IV/4: The Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

*The Conference*,

*Recalling* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

*Noting* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular the targets to achieve, by 2020, the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycles, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and to significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment and to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030,

*Recalling* the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”, and in particular the aim to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment,

*Recalling also* resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Environment Assembly welcomed the important contribution of the Strategic Approach in facilitating action by all relevant stakeholders towards the sound management of chemicals and waste, emphasized the need for continued and strengthened multisectoral and multi-stakeholder involvement and recognized that the need to prevent or minimize the significant adverse effects from chemicals and hazardous wastes on human health and the environment would continue to provide a strong basis for sound chemicals and waste management beyond 2020,

*Recalling further* the outcome of the country‑led consultative process supported by the United Nations Environment Programme on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster and the outcome document of the process, entitled “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”,

*Noting* that projections as set out in the 2012 Global Chemicals Outlook show an increase in chemical production and use worldwide, continuing beyond 2020, with the largest increases also occurring in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and that all countries will need to continue strengthening their capacity for governance, knowledge- and information-sharing and risk reduction required to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,

*Noting also* the continuing need to respond to new and emerging issues and to ensure that newly identified risks to human health and the environment can be identified and timely action taken to reduce those risks,

*Noting further* the value of a voluntary, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to mobilize all actors, which can enable flexible and timely action to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste,

*Recognizing* the need to start considering arrangements for the period beyond 2020,

1.*Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to contract an independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Decides* to initiate an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

3. *Also decides* that the intersessional process should include, in principle, two meetings before the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Groupand one meeting between the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and that it may also work by correspondence and/or by electronic means;

4. *Directs* the Open-ended Working Group to consider the need to call an additional meeting of the intersessional process before the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;

5. *Decides* that meetings of the intersessional process should, as far as possible, be held back-to-back with other relevant meetings and processes;

6. *Requests* the Bureau of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, with assistance of the secretariat, to notify the stakeholders by 31 March 2016 of the first meeting of the intersessional process specified in the present resolution and, in consultation with the participants at that first meeting, to draw up the timetable for the subsequent meetings;

7. *Decides* that the intersessional process should be open to all stakeholders and requests the secretariat to support, subject to the availability of resources, the participation of stakeholders eligible for funding as identified by the regions and sectors through the Bureau, up to eight from African States, eight from Asian-Pacific States, three from Central and Eastern European States, five from Latin American and Caribbean States and two representatives of each of the health, trade union and public interest sectors of non-governmental participants, in order to support balanced regional and sectoral participation;

8. *Also decides* that the participants at the first meeting of the intersessional process should elect two co-chairs from among the Governmental participants present at that meeting;

9. *Further decides* that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document “Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term”, including the vision to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and of hazardous wastes in ways that lead to the prevention or minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment as an essential contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development;

10. *Decides* that the intersessional process should, among other things, consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

11. *Requests* that the secretariat make available and that the intersessional process consider relevant available documents, including the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach referred to in paragraph 1 above, the overall orientation and guidance, relevant documents and reports of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the Open-ended Working Group and regional meetings, relevant United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions and other relevant documents available on the Strategic Approach website, the Global Chemicals Outlook, Global Waste Management Outlook, report entitled “Cost of Inaction on the Sound Management of Chemicals” by the United Nations Environment Programme and related World Health Organization health priority documents;

12. *Directs* the Open-ended Working Group to consider the conclusions of the independent evaluation and any recommendations identified by the intersessional process for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session.