

Thank you very much!

Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues!

On behalf of the CEE region I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Brazil, SAICM Secretariat and Bureau for their efforts taken to prepare this meeting.

Dear Madam and Mr. Co-chairs we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the election as co-chairs of the intersessional process. We are fully confident that your valuable experience will contribute effectively in leading us through our joint work!

This is the historical moment and significant step in realizing the goals that were established at the beginning of the road called SAICM. From that moment on, significant steps forward have been taken, but there are still things to do and efforts to make to continue along that road with success, facing the challenges in the field of chemical and waste management. Recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals clearly show that sound chemical management is not a stand-alone issue, but is relevant to many crosscutting issues. During next few days in Brasilia we will have an opportunity to reflect whether and how SAICM can use the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to link strategically to other areas such as climate change, water, food safety, biodiversity and policy concepts such as sustainable consumption and production, Sustainable Chemistry.

The CEE region welcomes the Thought starter jointly prepared by the Secretariat and ICCM 5 Bureau as a sound basis for further discussion of priorities for SAICM beyond 2020.

In the forthcoming days, we will discuss several issues of a special significance, which will determine direction of our efforts to fulfil mandate set out in ICCM 4 resolution IV/4, and to provide recommendation to the Conference at its fifth session to enable it to take an informed decision on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound chemical and waste management beyond 2020.

We are convinced that our discussions will be conducted in a positive spirit. We hope that the intersessional process will give us a great opportunity to show political will and motivation for renewing our commitments.

We strongly believe that renewed vision may be achieved by building upon those elements of SAICM that have worked well. In this regards, on behalf of CEE countries I would like to underline a special importance for our region to have regional meetings on a regular basis to discuss the SAICM agenda and its implementation toward and beyond 2020.

Thank you very much!