

**Statement by
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The SAICM Asia – Pacific Regional Focal Point
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**Madam President,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia and Pacific region which is the views expressed by the participants in this meeting.

Madam President,

The members of the Asia-Pacific regional group would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Sahler, distinguished President of ICCM 5, the Secretariat and the bureau for all preparations to have this meeting in Montevideo. We extend our special appreciation to the government and people of Uruguay for their warm hospitality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Asia-Pacific region made all its efforts to progress in sound management of chemicals including establishing mechanisms that coordinate among different national stakeholders for better management of chemicals and waste, to provide accessible information to the public on the hazardous chemicals and waste as well as to persuade all stakeholders to get involved in the relevant programs. Our informal regional meeting in China which was held on March 8 is another demonstration of our region's commitment to the goals enshrined in the SAICM and other relevant instruments.

Believing that the time has come for a new and serious era on the sound management of chemicals and waste, should make us acutely aware of main matters of concern in the 3rd OEWG such as vision, policy principles, milestones, governance arrangement, political commitment and etc. In the meantime the existing challenges to achieve the set goals of sound management of chemicals by 2020 should not be overshadowed by our ambitious goals for beyond 2020.

So the ongoing activities to realize sound management of chemicals and waste should be further strengthened. Of course, it is unthinkable to achieve SAICM goals and objectives without giving due attention to principles like common but differentiated responsibilities as well as more regional collaboration and determination.

The previous instruments such as Dubai Declaration as well as Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 Goals including the 11 basic elements and six core area activities identified therein, global action plan is a helpful assessment tool to improve and evaluate implementation of SAICM towards 2020.

We should consider the existing realities that have been recognized in different documents; some of which are as follows:

- Significant gaps between developed and developing countries regarding the sound management of chemicals,
- Growth in the international trade of chemicals and advancement of previous gaps,
- The lack of specific financial source for developing countries to strengthen sound management of chemicals and waste,
- The necessity for technical assistance, financial support and technology transfer for the sound management of chemicals and waste based on findings of the SAICM independent evaluation,
- A specific, sustainable, adequate and accessible financial resource is key element in achieving sound management of chemicals and waste,
- The Upholding the IOMC organizations contribution for sound management of chemicals and waste and extending the same approach to the future SAICM Secretariat with adequate resources and more responsibilities,
- The “Extended Responsibility of Producers” in the whole life cycle of chemicals.

We are of the view that achieving a comprehensive and attractive approach and structure for SAICM beyond 2020 could be realized by thorough, inclusive and transparent deliberations. In the other words, we should be convinced of considering all options and choosing the best one rather than adopting any hasty decision.

We are optimistic about the future and while we have been successful in achieving some of SAICM goals, however, we believe that in order to realize a comprehensively desired result we need to address the needs of Asia Pacific countries.

Madam President and dear colleagues,

In closing, the Members of the Asia-Pacific group will remain constructively engaged in all future work of SAICM and we assure you of all support in carrying out our efforts towards achieving the goals of environmentally sound management of chemicals.

Thank you