

SWEDEN



STATEMENT

by

Ms. Åsa-Britt Karlsson
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at the CSD-19 Ministerial Roundtable 4 on “Moving towards zero
waste and sound management of chemicals”

New York, 12 May 2011

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Thank You Mr Chairman,

I align myself with the statement made by Commissioner Potocnik on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The road to the 2020 goals of sound chemicals management presents both opportunities and challenges.

International agreements and global cooperative actions are becoming increasingly important. With trade as well as by long-range transportation of pollutants, no country can manage the risks of chemicals on its own. Therefore any efforts towards sound chemicals management needs to include the full life cycle. Implementation and enforcement of international agreements will need to be a key priority the coming years.

Mr Chairman,

I would also take this opportunity to inform you that the Swedish government has recently launched a national action plan for a toxin-free everyday environment. An extra 16 million US Dollars is allocated to this work. The idea is also to involve the business sector, researchers, public authorities and consumer and environmental organizations in the work.

Information on chemicals in products plays a crucial role in this. Improved access to information could mean an opportunity for improved recycling, cost saving and improving workers health and informed decision making in general. At the next SAICM meeting in 2012, Sweden hope to see progress on the emerging issue information on chemicals in articles and that stakeholders will be ready to commit to global cooperative actions.

Chemicals are a cross sectoral challenge and need cross sectoral solutions. Sweden truly believes that because of the cross sectoral nature of chemicals, we need a coordinated and coherent approach to chemicals and waste. We recall the decision at the UNEP Governing Council earlier this year on further synergies for the chemicals and waste cluster. We need to build upon existing experience from a synergistic approach, but broaden and deepen this in such a way that changes in the global economy as well as new and emerging issues of global concern can be handled easily.

In this context we also view the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and waste as an opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to improve the cooperation and coordination among different financing avenues to arrive at an improved integrated approach to a finance governance structure on all levels.

In conclusion, Improved governance on the international level is needed so that it pave the way for strengthened implementation and allocation of roles and responsibility accordingly, only then we can find a sustainable solution to sound chemicals management during the whole life-cycle until 2020 and beyond.

Thank You !