

## **ICCA Input on Key Elements for a Possible ICCM5 High-level Declaration on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020**

The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), representing chemical associations and companies around the globe, welcomes the opportunity to provide further views on the elements of a potential ICCM5 High-level Declaration (HLD) on the sound management of chemicals and waste for the SAICM Beyond 2020 Instrument.

In continuation of our steadfast involvement in this process, we strongly believe that the ICCM5 HLD should ambitiously build upon the landmark Dubai Declaration of 2006, enhancing provisions for global chemical safety, sustainability, transparency, cooperation, and capacity building.

It is crucial that the HLD reaffirms the commitment of all stakeholders to the implementation of the new framework, emphasizing the instruments multi-sector and multi-stakeholder nature. The HLD should also underscore the need for robust cooperation and partnerships towards the objectives of the Beyond 2020 framework among all stakeholders throughout the life cycle of chemicals.

As ICCA, we recognize our pivotal role and responsibility in promoting safer and more sustainable practices in the global chemical industry. The well-being of our planet and its inhabitants is inextricably linked to how we manage chemicals and their associated wastes.

We share a global responsibility to ensure that the benefits of chemicals are realized while avoiding the adverse effects to human health and the environment. When effectively managed, chemistry make modern life possible, and have a multitude of benefits to society.

This challenge that requires our attention and commitment, particularly in addressing the disparities between developed and developing economies in terms of resources, capabilities, and access to knowledge and technologies. To this end, we believe the global community should commit to implement a comprehensive set of initiatives aimed at enhancing the sound management of chemicals worldwide, aiming at protecting human health and the environment, while fostering a prosperous and sustainable global economy.

### *Key messages and political commitments:*

Our shared global responsibility compels us to protect human health and safeguard the environment while fostering a thriving and sustainable global economy. To achieve this, we propose the implementation of a holistic set of initiatives designed to enhance the sound management of chemicals worldwide. Our approach extends beyond the mere compliance with regulations; focusing on the integration of capacity building, transparency, behavioral change, and sustainability into our strategy. We pledge to bridge the economic and technical divide between developed and developing economies, ensuring that every stakeholder, regardless of their size or geographical location, is empowered and equipped to manage chemicals responsibly.

The path towards sound chemicals management is a collective journey that requires unwavering commitment, cooperation, and active participation from all stakeholders, including industry, governments, non-governmental organizations, academia, and the public. We firmly believe that the ambitious goals of the Beyond 2020 Framework can only be achieved by fostering dialogue, promoting transparency, building capacity, and encouraging a shift towards sustainable consumption and production.

### *Scope and Key Elements:*

- **Policy Integration:** We recommend integrating chemical safety into broader policies including public health, industrial development, and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- **Global Regulation and Support:** We propose an industry-wide collaboration with governments, intergovernmental bodies, and various global stakeholders to advocate for stricter, science-based regulations on chemical production, usage, and disposal, to ensure the safeguarding of human health and the environment.
- **Transparency and Data Sharing:** We encourage the broad sharing of safety and environmental data about chemical substances to foster trust and cooperation, while preserving confidential business information. This includes increasing capacity surrounding access to data and how to best utilize the information sources available.
- **Capacity Building:** We advocate for a "knowledge sharing" approach, wherein entities with more resources or experience assist those with less, thereby fostering a robust global community aimed at improving chemicals management.
- **Behavioral Change and Sustainability:** We endorse the shift towards sustainable consumption and production practices, fostered by investing in innovation and R&D, raising consumer awareness, promoting sustainable practices, and advocating for the circular economy, Best Available Techniques (BAT), and Best Environmental Practices (BEP).
- **Progress Tracking:** We emphasize the importance of regular tracking of progress to evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives.
- **Community Engagement:** We propose engaging with local communities, especially in regions with substantial chemical production or use, to understand their concerns, provide education, and involve them in decision-making processes.
- **International Cooperation:** We call for fostering international cooperation to manage transboundary chemical risks, share knowledge, and coordinate responses to chemical accidents.
- **Resilience Building:** We advocate for supporting initiatives that build resilience to chemical accidents, particularly in vulnerable communities, including the establishment of early warning systems, disaster risk reduction strategies, and community-based response mechanisms.