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Greenpeace East Asia Intervention on new and emerging issues

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Thank you Madam Co-Chair:

SAICM has, at its core, the goal of different stakeholders working together for a common objective, including in response to new and emerging issues. In this regard, and as an example of progress can be made through detailed dialogue and commitment to safer alternatives to hazardous substances, Greenpeace would like to draw the attention of the meeting to a new development in relation to perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs).

While it is exciting to sketch the outlook for sound chemicals management beyond 2020, we should not forget that we need to move towards the 2020 objective first, including responding to new and emerging issues. Here, we have sth exciting to share.

On Feb 6th, just before the start of this intersessional meeting, a major PFC industry-player announced their goal and roadmap to eliminate all releases of hazardous PFCs within their fabric supply chain and from their fabric products throughout their lifespan. The goal set by this industry player for PFCs of environmental concern recognises the **highly persistent** nature of these chemicals, their **bioavailability**, and therefore the need to act in line with the **Precautionary**

Principle to address these substances on the basis of a chemical group.

It adds to the already long list of industrial leaders, including small and medium enterprises, committed and started to phasing out hazardous chemicals from their supply chains and products, as they truly recognize their responsibility and shared value that can be created in chemical safety and sound chemicals management. Their commitment has proved the possibility of more sustainable future **advanced by science and technology**.

To achieve the mission ahead of us, industry presented here needs to “**live to the example**”, so that when asked next time “whether you believe industry can change and walk the talk” more can raise their hands.

With this, we urge that:

1. **More** industry stakeholders to follow their pioneering peers to proactively phase out hazardous chemicals, such as PFCs, from their supply chain and products and through their life-cycle, with a focus on both chemical and non-chemical alternatives, in line with the **precautionary principle** to **avoid regrettable substitutes** such as short-chain PFCs.
2. **Expand the commitments and achievements** made in some leading sectors, such as textile industry, to other industrial sectors.
3. The OECD/UNEP Global PFC group that has played a key role in global PFC issues, to advance their global effort in facilitating substitution of PFCs with safer alternatives,

through information collection and exchange. The Group should note the progress of industry commitments and achievements, and should include but not limited to the understanding of hazardous properties of short-chain PFCs.

4. We need policy makers to understand the barriers and needs of true innovators, in order to create **better enabling environment** for innovation in sound chemicals management, for industrial leaders and for civil societies.

Thank you Madam Co-Chair!