



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO

**Statement by Mr. Antonio Cuesta, Deputy Director General,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, on Chemicals during the
Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting of the 19^o Session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development
ECOSOC**

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wants to express its support to the Report on the eighteenth session and the perspectives for the nineteenth session of the Commission.

Management of chemicals substances through all its life cycle imposes increasing responsibilities for developing countries, since that management has to consider multiple social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

For that reason, it is essential to adopt measures to improve legislation, increase safety, and prevent and reduce risks; to increase accessibility and information sharing; promote alternatives to toxic chemical products; reinforce implementation through mobilizing financial resources at all levels in the public and private sectors; promote partnerships among stakeholders; reinforce the political and legal international framework to promote an adequate environment to comply with Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Under the governance of chemicals topic, Mexico supports the options related to:

- Include chemicals as a priority topic in development strategies to improve decision makers' awareness.
- Link sound management of chemicals to health, poverty eradication, and climate change, to incorporate them into sectorial development plans.
- Strengthen national frameworks for sound management of chemicals, guaranteeing adequate infrastructure to comply with international agreements.
- Evaluate and strengthen national legal and institutional frameworks to guarantee coherent and effective management systems.
- Strengthen governments' institutional capacity to develop legal systems for sound management of hazardous chemicals, including measures for accidents prevention.
- Apply precautionary, prevention, substitution, polluter pays, and internalization of environmental costs principles, and develop economic instruments to promote sound management of chemicals during their whole life cycle.
- Improve stakeholders training and awareness about sound management of chemicals at all stages of their life cycle.

Mr. Chairman,

Considering that the use of chemicals is increasing, mainly in developing countries, representing up to 30% of global market by 2020; and recognizing that the gaps in safety measures, could trigger pollution increments by chemicals with global consequences, due to the lack of transportation controls through different ways (air, water, migratory birds, and others); Mexico supports those options aimed to develop effective policies and measures for risk reduction, among which are:

- Establish an effective regulatory system to register, assess, and restrict chemicals use. The regulatory system must consider chemicals' life cycle, avoid duplicities, fill gaps, and optimize intergovernmental coordination (as attributions are usually fragmented).
- Have regulations for commercialization of chemicals (including the application and enforcement of legally binding agreements).
- Develop regulations for environmental liabilities.
- Strengthen human capacities for technical assessment of chemicals during the whole life cycle.
- Design strategies to avoid future accumulation of banned or retired chemicals, especially pesticides.
- Support research on safety of alternative products.
- Promote technologies to replace hazardous chemicals.
- Encourage more sustainable approaches, integrated pest management, and organic agriculture methodologies.
- Develop international codes and standards for industrial chemicals, similar to FAO's *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides*.

Finally Mr. President, related to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), Mexico supports the identified recommendations related to strengthen the political international framework for chemicals, and develop a global structure to apply policy measures on common concern chemicals.

At international level it is necessary to continue improving cooperation, coordination, coherence, and synergies among existing institutions responsible of the sound management of chemicals, included in the Rotterdam, Basel, and Stockholm Conventions; as well as to support elaboration, ratification, application, and enforcement of legal instruments for chemicals and hazardous waste management, as the legally binding instrument on mercury, but ensuring institutional capacities to comply with implicit responsibilities.

At national level, is necessary to promote cooperation and coordination among national Ministries or Departments with attributions over management of chemicals, and encourage the harmonization of implementation and execution of international agreements, to fully comply with the derived obligations, as the recent inclusion of Annexes A, B, and C of the Stockholm Convention, including nine chemicals that entered into force on August 26th of 2010.

Regarding to international cooperation and technology transfer, it is necessary to improve regional and sub regional centers established under the Basel, Stockholm, and Rotterdam Conventions, and also encourage cooperation among private and public sectors, North-South, and South-South, to strengthen capacities of national industries and small and medium enterprises for the safe and responsible use of hazardous chemicals.

It is also important to consider establishing a system to avoid the transfer of obsolete technologies to developing countries, and promote the development of ecologically sound technologies.

Global action for sound chemicals management must incorporate interdependencies among chemicals and environmental aspects, as climate change, biodiversity, soils and water degradation, and strengthen actions on emerging topics as electronic waste and nanotechnology, to achieve sustainable development.

Thank you.