

Draft Statement of the SAICM Asia – Pacific Regional Group  
IP4 meeting, Bucharest, Romania, 29 August- 2 September 2022

**Madam President,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia and Pacific region.

At the outset, the Group of Asia-Pacific would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the former and current Presidents of the ICCM 5, Bureau, and IP co-chairs for their stewardship and the SAICM's Secretariat for the excellent organization of this meeting as well as during the intersession which was coincided with unprecedented challenges caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

We also wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the government and people of Romania for their kind hospitality in hosting IP4 meeting.

**Madam President,**

The environmental crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution as well as challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have greatly affected and endangered the life of the people around the world. These crisis and challenges have exacerbated the sound management of chemicals and waste around the world particularly in developing countries.

Notwithstanding these crisis and challenges that have weakened the required resources of many countries to overcome them, the Asia-Pacific region at national and regional level has made significant efforts for sound management of chemicals and waste. Needless to say that the sound management of chemicals and waste in the future could only be guaranteed through the highest level of commitment among all relevant sectors and stakeholders.

Though, some steps have been taken under SAICM for sound management of chemicals and waste so far, the goals of SAICM are yet to be achieved. Taking into account the voluntary nature of SAICM, the Asia-Pacific region reiterates the

important task to provide recommendations to the fifth session of the Conference and concrete contribution to SDG's agenda.

During the past two years and in the intersessional period, virtual working groups (VWGs) were established to support the work of the intersessional process to advance its deliberations. However, due to limitations related to different time zones, limited technical facilities and internet connectivity issues and emphasis of national authorities in handling the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, the participation rate of the stakeholders particularly in developing countries of Asia-Pacific, was limited and hence, cannot be considered as a true representation of the region.

The region takes note of the work done by the VWGs, the fact that the basis of IP4 meeting are the results of the IP3 meeting and the outcomes of the VWGs, wherever possible.

We would like to highlight that in our deliberation during this week due attention must be given to bridge the widening gaps between developed and developing countries and the necessity for providing technical assistance, financial support and technology transfer to developing countries as a key element in achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste.

We, in the region believe that the Rio principles are still relevant in developing SAICM post 2020 new instrument. These principles include principle 7 that reads "In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities."

The Asia-Pacific region underlines the importance of role of private sector and industry in integrated approach for mainstreaming the chemicals and waste and implementing the "Extended Producer Responsibility" in the whole life cycle of chemicals and requests the increasing of the funding and other assistances of by private sector and industry.

Furthermore, in line with the integrated approach, the IOMC organizations, CSOs, other stakeholders and their contribution to sound management of chemicals and waste should be strengthened.

**Madam President,**

Asia-pacific region will remain fully engaged and cooperative for a constructive and successful IP4 meeting.

Thank you