

Thank you,

Excellencies, Delegates,

On behalf of the CEE region, I would like to express our appreciation for the work done by, SAICM Secretariat and Bureau Members, for all your efforts to prepare this meeting as well as for the co-chairs of the intersessional process for their work to deliver documents requested by OEWG3.

In April in Montevideo we discussed the co-chair paper, and we decided to take the ownership of this document. We recognized this as a significant step forward from general exchange of view to concrete text proposal. We managed to deeply discuss many elements such as Vision, Scope, Principles, and Strategic objectives for the SMCW, which are close to be finalized and has potential to become universal and recognized by brother number of stakeholders. However, there are area which was not fully negotiated during OEWG3 and need to be further discussed.

We are ready to further advance on the text completed by OEWG 3 working group, and further develop it, in four proposed thematic areas, to send concrete text proposal of draft recommendation to fourth session of intersessional meeting for its finalization.

Intersessional process gives us opportunity to look back for what we achieved today and have to consider why we haven't fully achieved the 2020 goal. In this context, we welcome Final Report of the Independent Evaluator of the Strategic Approach. Based on the lesson learned we have to take a critical look back at our achievements and make the necessary improvements to ensure that future framework of the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 will be suitable to face the new challenges in the field of chemical management and complement the 2030 SDG Agenda.

The new framework should give the answer to how sound chemical management could support the implementation of many, if not all, SDGs goals. Sustainable Development Goals clearly show that sound chemical management is not a stand-alone issue, but is relevant to many crosscutting areas.

During the meeting, we will have the opportunity to reflect on what we would like to address in the framework of beyond 2020 process and how to increase a high-level political commitment and visibility.

We strongly believe that the main element needed to secure political support is the awareness at all levels of the importance of the Sound Chemical and Waste Management.

We also believe that Sound Chemicals and Waste Management has a potential increase our visibility by strengthening synergies with others chemicals and waste MEAs and with other policy concepts and initiatives such as 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Climate Change Agreement, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Inclusive Green Economy, Sustainable Chemistry, Circular Economy. The further framework should cover the whole life cycle from production and consumption to waste management, underlining chemical issue in this cycles.

In the future framework we should give due consideration to the assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste, which has been requested by the UN Environment Assembly, taking into account existing mechanisms, including those under UNEP, and relevant examples in other areas, in order to maximize cost-effectiveness, make the best use of new technologies, track progress and improve implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements at the national level.

The Global Chemicals Outlook and the Global Waste Management Outlook, offer a good starting point to better integrate science in policy-making and action on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Their conclusions and recommendations should be considered and followed-up by all stakeholders.

We should ensure participation of all sectors including those, that have not traditionally been involved. Such collaboration should address the strong interlinkages with sectors such as health, education, labour, mining, the environment, agriculture, water and industry, and explore the linkages with other areas such as climate change and biodiversity.

[Dear colleagues]

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

Thank you very much!