

## **CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF VIEWS:**

### **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**

Dear Colleague,

You will recall that in 2020 the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 was disrupted by the COVID 19 pandemic. During that period the Bureau and Co-Chairs developed a process of working through electronic means to maintain momentum and advance our work on recommendations for a beyond 2020 framework instrument.

One of the elements of this process was a possible ICCM5 High- level Declaration (HLD) to renew the political commitment enshrined in the Dubai Declaration from 2006. To this end, the ICCM5 Presidency initiated a virtual Informal Drafting Group (IDG) co-facilitated by Ms. Kay Williams (UK) and Ms. Angela Rivera (Colombia) to consolidate and synthesise views on a possible HLD. The IDG based its work on [written inputs](#) and views submitted by all stakeholders. It met six times between November 2020 and June 2021. The co-facilitators report on this work can be found [here](#).

Now that the ICCM5 dates have finally been secured for September this year, I believe it is opportune to continue the preparatory work on a possible ICCM5 High-Level Declaration.

In the tradition of our way of working, this preparatory work must be an open, transparent, and inclusive process based on input, ideas, suggestions, and views of all stakeholders in the Intersessional Process.

Therefore, I would like to invite your written submissions containing inputs and views on key elements of a possible HLD.

As you are fully aware, the global pollution crisis has devastating human and environmental health impacts with severe developmental and economic consequences. Annually over 2 million deaths are a direct result of toxic chemical pollutants with over half of these (1.1 million) in the workplace. The economic consequences of toxic lead pollution alone results in a reduction in global Gross Domestic Product of between 4 to 7.2% annually. In this context, the aim of a beyond 2020 framework instrument response to this pollution crisis should be to sustain and enhance important global needs to be taken care of by a sustainable management of chemicals and wastes. In detail, the following has to be done:

o We need to protect human health and people

1. Human beings need healthy food, toxic free and safe products and a healthy environment free of dangers from hazardous chemicals.
2. Workers need to know and be protected from risks of hazardous chemicals.
3. Vulnerable groups and populations, in particular pregnant woman and children, need special protection from dangerous chemicals.

o We need to protect our environment

4. Our air, water and soil need to be protected from chemical pollution.

5. Climate change and biodiversity loss are affected by chemical pollution. Our environment needs to be protected from hazardous substances to effectively combat the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

o We need research, including by industry, to identify and scale-up solutions

6. More effort in research is needed to develop chemicals that are safe and sustainable by design.

7. Downstream industry needs to take on its responsibility to carefully handle hazardous chemicals used and handed down through the value chain.

8. A circular economy needs products and wastes free of hazardous chemicals and remaining toxic wastes need to be treated safely to avoid uncontrolled releases into the environment.

In your reflections, I invite you to consider what key messages and political commitments need to be anchored in a possible HLD in order to strengthen broad political will, priority, and ambition of a beyond 2020 framework instrument on sound management of chemicals and waste.

This could include reflection on more specific questions, such as:

- What would you consider the most important contextual aspects needed as a foundation for a possible ICCM5 HLD? These may include consideration of:
  - The key pollution planetary crisis challenges our work aims to deal with to realize the essential sustainable development benefits.
  - Linkages with and role in solutions to the other planetary crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.
  - Contributions to addressing other global emergencies such as health, food, and energy security etc.
  - The contribution of strengthened Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and addressing present and future needs.
  
- In the light of the overall objective to increase the willingness of all stakeholders to assume responsibility including government, private sector and civil society leaders and encourage their strengthened commitment, what should the scope and key elements of the possible ICCM5 HLD messages cover? These may include consideration of:
  - The key benefits of sound management of chemicals and waste to society, the environment, and the economy
  - The key responsibilities of the actors of the various sectors (e.g. health, labour, agriculture, economics, finance, environment, research, chemical industry, downstream industry)
  - Progress in efforts undertaken to date, and critical gaps to be addressed
  - From your specific point of view as a stakeholder responsible for (or active within) a specific sector (e.g. chemicals industry, labour, health system, agriculture, waste management, downstream user etc.): what are the key substantive elements of the beyond 2020 framework to realize these benefits and address challenges and gaps, including participation, responsibilities, programmes of work, tracking implementation progress and processes.

- How could a possible ICCM5 HLD be best structured to convey the above-mentioned messages and commitments most effectively?

I would kindly request your written input by **14 July 2023** through the SAICM Secretariat, [saicm.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@unep.org), and the German Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, [CII3@bmu.bund.de](mailto:CII3@bmu.bund.de).

Kind regards – and looking forward to host you all in Bonn in September!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Breyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the word.

Dr. Anita Breyer