

**Thank you, Madam Chair.**

**On behalf of INDIA, I would like to thank you for giving the opportunity to place our views and concerns. At this juncture, we are making certain general observations. As we go along, during the course of this week, we will be making our interventions in respect of specific aspects of the proposed instrument.**

**Since we are taking the floor for the first time, we would like to appreciate the efforts put in by SIACM secretariat for convening this meeting and the Government of Romania for their kind hospitality.**

**Madam Chair**

**We are mindful of our responsibilities towards sound management of chemicals and waste and have been a partner in achievement of objectives of various multilateral environment agreements and SAICM framework. A number of actions have been taken at domestic level also for sound management of chemicals and waste.**

**We believe that this is a crucial juncture to decide the future course of concerted actions required for sound management of chemicals and waste through “SAICM Beyond 2020”. At the same time, we also feel that this is the right time to highlight the concerns and apprise the situation**

prevailing in developing countries to deal with the chemical management issues.

**Madam Chair**

We would like to highlight that while keeping high ambitions for the proposed instrument is important, we should also be aware of the fact that all countries are not at the same level of growth and development and have different developmental needs. The countries vary in their national capabilities in terms of availability of technology and finances to deal with the issue. Therefore, it is expected that the new instrument shall have provisions for addressing these aspects, particularly, augmenting the technical and financial capabilities of developing countries, for achieving objectives of new instrument in letter and spirit. The proposed framework may also built-in adequate flexibility to take cognizance of country-specific domestic actions that ultimately fulfill SAICM objectives.

**Thank You.**

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