

11 July 2023

Submission of the EU and its Member States to the call of ICCM5 President on the Possible High-Level Declaration of the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) to be held on the 25 - 29 September 2023, in Bonn, Germany

The EU&MS continue to hold a view that it is crucial to adopt a high-level declaration (HLD) at ICCM5 to anchor commitment to the framework and to raise the political awareness needed to implement the sound management of chemicals and waste (SMCW) broadly and thus supporting the priority of accelerating efforts to combat the global pollution crisis. EU&MS are of the opinion that such a declaration including the framework should be further endorsed by the UN General Assembly in order to secure commitment in full, globally and across disciplines.

In the view of EU&MS, the declaration should be short, powerful, and recall the Dubai Declaration adopted in 2006, with a broad scope that includes waste and a timeless vision. The HLD should contextualise and complement the Beyond 2020 framework and not generally duplicate text from the framework itself.

We would like to see strong wording on the commitment from stakeholders to act with urgency and implement the Beyond 2020 framework as a significant contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

In order to get the desired political attention, the HLD needs to be easy to communicate with clear language and messages. With the new structure (vision, objectives, targets and follow up) of the future framework the HLD could be less detailed. Such an approach would ease the endorsement by relevant multilateral agreements, IGO governing bodies and the UNGA.

It may be beneficial to follow the basic structure of the Dubai Declaration and build upon it.

We agree in general with the analysis from the ICCM5 president and support action needed to tackle the pollution crisis and to maximise the contribution to sustainable development. This includes the need to protect human health and people, to protect our environment and need for research, including by industry, to identify and scale-up solutions.

Conceptual aspects of the HLD:

A call for increased global ambition and accelerated action to deal with the serious and immediate threats to the environment and human health posed by chemicals and waste.

Commitment to fully implement the Beyond 2020 framework and strengthen the coherence and synergies in the chemicals and waste cluster.

Commitment to fully support the work under the existing instruments and to ensure full compliance with those instruments in order to ensure their full contribution to achieving the SDGs.

Commitment to strengthening the capacities of all to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Linkages and contributions to solutions that also address the climate change and biodiversity dimensions of the triple planetary crisis, as well as the health, food, and other relevant global emergencies, and that are required for the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the SDGs.

Reiterate the call in para 12.j UNEA Res. 4/8.

Integrate the new framework into the work programmes of all relevant international and United Nations organizations, bodies and specialized agencies, funds and programmes, which should be reinforced after ICCM5 through the endorsement by the UN general assembly.

Request relevant international intergovernmental organisations and bodies, particularly the IOMC participating organisations, to continue and strengthen their cooperation and coordination of activities in assisting stakeholders to implement the Beyond 2020 framework.

The HLD should further include the following:

Promote the sound management of chemicals and waste as a priority in national, regional and international policy frameworks, including strategies for sustainable development.

Stressing the important role of IOMC organisations and other inter-governmental bodies, programmes, funds, and partnerships in achieving broad implementation of the Beyond 2020 broader framework.

Stressing the responsibility and involvement from actors in relevant sectors to enhance the sound management of chemicals and waste and implement the framework and consider specifically mentioning those important stakeholder groups and sectors that should be more engaged, such as the finance and investment sector or the downstream users.

Call upon leaders of all sectors of government to act, including leaders in the environment, health, labour, industry, agriculture, education, research and innovation, development cooperation, justice, and finance sectors.

Call upon leaders in the private sector to commit to the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout the life cycle and to implement the ICCM5 outcomes.

Support the equal and effective participation of all sectors of civil society.

Highlighting opportunities in implementing the new framework to reduce costs and protect health and the environment. Highlighting that the new framework does address the current gaps in SMCW and includes what needs to be done to manage this.
