

Distinguished co-chairs of the intersessional process,

Excellencies, Delegates,

Before beginning, we would like to express our condemnation of all acts of violence exerted by the Russian Federation against the population of Ukraine and we are concerned about the direct and veiled threats the Russian Federation is making to many countries in our region. We reaffirm our commitment to cooperate in the spirit of mutual respect and to uphold the maintenance of international peace and security, and the promotion of friendly relations among nations. This part of the regional statement was prepared and made on behalf of the Member States of the European Union from the CEE region, Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Central and Eastern European region. Given that this is the first intervention of the CEE Region at this meeting, we would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Romania for the warm welcome and hospitality during this 4th Meeting of the Intersessional Process considering SAICM and the Sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

Let me express our appreciation to the co-chairs for their outstanding work, and congratulate Ms. Kay Williams on her nomination to the role of Co-Chair of the intersessional process.

We would also like to recognize the efforts done by the co-facilitators of the virtual working groups, ICCM 5 Bureau, and SAICM secretariat towards the preparation of this meeting. We appreciate their efforts to build understanding and prepare delegates for this event.

At this stage, we have an important task ahead, and the CEE Region is committed to fully engaging in further deliberation based on important outcome of the Virtual working groups as well as the compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, for consideration by the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in order to make decisions about future ambitious arrangements for SAICM and the Sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The progress made to date in support of the 2020 objective will be further enhanced with greater efforts to broaden sector and stakeholder engagement beyond 2020 in line with the 2030 Agenda. Increased representation of the health, agricultural, finance and industrial sectors among government, national and regional focal points will support efforts to mainstream the sound management of chemicals across government institutions.

As a region, we recognize the need for a comprehensive framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste that will support countries in the development and implementation of their national legislations and policies and integrate all international instruments in force and seeks to achieve synergies and coherence.

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the important role of guiding principles for capacity building as well as all elements of an integrated approach to financing to secure sustainable funding for the implementation of the post-2020 framework and ensure that various stakeholders contribute to the financing of the activities towards sound management of chemicals and waste in the future.

We have to recognize the important role of the private sector which should increase its contributions for the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste, in an effort to prevent and mitigate the impacts generated from their activities to human health and the environment.

In this regard, we must continue working together towards a sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle, in order to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

The CEE Region also recognizes the need for greater cooperation among stakeholders aiming at strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for integrated management and promoting the adequate transfer of cleaner and safer technology.

SAICM has a potential to become a key instrument for increasing access to sharing information and lessons learned, that will lead to the improvement of its implementation.

Moreover, great deal of attention should be dedicated to raising awareness of chemicals and waste issues among the responsible institutions, agencies, with improvement of the multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

[Dear Colleagues]

We are ready to conduct the discussions in positive, constructive and productive spirit, in the course of the forthcoming week of the IP4.

Thank you very much!