

**Strategic Approach to International
Chemicals Management (SAICM)**

ICCA's position and contribution to the SAICM implementation

Introduction by Peter Elverding, ICCA President,
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Excellencies, (Mr/Madame) President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to be here in Dubai at this important global event – the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

It is my pleasure as the current ICCA president to speak to you on behalf of the International Council of Chemicals Associations (ICCA) on our position on Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, SAICM.

The global chemical industry through ICCA has actively supported the development of a global strategy on chemicals management. We are ready, willing and able to contribute to its efficient and effective implementation.

SAICM is the roadmap for all stakeholders to achieve the Johannesburg target 2020 – which is intended to assure the safe production and use of chemicals globally.

The chemical industry sees its contribution to the implementation of the strategic approach as an opportunity to improve public confidence in the safe management of chemicals, and also to further promote the benefit of chemistry to innovation and to global society. Chemistry brings good things to life and work. At the same time the chemical industry fully acknowledges that it has to earn its license to operate time and again.

The safe management of chemicals is a crucial issue in this respect.

ICCA is supporting the three-level structure of SAICM which includes a high level declaration, an overarching policy strategy and - as a working tool and guideline - a global plan of action.

The high level declaration is setting the political scene on global chemicals management for the next 15 years. It reflects the key political objectives of governments and other stakeholders to ensure continuous improvement of chemical safety. The declaration states explicitly that the sound management of chemicals is essential to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, and the improvement of human health and the environment.

ICCA is proud to see that the high level declaration also recognises the efforts of the private sector to promote and manage chemical safety through voluntary programmes and initiatives. The chemical industry's Responsible Care Programme is a good example, but there is more. The industry is working on the so-called High Production Volume or HPV program since 1998, in close cooperation with the OECD. This program assesses chemicals with regard to their health, environmental and safety impact. Moreover, the industry is also working on the so-called Long-Range Initiative – a long term voluntary research program on understanding the impact of chemicals on health and the environment. An important mission of LRI, which was funded by the chemical industry by over \$120 million

over the past 5 years, is also to improve the quality of the public debate on these issues.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, at our side-event yesterday late afternoon the global chemical industry has launched publicly the new Responsible Care Global Charter and the Global Product Strategy. Both new global initiatives are complementary in nature and should not simply be considered as new ICCA initiatives. They are reflecting a new long-term strategy and a new policy of our industry regarding the safety of processes and products across the value chain. The charter and the product strategy should be considered as the global chemical industries contribution and commitment to the implementation of SAICM.

The ICCA welcomes the mechanism set up by the SAICM Preparatory Committee. This ensures open, transparent and inclusive multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial participation. This mechanism should remain the basis for an efficient and effective implementation of this global strategic approach.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are ready to build a new partnership approach towards chemical safety globally, and to bridge the gap in chemicals management between developed and developing countries. Let me state it just once more: chemicals management is a crucial issue, for society at large and for the industry. That's why we will work in a spirit of close cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders.

Thank you for your attention.

