

Switzerland

- Thanks for excellent and rich presentations;
- they have convincingly shown that to achieve our common objective of zero waste and sound chemicals management, we need
 - o a strategic vision,
 - o a coherent and synergetic political and technical approach
 - o and the involvement of all relevant actors.

- **Chemicals are an issue at the heart of sustainable development.** Chemicals improve our life standards and they are crucial for our well-being. But they can also be a challenge for the environment and human health. And, chemicals management is directly interlinked with poverty: the poorest suffer most from unsound management, and they strongly benefit from sound chemicals and waste management.
It is therefore most appropriate that this issue is addressed as a priority by this CSD-session.

Let me focus my intervention on your **third question**: What needs to be done to improve management throughout their life cycle.

⇒ A couple of years ago, Switzerland was supporting and organizing a series of **regional and subregional workshops to support the implementation of the then new Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.**

one clear message that came out from these workshops was the need for better coordination. It is neither effective nor efficient to implement one of the two conventions in isolation of the broader chemicals policy.

⇒ We have to stop to look at chemicals at a specific moment of their life,

chemicals need not only attention when they are POPs, when they are moved across borders, or when they become waste. We need to look at chemicals throughout their life cycle.

We need a strategic and comprehensive vision and approach of chemicals.

We therefore need a **coordinated, comprehensive and**

synergetic political framework, both at the national and the international level.

⇒ At the international level, the synergies process between Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm is a crucial first step. We need to

deepen and enlarge this approach, namely:

- We have to deepen it by ensuring not only joint administrative secretariat services, but also look at coordinated decision making, support and implementation;
- We have to enlarge it by looking beyond the three conventions to ensure also coordination with SAICM and other relevant initiatives.
- And, we have to enlarged it by making sure that new conventions and other approaches to address new challenges will also be embedded in the current structure

⇒ Switzerland remains committed to contribute to the further deepening and enlarging of the synergies process to make sure that the policy response to the challenges of chemicals looks at them throughout their life cycle. This is a crucial step to improve assessment and management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.

⇒ We hope that chemicals management will not only continue to be beneficial for all of us, but that chemicals management policy will also remain as dynamic as it has been and that it continues to provide through its synergy process a show-case example for a concrete approach to strengthen international environmental governance

Finally, let me also address very briefly the issue of the **Basel Convention Ban Amendment**, to which several interventions have referred to and which is linked to your first question concerning a better waste management. Columbia has already referred to it: Switzerland, together with Indonesia, has launched at the last COP of the Basel Convention a process to find a solution with regard to the Ban Amendment, not only with regard to the emotional and over-politicized issue of the Ban Amendment as such, but also with regard to the underlying issues and causes for the unacceptable situation that today, still, hazardous wastes are transported to countries that don't want them and that can't manage them in a sound manner. This **Country-Led Initiative of Indonesia and Switzerland** has involved key proponents and key proponents of the Ban Amendment, and it

has resulted in a concrete proposal that will be submitted to the next COP in Cartagena. It not only addresses the entry into force of the amendment, it also foresees concrete actions concerning sound management standards, legal clarity, training, capacity building and therefore using the Basel and Stockholm regional centers. We are looking forward to discuss this proposal with all of you in Cartagena.