

The UK is grateful for the opportunity to feed in views on the key elements of the High-Level Declaration (HLD) to renew the political commitments made in the 2006 Dubai Declaration 2006. Multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral commitments to the Beyond 2020 Framework, including through the HLD, are vital to sending a united and urgent call for increased global ambition and accelerated action to deal with threats posed to the environment and human health by the mismanagement of chemicals and waste.

The contextual aspects needed as a foundation for ICCM5 HLD

The UK believes that the effective management of chemicals throughout the lifecycle is not only essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDG12, but also underpins our collective ability to tackle the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss. Scientific evidence is clear that the earth's environmental, agricultural, labour and human health challenges should be addressed together in order to achieve the aims of the sustainable development goals. While progress has been made through SAICM, the global goal of ensuring that chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimise significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment has not yet been met. The gap between the capabilities of countries to effectively manage chemicals and harness innovation negatively impacts our shared ability to limit the transboundary effects of chemical pollution and assure sustainable international trade.

What should the scope and key elements of ICCM5 HLD cover?

We believe that the HLD should be drafted around a central theme of innovation as a means of capturing the commitment of all stakeholders to improve the standards of chemicals management while capitalising on the wide-ranging opportunities for solutions to environmental and health threats offered by chemicals.

In the HLD stakeholders can collectively commit to creating a landscape in which innovative companies that develop safe, effective, and environmentally friendly products and processes in a circular economy thrive, while also gradually phasing out the production and use of the most harmful chemicals. Specifically as regards to agriculture, innovation should be promoted through sustainable practices, such as the development of alternative products, new technologies in production, innovative farming processes, reducing dependence on pesticides and the gradual move toward Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Under this banner, the UK would encourage industry to contribute specific examples to the draft of the HLD, which can move us towards safer and more sustainable use of chemicals and reduce carbon emissions from chemicals production, for example: through the development of less harmful plant protection products and use of alternative feedstocks.

We should also use the HLD to commit to resourcing ourselves innovatively to deliver the effective management of chemicals. It will be important to emphasise the integrated approach to finance – and our continued commitment to its three pillars of mainstreaming, dedicated external financing, and private sector involvement – as a key vehicle for achieving sustainable financing that is drawn from a wide range of public, private, and philanthropic sources.

Greater private sector involvement could be achieved through the strengthening of global action on green finance, which provides considerable scope for innovation, including, for example, through the effective implementation of sustainability reporting frameworks, as well as the establishment of platforms to enable better targeting of in-kind or capacity building contributions. Stakeholders may also consider enforcing domestic actions, including action on extended producer responsibility (EPR), cost recovery mechanisms, and other government-led approaches.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to contribute and we look forward further discussion of the HLD during the preparations for and at ICCM5.