**Key messages from the side event on “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet: Accelerating the sound management of chemicals and waste”**

**4 December 2017, United Nations Environment Assembly, Nairobi, Kenya**

* Sources and types of pollution are highly diverse. A large part of pollution comes from chemicals and wastes, when not properly managed.
* The commitment to a pollution-free planet requires the sound management of chemicals and wastes.
* The environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes requires a combination of actions, from regulation to infrastructure development, economic incentives and market collaboration.
* Legal and regulatory frameworks allow to clarify the responsibilities and liabilities of various actors, they provide incentive schemes for actions and they enable a level playing field for the private sector. Legislation on wastes management has also been used to achieve other national priorities, e.g. to alleviate poverty and promote an inclusive economic development.
* Governments address their pollution challenges through the implementation of their commitments set out in international environmental treaties, such as the Basel, Minamata, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and through voluntary agreements such as SAICM; which are translated into national legislation, policy and actions.
* Evolutions in today’s societies create new mobility and energy needs that result in emerging environmental challenges down the value chain (e.g. waste batteries and waste solar products).
* Simultaneously, as demand for raw materials increases, recycling has become a strategic priority to create business value in many sectors.
* In this context, innovation potential and business models transformation can come from an approach that looks at the entire value chain. However, there is not a one size-fits-all approach when promoting circular business models. Public and private organizations must work in tandem towards those transformative changes.
* Shifts and disruptions in business models, e.g. creation of more eco-design products, often come from start-ups. There is a need to improve the take-up and integration of start-up innovations in business models and production processes.
* Sustainable chemistry is a process that stimulates innovation across all sectors to design, manufacture and use efficient, effective, safe and more environmentally benign chemical products and processes.
* Promotion of wastes as a resource creates opportunities for inclusive economic progress and sustainable development through the formalization of the informal sector, the creation of decent jobs, and the improvement of recycling practices. To encourage business opportunities in the circular economy of developing countries, thus accelerating the sound management of chemicals and waste, it is crucial to address the informal sector.
* Solutions may also come from multi-stakeholder partnerships: they allow a broader exchange of experience and information, and they provide opportunities to all stakeholders to find solutions through collective engagement and commitment.
* It is important to increase efforts to reach the 2020 goal and that all stakeholders involved in the SAICM 2020 beyond process contribute to setting the future directions of chemicals and waste management.