suggest including a section **calling on bilateral and international development finance** institutions to contribute to the issues identified by countries to support the new framework.