

**SAICM OEWG
OPENING STATEMENT**

Madam President,

Distinguish delegates,

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

First, I would like to thank the Government of Uruguay for generously hosting this meeting in the beautiful city of Montevideo and the recently built Antel Arena and yesterday's reception.

I would also like to thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for the preparation of this meeting, as well as the co-Chairs' of the intersessional process for their excellent work. The Co-Chairs' paper forms an excellent basis for the development of concrete recommendations on Strategic Approach on International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and we have some work conducted in this line which we will be presenting during of this Open Ending Working Group.

We remain fully committed to the continued implementation of Strategic Approach on International Chemicals Management until 2020 in order build the new framework on a solid basis.

This meeting comes at a crucial moment and provides the opportunity to make a difference:

UNEA 4 has once more adopted an important resolution on the sound management of chemicals and waste, which demonstrates that all governments recognize the importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste as a crucial contribution for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular goal 12 on a sustainable circular economy.

The launching of the High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Wastes is an important step in the right direction and shows that political awareness and commitment are of utmost importance to make progress.

The Global Chemical Outlook-II message that 2020 goal will not be achieved and therefore business as usual is not an option, is a clear indication for policy makers.

This message gives us clear guidance. Since we will not achieve the 2020 goal we must do more efforts in order to achieve that goal by 2030 at the latest. Therefore, urgent action is required by all stakeholders to enhance and prioritize efforts on Sound Management of Chemical and Wastes. This includes the need for an improved enabling framework to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda in this area.

We would also welcome using the recommended targets as the basis for further intersessional work and develop indicators in parallel to enable us to review progress as part of the future programme of work of Strategic Approach on International Chemicals Management which can support the achievement of our strategic objectives.

The EU and its MS support the agenda as adopted and we look forward to the discussions during this week on preparing possible recommendations on various elements in a future enabling

framework on SMCW in order to prepare for the International Conference on Chemical Management 5

Madame President, the European Union and its Member States supported Strategic Approach on International Chemicals Management from the very first moment and we are committed to continuing our support and do the more efforts in order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. We are ready to engage in constructive discussions on an improved enabling framework in this meeting in order to prepare International Conference on Chemical Management 5 and other meetings.