

October 1st 2019, Bangkok

ICCA/Industry intervention SAICM IP3

We are here to represent the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), and we speak on behalf of all private sector stakeholders.

Industry remains committed to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste (SMCW) globally and we have actively engaged in all the SAICM meetings from the beginning. We join the broad consensus among the stakeholders on the benefits of continuing with the voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach of SAICM beyond 2020. For example, SAICM has successfully facilitated cooperation between UN Environment, and the global chemical industry, related to SMCW with a particular focus on developing countries and economies in transition.

In line with the SAICM spirit, we continue to welcome opportunities for partnering with stakeholders on specific projects to close the gap between developed and developing countries in terms of having the basic capacity to produce, manage and use chemicals safely, by providing in-kind as well as financial contributions. For example, ICCA is partnering with like-minded stakeholders to establish “a GHS coalition” for achieving global GHS implementation.

In addition, we will continue our commitment to SAICM with direct contributions to the SAICM Secretariat to advance priority projects and the numerous substantial ICCA programs and initiatives that are instrumental in reducing risk, building capacity for chemicals management, and sharing knowledge and information on chemicals. Focusing industry funding on activities (please refer to the separate ICCA paper ICCA that elaborates further on these activities) that fill a clearly defined need and goal, with benefits for a wide array of SAICM stakeholders, and show clear progress toward the SAICM objectives is the most effective use of industry’s expertise and resources.

We refer to the Global Chemical Outlook II that has identified a series of potential actions to improve the sound management of chemicals and waste of which most, if not all, are reflected in the 5 Strategic Objectives and related targets/indicators that we will address this week. These include, among others, (1st) mitigating prevailing capacity gaps across countries and (2nd) strengthening national and regional chemicals legislation across the globe.

On the first item, ICCA have worked together with UN Environment and key stakeholders on several capacity building initiatives related to the sound management of chemicals and we remain committed to continue supporting a significant number of such capacity building events worldwide to enhance SMCW.

On the second item, indeed, effective chemicals legislation and consistent implementation and enforcement of these regulations are instrumental to achieve SAICM goals. Let there be no misunderstanding: Our global initiative to strive for a continued improvement of our environmental, health, safety and security performances, what we call our “Responsible Care” program, is not a substitution to a (basic) chemicals regulatory framework, but it is an additional industry commitment. Moreover, in order to support local governments in their

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efforts to set up or improve their legislative chemicals management frameworks, we have a dedicated team of colleagues providing their knowledge, expertise and time to explain the ICCA regulatory toolbox across the globe, with a particular focus to Latin America and ASEAN.

Also, we consider knowledge and data-sharing, together with the earlier mentioned GHS implementation to be the key elements of such basic regulatory schemes. In a dedicated session on Monday September 30, we presented the findings of a joint UN Environment and ICCA study on the availability of reliable EHS data portals. ICCA recognizes the need for more information on chemicals and recommend the establishment of a “global chemicals navigator” – a global repository of publicly available information on chemicals- in which we don’t envisage to create yet another database from scratch, but rather to make the current global portals, such as the OECD eChemPortal, “fit-for-purpose”, meaning that it is used to tackle SAICMs main objective to close the gap between developed and developing countries in establishing basic chemicals regulatory frameworks globally. With that, we kindly invite, in particular those countries currently lacking a chemicals regulatory framework, to help gaining a better understanding of the (data) needs that are considered vital to further improve access and effectiveness of the current data portals.

Thank you.