

STATEMENT

by

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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to align to the EU statement and additionally refer to one of the ideas presented by Dr Ivan Erzen, namely the idea on the firmer involvement of the WHO national offices in the chemicals management. Since WHO offices are in many countries, they could play an important role in establishing or enhancing the cooperation among stakeholders in the national level. Establishing and maintaining of such mechanisms is in line with the article 23 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to international Chemical Safety, SAICM, which reads: Each Government should establish arrangements for implementing the Strategic Approach on an inter-ministerial or inter-institutional basis so that all concerned national departmental and stakeholders interest are represented and all relevant substantive areas are addressed.

The involvement of the WHO in the process of chemicals management is in line with the ICCM2 Resolution 8, which calls for the preparation of the Strategy for the involvement of Health sector in the SAICM implementation. This Strategy has been launched in Ljubljana in February this year.

In conclusion: The Commission for Sustainable Development could consider to include among its decisions (at the 19th session next year) that WHO national offices should play active role in establishing the national inter-ministerial or inter-institutional coordinating mechanisms (where they still do not exist) and in enhancing the cooperation among stakeholders (where the cooperation) already exists in accordance with article 23 of the Overarching Policy Strategy of SAICM.

This mechanism should prepare and watch over implementation of the national chemicals safety plan. As this is inter-ministerial, inter-institutional and multi-sectoral mechanism, it would be able to mainstream and prioritize the sound management of chemicals into the development agenda at the national level.