

14th July 2023

Joint Submission for the Possible High-Level Declaration of the ICCM5
by informal women and gender group at SAICM

Dear SAICM Secretariat,

dear German Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection,

The informal women and gender group at SAICM would like to support the following text elements on gender/women proposed by the HLD informal drafting group in 2021 with some minor changes (marked in bold).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you and best regards,

The informal women and gender group at SAICM

- *Acknowledge and voice concern regarding the unacceptable and widening gap between developed and developing countries and their capacity to detect and analyze hazardous chemicals, protect the rights of workers, women, children, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups through managing chemicals and waste safely. Recognize the critical importance of human rights relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. Improving access to knowledge, science and technology including traditional, indigenous and citizen knowledge, is essential to protect all populations and understand the dimensions of chemical use and exposure on the vulnerable groups. Scientific uncertainty should not prevent precautionary measures being adopted quickly and decisively when the potential environmental or human health risk is high.*
- *Commit to equal and effective participation of all sectors of civil society, particularly **women and girls in all their diversity** and groups **that are vulnerable or at risk** in decision-making on chemicals and waste policy and management to minimize or prevent the adverse effects and risks from exposure to hazardous chemicals and waste pollution on the environment and human health, in particular children and the **future generations, women in agriculture**, and indigenous peoples, where chemicals exposure impairs their **present and** future lives.*
- *Promote gender mainstreaming as a component of all policies, strategies and plans for the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste, taking into account **women's vital role as key agents of change to address the issues of chemicals and waste**, and gender differences in exposure to hazardous chemicals and their effects on health.*