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International Council of Chemical Associations Welcomes Approval of SAICM

Objectives to Improve International Chemicals Management Adopted

Dubai, UAE, 9 February 2006 – The International Council of Chemical Associations today welcomed the endorsement of the UNEP Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, SAICM, Dubai Declaration. SAICM will provide the framework for future international chemical management arrangements and will strongly influence the direction of national regulatory systems from now until 2020. SAICM is intended to organise country, UN, and international activities to meet the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit goal "... that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimisation of adverse effects on health and the environment."

"The chemical industry sees the Responsible Care® Global Charter and the Global Product Strategy as the cornerstones of its contribution to activities implementing SAICM," said Peter Elverding, ICCA Board President, President of Cefic and CEO of DSM. "It is clear that SAICM can only achieve its goal by building a new partnership approach, with joint activities among producers, downstream users, governments, and other stakeholders, based on a strongly felt shared responsibility."

"As the chemical industry, we have a responsibility to address the needs and concerns, meet expectations, and reassure people that we are protecting them," stated Alain Perroy, Director General of Cefic and ICCA Council Secretary. "It is an important contribution of the industry to meet the objectives of SAICM and we will remain engaged to advance this program in the years ahead."

In a letter, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan congratulated ICCA on the launch of the charter and strategy, and said that "... both projects ... are inspiring models of voluntary self-regulation for other industries to consider following."

At the largest gathering of environmental ministers ever, the International Council of Chemical Associations, ICCA, participated in the negotiations of this policy alongside governments and stakeholders and joined ministers and policy makers in discussions leading to its formal adoption in Dubai by the UN Environment Programme, UNEP.

"We understand that negotiations of this magnitude are extremely difficult and we are pleased with the outcome. The Dubai Declaration is a constructive document and we look forward to working with the global chemical industry and others in implementing this chemicals strategy," stated Alain Perroy, Director General of Cefic and ICCA Council Secretary.

(MORE)

About SAICM

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, SAICM, was developed as a follow-up to the September 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The UN Environment Program conducted an open, deliberative process in which governments, inter-governmental organisations, and non-governmental organisations participated. SAICM was adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management ICCM - Feb 4 to 6 - and endorsed by the 9 February UNEP Governing Council meeting.

About ICCA

The International Council of Chemical Associations, ICCA is the world-wide voice of the chemical industry, representing chemical manufacturers and producers all over the world. Member associations are from countries that account for more than 75 per cent of chemical manufacturing operations, an industry with a turnover exceeding US\$ 1.6 trillion annually. Almost 30 percent of this production is traded internationally.

ICCA promotes and co-ordinates Responsible Care[®] and other voluntary chemical industry initiatives, advancing best practices within the industry. In addition, ICCA has a central role in the exchange of information within the international industry, in the development of position statements on matters of policy, and is the main channel of communication between the industry and various international organizations that are concerned with health, environment and trade-related issues, including the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, the World Trade Organization, WTO, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development, OECD.

The global chemical industry will be widely valued and supported for its economic, social and environmental contributions to society

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