

## **AFRICA REGION OPENING STATEMENT: SAICM IP4**

### **ROMANIA BUCHAREST**

**Madam President,**

**Distinguished IP Co-Chairs**

**The ICCM5 Bureau**

**Excellencies**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the 54 countries of the African Region, I wish to express our appreciation to the Government and the People of Romania, for the warm welcome we have received since our arrival in this beautiful city of Bucharest. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Secretariat for successfully organizing the fourth meeting of the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste beyond 2020. The African region would also like to express deep gratitude to the various donors who have made it possible for the African delegates to participate in this meeting through their generous financial support.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs**

The agenda for the next five days is indeed a very heavy one, and we hope that all the deliberations that will take place will be done in the spirit of fulfilling the mandate given to us by the Governing Council, now named the UNEA, and subsequently also given by the ICCM4. Therefore, our expectation is that our

concerns on the sound management of chemicals and waste will be addressed holistically.

### **Distinguished Co-Chairs**

The African region notes the hard work that has been done by the co-facilitators and all the delegates who participated in the various virtual working Groups after IP3 and whose conclusions are compiled by the Secretariat in document SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1. However, the African Region was limited in participating in the VWGs due to various challenges, primarily dominated by connectivity issues. Critical to the outputs of these beyond 2020 processes, is the need to address all the challenges identified by the independent evaluator of SAICM to ensure that the shortcomings identified in the report are not repeated in the beyond 2020 instrument, but are rather mitigated against from the onset.

### **Distinguished Co-Chairs**

The Africa Region underscores the need to specifically include waste in the beyond 2020 instrument text as part of the life cycle management of chemicals. In addition, the Region takes note of the proposed targets by IP3 and VWG1. However, the region calls for consensus on having the specific targets and respective indicators for the industry for achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste through the SAICM beyond 2020 instrument, as the industry is a full stakeholder that is very critical in contributing towards sound management of chemicals and waste. In this regard, the Africa Region requests that the industry Targets and associated indicators that it had comprehensively drafted and submitted to the SAICM Secretariat, be brought back to this IP4 and SAICM beyond 2020 process for consideration by all stakeholders. In keeping with this ambition, the Africa Region believes that all the targets and associated indicators of the new instrument should primarily be focused on significant risk

reduction, rather than process. Similarly, each target should have specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound indicators and milestones.

### **Distinguished Co-Chairs**

The Africa region would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the need to ensure that existing emerging issues will not be subjected to a new nomination or prioritization process, but will be fully addressed under the beyond 2020 instrument. The Africa region recognizes that progress to date has not only been variable on emerging policy issues across countries and regions, but that these issues have been addressed primarily in developed countries and less so in developing countries, as confirmed by the September 2020 UNEP Issues of Concern Assessment Report in response to the UNEA Resolution 4/8. Therefore, the Africa Region requests that this UNEP report be the basis of the negotiations on emerging issues for the beyond-2020 SAICM as it already highlights the challenges and opportunities.

The Africa region also welcomes the UNEA 5/8 resolution to establish a Science Policy Panel (SPP), and requests that the SAICM beyond 2020 process be cognizant of this resolution, and how best to interface with the SPP, to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts.

### **Distinguished Co-Chairs**

The Africa Region has, from the onset, been at the forefront of ensuring that SAICM was very ambitious, responsive and practical. SAICM was limited in its success due to the lack of adequate, predictable, sustainable means and resources for implementation. The Africa Region has observed with serious concern, the lack of a similar ambition and commitment in this ongoing SAICM beyond 2020 process, and as such calls upon all stakeholders to really be ambitious and commit to a comprehensive, practical, responsive and forward

looking SAICM beyond 2020 instrument. However, it is not worthy to develop the most practical, comprehensive, responsive and forward looking SAICM beyond 2020 instrument when the means and resources for implementing such an instrument are not adequate, predictable, sustainable, and accessible. Throughout this SAICM beyond 2020 process thus far, all the other VWGs except the one on Finance have progressed.

### **Distinguished Co-Chairs**

The African Region therefore underscores the need to have adequate, predictable, sustainable and accessible means and resources for implementation, and thus requests that during this IP4 meeting and the SAICM beyond 2020 process negotiations, that means and resources for implementation be prioritized as the delay of such, significantly and negatively affects the good spirit of multilateralism, ability to commit to proposed responsibilities and obligations in the other VWGs. **In this regard, the Africa Region wishes to categorically state that, nothing is agreed until all is agreed. The Africa Region does not wish to see a situation whereby all responsibilities and obligations for countries are agreed to without an agreement on the associated means and resources for implementation.**

### **Distinguished Co-Chairs**

The Africa Region proposes that work takes place between IP4 and ICCM5 to develop a draft International Code of Conduct on Chemicals and Waste Management outlining the operationalization of the new framework. The Africa Region refers all delegates to SAICM/IP.4/INF33 calling on one IOMC partner to lead on this development process. We strongly believe that a Code of Conduct will offer extensive value in the governance of the new chemicals and waste framework.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

In conclusion, the Africa Region, reiterates its commitment to this IP4 meeting and the SAICM beyond 2020 process to develop a comprehensive instrument. The Region is ready to contribute to the development of an ambitious and robust beyond 2020 instrument, that will stand the test of time, and that effectively responds to all our challenges, including adequate, predictable, sustainable and accessible means and resources for implementation.

Thank you.