

## **Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

**Bucharest, Romania, 29 August – 2 Sept 2022**

### **Opening Statement of the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution**

Dear Colleagues

I speak on behalf of the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution a group of International Agencies as well as Governments and Ministries and NGOs especially in developing country, that are supported by government and private donors to research the effects of pollution on human health and advocate change. We cannot go on accepting a world in which at least 9 million deaths a year are the result of pollution including one million deaths from lead alone.

GAHP thanks Romania for its hospitality and for patiently waiting for us for nearly 2 years. At least that gave us the chance to see young people enjoying themselves at ComicCon over the weekend.

Talking of children, I would like to take a moment to speak on behalf of those Reggie Hernaus called the dinosaurs at the Financial Briefing yesterday. Some of the dinosaurs were also at the final preparatory meeting for ICCM1 which adopted SAICM. We were led by Viveka Bohn and you will see her signature on this document which contains all the outcomes of ICCM 1. As a dinosaur I would like to dedicate this session to Viveka Bohn, a remarkable woman who rose from being an administrative assistant in the Swedish Foreign Ministry to being a distinguished Environmental Ambassador and has been named by UNEP as a Champion of the Earth.

At the last preparatory meeting for SAICM 1 we had many difficult issues to solve and Viveka kept telling us we had to succeed for the sake of our children. I know she would wish to be here today saying the same but she suffered a tragic accident while working for UNEP and can no longer travel.

This time I welcome the 2 strong women who are leading us and the support from our female President of ICCM5 who is listening carefully. We also have a woman in charge of the Secretariat, so I know we will find solutions. However, I hope we will also achieve better gender balance in future. When I was growing up you would only have seen men in a meeting about chemicals and waste.

GAHP will work hard to make this meeting a success which produces an easily understood document that will capture the imagination of politicians and people and will attract the resources needed for implementation. We still have much work to do to get there.

Jill Hanna

GAHP Senior Adviser