



INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF  
THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## **Intervention on chemicals management by Switzerland**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

For Switzerland, the sustainable management of chemicals and hazardous waste is an important priority, not only at the national level, but also internationally. As host of many important international institutions in the area of chemicals and waste and also as host to an important industrial sector in this area, Switzerland considers having a specific responsibility. Therefore, Switzerland is a prime supporter of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management SAICM.

Chemicals offer tremendous opportunities and benefits. Today's well-being would not be possible without chemicals. In order to use the benefits but as well to address the challenges and risks of chemicals the whole life-cycle of these substances has to be taken into consideration.

Four key elements for further policy action can be identified to ensure the environmental sound management of chemicals:

### **1) Further enhancing coordination and cooperation within the chemicals and waste cluster:**

CSD should give a clear message that there is a strong need to deepen and broaden the synergies within the chemicals and waste cluster at the international level.

At the UNEP Governing Council last week in Nairobi the international community underlined the need for an approach to the sound management of chemicals and wastes at all levels that responds to new and emerging issues and challenges in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner.

The CSD should therefore welcome the decision of the UNEP Governing Council to launch a consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and wastes cluster in the long term.

### **2) Enhancing the implementation of the international chemicals and waste policy**

Making better use of the synergies amongst international chemicals and waste instruments will also improve efficiency and effectiveness of implementation at the national level.



Other essential means for further enhancing implementation are to integrate sound chemicals and waste management into national development plans and to foster cooperation with industry and the private sector through private public partnerships.

### **3) The responsiveness to new and emerging issues**

There is a strong need for a long term strategy to ensure that the chemicals and waste regime is responsive in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and challenges.

An example for such a new emerging issue is nanotechnology. Switzerland is of the opinion that the SAICM is the right forum for examining the risks associated with nanotechnologies and nanomaterials and for sharing respective information. This will be the basis for determining whether and what kind of further action is needed to address these risks.

### **4) Financing and compliance**

Sustainable financing and effective and efficient compliance are cross cutting issues for the sustainable management of chemicals and wastes.

The CSD should recognise the importance of these issues and their interlinkage. It should also identify the opportunities for addressing these two cross cutting issues in a coherent, coordinated, effective and efficient manner such as the ongoing UNEP led process on financing chemicals and waste and the further development of the synergies process amongst the chemicals and waste conventions.

Mr. Chairman, chemicals and waste are two challenges that are addressed in a joint manner at international but often as well at regional and national levels. For example, the initial synergies process takes place amongst the three conventions that deal with chemicals and waste issues. Also the SAICM provides a framework for both chemicals and waste policy related issues.

This linkage is also reflected in the documents for this meeting. It needs to be reflected in our further organization of work so that chemicals and waste issues can be discussed jointly. Furthermore, the omnibus decision of CSD 19 should deal with chemicals and waste in a joint subsection.

We are looking forward to a Chair's Draft Negotiating Text based on the Resource Paper that takes these issues into account.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.