CLOSING STATEMENT of the European Union and its Member States

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The candidate countries for EU membership Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia align themselves with this statement.

The European Union and its Member States would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Government of Uruguay for its generous hospitality and for hosting this important event.

We wish to express our appreciation to the co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group for their leadership and engagement, as well as to the co-chairs of the contact and informal groups for their dedication and for guiding our discussions.

We also wish to extend our gratitude to the Global Framework on Chemicals Bureau and the Secretariat for their preparation, organisation, and support throughout this Open-Ended Working Group.

We have concluded four days of productive dialogue and exchange of views and experiences, which have been

further enriched by the Multistakeholder Day. Our discussions covered highly valuable and important topics that are crucial for the successful implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

We believe that the input collected will assist in further preparations for the International Conference, especially concerning implementation programmes, issues of concern and measurability structure and indicators. These elements are essential for measuring progress and for achieving the strategic objectives and targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

We would like to reiterate our support for continuity of work towards establishing the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides and finalizing the Gender Action Plan and the strategy on capacity building.

The European Union and its Member States would like to once again thank the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the participating organisations for their proactive approach in developing implementation programmes, supporting the work on indicators, and leading efforts on Issues of Concern. We highly appreciate this leadership and look forward to further work in these areas.

Recognising the importance of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund as vital for supporting the Framework's implementation at the global level, the European Union and its Member States place their trust in the Executive Board that will employ the input received during this meeting to guide further preparations for the International Conference and subsequent rounds of applications.

We acknowledge the challenges posed by insufficient funding for the Secretariat, which threatens the sustainability of its operations. Therefore, we eagerly anticipate the development and adoption of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy at the first International Conference. We believe that this strategy will play a crucial role in securing future funding for the Framework.

With the major achievement of the establishment of the Science-Policy Panel and the progress towards the first International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals, it will be important to start a focused discussion on pollution in a form of High Level Dialogue on Pollution at the UN General Assembly and we invite all the stakeholders to join us in this effort.

We are confident that the work undertaken by all of us during this Open Ended Working Group will provide valuable guidance for the implementation and further development of the Framework and preparations for the International Conference. We remain optimistic about maintaining momentum on our way to the first International Conference.