Third meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020
Bangkok, Thailand, 1-4 October 2019

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Development of recommendations for consideration by the fifth session of the Conference regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Joint Statement of the High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Wastes

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, a Joint Statement from the High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Wastes. The document presented in the annex has not been formally edited by the secretariat.

1 SAICM/IP.3/1
Annex

Joint Statement of the High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Wastes to the third Intersessional Meeting of the Beyond 2020 Process
October 2019 Bangkok

The deadline for the 2020 goal on the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle, is approaching rapidly and it is clear that we are far from achieving the goal and that chemicals and wastes will need to remain an essential part of the 2030 Agenda. To this end we need to accelerate our efforts for achieving the goal and ensure the establishment of a strong enabling framework beyond 2020 to protect and secure the human health and a healthy safe environment for future generations.

We need to act on the challenges identified in the Global Chemicals Outlook II. The World Health Organization has estimated the burden of disease from selected chemicals at 1.6 million lives in 2016. Chemical pollution also threatens a range of ecosystem services. Unsound management of chemicals and wastes is a major contributor to the pollution of key resources for human livelihood, including sea and ground water, air and soil. These impacts are also adversely affecting a multitude of human rights. The gravest of impacts fall on susceptible and vulnerable groups, raising important questions of inequality.

Meanwhile the benefits of action to minimize adverse impacts have been estimated in the high tens of billions of US dollars annually.

We recognize that the sound management of chemicals and waste in each country requires an appropriate management system.

We recognize that sound chemicals and waste management is intrinsically linked to the broader quest for resource efficiency, waste reduction and that materials are reused in ways that hinder contamination by hazardous chemicals.

We need to use opportunities to improve the management of chemicals and waste and thereby strengthen our contribution to sustainable development. We should build closer links and synergies with other frameworks such as those related to biodiversity, health and climate change.

We, the members of the High Ambition Alliance, believe that the Beyond 2020 process must respond effectively to the challenges we see with chemicals and waste today, and that the response is best accelerated through a framework that will build broad coalitions among
governments and other stakeholders. Such a framework needs to use the opportunities for sustainable development. To do so we would like to see a framework decided at ICCM5 that;

Enhances ambition at the speed and scale necessary for the challenges and that actions are taken to accelerate progress.

Sets a clear and ambitious vision for the chemicals and waste part of the sustainable development agenda with humans and the environment protected from harm, a clear vision that is easy to use for everyone. Sets associated objectives, targets and indicators that embody the vision and accelerate action.

Is subsequently endorsed by the UN General Assembly to increase the visibility of the issues, but also to secure the necessary ownership and to enhance coordination of priorities and direction between UN bodies, agencies and frameworks.

Recognizes that generation of knowledge and information on chemicals throughout their lifecycle is a cornerstone in the management of chemicals and waste. Chemicals are present in almost all products, the flow of materials in society is also a flow of chemicals. Without access to knowledge and information we are unable to act and to prevent harm to human health and the environment. The implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) by all countries is an essential part to achieve this and should be a requirement in the new framework.

Creates a mechanism for all stakeholders to act on hazardous substances or issues which cause harm to human health and the environment and warrants global action through appropriate commitments.

Emphasizes the importance of securing additional support, including capacity building financing and investment in concert with strong domestic actions to effectively enhance ambition and implementation for developing countries, aiming for a balance between mainstreaming into national plans, industry involvement and external financing in the integrated approach for long-term funding. Secures a secretariat that has strong and sustainable resources to facilitate an efficient implementation on national, regional and global level.

Emphasizes the needs to strengthen the science policy interactions in the Chemicals and Waste cluster and outlines elements on how to achieve it, and the High Ambition Alliance has a role to play in fostering these interactions

Encourages the private sector at national, regional and global level to engage actively with other stakeholders on financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste to support the 2030 goals and the sound chemicals and waste beyond 2020. In this
regard, Development Banks are key actors in creating channels to mainstream these actions.

Recognizes that sound chemicals management and human rights are inseparable. Underline the importance to conduct human rights due diligence for chemicals in activities and business relationships.

Promotes mainstreaming into all relevant sectors and sector policies as an efficient tool for obtaining financial resources, cost recovery and for sharing the burden across sectors for the sound management of chemicals and waste. We stress the importance of the mobilization of all types and sources of means of implementation, consistent with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Emphasizes the importance that the IP 3 meeting in Bangkok make progress to secure that the ICCM5 can adopt the recommendations that sets an ambitious global framework for chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

We call on other countries and stakeholders to join us in expressing their willingness to lead from the front.

The Members of the High Ambition alliance

*m.beyond2020@regeringskansliet.se*