



**Strategic Approach  
to International  
Chemicals Management**

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**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference  
on Chemicals Management  
Third meeting**

Montevideo, 2–4 April 2019

Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda\*

**The Strategic Approach and the sound management of  
chemicals and waste beyond 2020: considerations for the  
sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

## **High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste**

### **Note by the secretariat**

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, a report received from the Swedish Ministry of the Environment and Energy and the Uruguayan Ministry of Environment on the High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste. The report is presented in the annex as received and has not been edited by the secretariat.
2. The High Ambition Alliance was established in July 2018 with the aim to create and enhance awareness and understanding about the urgency to act on chemicals and waste at all levels both in the context of the beyond 2020 process and thereafter. The Alliance comprises of a group of committed leaders of ministers and the senior representatives from intergovernmental organizations, industry and civil society.
3. The Alliance met in Nairobi on 13 March 2019 in the margins of UNEA 4. The participants considered the initiative of the Alliance to be very timely. In the discussion, the need for high level political commitment and leadership was stressed, as well as ownership from all stakeholders and sectors. A higher ambition, urgent action and better coordination and synergies was underlined. The role of sound management of chemicals and waste for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and a circular economy was highlighted, as well as the need for technical support and strengthening of capacity in developing countries. Participants also stressed the need for education, scientific input, research and innovation. There was broad support for the Alliance's joint ambition. The Alliance will meet again tentatively decided to be in the margins of the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Santiago from 2-13 December 2019.
4. The Ministers from Uruguay and Sweden jointly presented a statement as co-chairs of the Alliance to the high-level segment of UNEA4.

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\* SAICM/OEWG.3/1.



Government Offices of Sweden

Ministry of the Environment and Energy



**MVOTMA**

Ministerio de Vivienda  
Ordenamiento Territorial  
y Medio Ambiente

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## High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste

The sound management of chemicals and waste is an important, cross-cutting component of achieving the objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The global community now has a unique opportunity to raise the political awareness and ensure ambitious actions through a new policy approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Trends data published in the Global Chemicals Outlook II suggest that the expected doubling of the global chemicals market between 2017 and 2030 will increase global chemical releases, along the entire chemicals lifecycle, exposures, concentrations and adverse health and environmental impacts unless the sound management of chemicals and waste is achieved worldwide. WHO estimated that 1.6 million deaths in 2016 were attributable to only a few selected chemicals. Business as usual is not an option. The 2020 goal will not be achieved. Accelerating progress to achieve sound management, and prevention or the minimization of adverse impacts, within the context of the 2030 Agenda is however possible under a sustainability scenario. This will require more focus by national governments and ambitious, urgent and worldwide collaborative action by all stakeholders and sectors and in all countries.

In light of that, We, the ministers and the senior representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry and civil society, commit to work together to increase our efforts to:

Protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of chemicals and waste, towards healthy lives and a sustainable, safe planet for all.

- Create and enhance awareness and understanding about the urgency to act on chemicals and waste at all levels.
- Work towards the development of an enabling framework on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for approval at the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management for further endorsement by high-level political bodies such as the UN General Assembly, UNEA and other governing bodies of UN agencies to strengthen the commitment and actions by all countries, stakeholders and sectors on the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- Work towards an enabling framework that fosters significant progress at all levels including a common vision as well as shared, measurable objectives and targets. The framework comprises independent input from science and should be able to address issues of concern that warrant global action.
- Increase ratification of the existing chemicals and waste-related conventions and enhance support to the development, implementation and enforcement of legislation on chemicals and waste at the national level.

We call on all governments and stakeholders and sectors to join us in the High Ambition Alliance to strengthen the ambition by 2020 and thereafter.

We will contribute to this individually and collectively by stepping up our efforts to respond to the challenges and realise the opportunities provided through the sound management of chemicals and waste. A strong enabling framework will lead to benefits for human health and the environment and a sustainable development for everyone everywhere.