

### **B&I intervention on chemicals, COW, 19 February 2013**

- The International Chemical Industry Association, ICCA, strongly supports UNEP's efforts to address environmental issues within the overall context of sustainable development. The global chemical industry has played a significant role in intergovernmental initiatives to promote both environmental and sustainable development goals, including safer chemicals management internationally.
- Specific to the management of chemicals, important progress has been made toward achieving the SAICM 2020 goal, however, more needs to be done. We urge governments to reaffirm political commitment at the UNEP's Governing Council to advance progress in the implementation of SAICM through mainstreaming sound chemicals management into national development plans and improved SAICM reporting. Although we are generally comfortable with the chemicals-related draft decisions, we would appreciate if the draft decisions would better reflect this.
- As demonstrated through the chemical industry's global initiatives, we are strongly committed to forging partnerships, such as the ICCA/UNEP Memorandum of Understanding, that advance the SAICM objective. An effective approach to chemicals management must include the lifecycle perspective, we are therefore, encouraged by the recognition in the draft decisions of the importance of engaging the value chain.