

STATEMENT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

1. Madame and Mister co-chair, the European Union and its Member States would like to congratulate you for your tireless and enthusiastic direction of this meeting and thank the Bureau and the co-chairs of the thematic discussion groups for their dedicated work. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the good preparation and organisation of the meeting and UNEP for hosting it.
2. We welcome the constructive spirit that characterised our work this week and enabled us to make progress in preparing ICCM 5. We have again demonstrated the importance of working in a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder way. It is clear that everyone agrees that ICCM 5 will be a crucial milestone for shaping the future of the Strategic Approach and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste beyond 2020 in the context of the 2030 Agenda.
3. The European Union and its Member States consider that the work we have done this week on the preparation of the recommendations on the Strategic Approach and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste beyond 2020 for consideration at ICCM5 was an important step forward. We would like to emphasize the importance of clear and common understanding of the next steps in this process and we are looking forward to continuing the work of the intersessional process beyond 2020 and at the IP-4 meeting in Bucharest.
4. The European Union and its Member States welcome the broad support for an improved enabling framework to raise awareness, enhance the political support and foster mainstreaming of sound chemicals and waste management in all relevant sectors. We fully share the call of UNEA 4 on governments and all other relevant stakeholders, including the UN agencies, to enhance support for SAICM in its role for this improved enabling framework.
5. We join the Global Chemicals Outlook in its important message that business as usual is not an option for the future. The need to do better and to do more and to improve the framework for sound management of chemicals and waste has been recognised long before that conclusion has been drawn – it was in 2013 when the country-led consultative

process on strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term has been launched.

6. The current process has been initiated with the ambition to shape an improved enabling framework for the future management of chemicals and waste that is able to respond to all challenges, current and emerging, in order to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment.
7. This week we faced long and difficult discussions, but we should not feel discouraged. In the light of the conclusions of the global chemicals outlook and the numerous challenges ahead, we only have one option – to be even more ambitious so that we can improve the current framework that enables us to respond to all challenges.
8. The European Union and its Member States would like to express our commitment to further engage with you all in the discussions preparing the fifth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2020.
9. Allow me to finish by thanking the people of Bangkok for the excellent hospitality we have enjoyed.
