

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

on

CHEMICAL LEASING

between

THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

and

THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY,  
ENVIRONMENT AND WATER MANAGEMENT

and

THE GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURE  
CONSERVATION, BUILDING AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

and

THE SWISS FEDERAL OFFICE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (hereinafter referred to as UNIDO), as a specialized agency of the United Nations, has the primary responsibility in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (hereinafter referred to as "AUSTRIA"), the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (hereinafter referred to as "GERMANY") and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (hereinafter referred to as "SWITZERLAND") are committed to ambitious policies that promote the sound and sustainable management of chemicals;

Chemical Leasing is a service-oriented business model that shifts the focus from increasing sales volume of chemicals towards a value-added approach, thus contributing to sustainable chemicals management in an innovative manner. The producer mainly sells the functions performed by the chemical, and functional units are the main basis for payment;

UNIDO, AUSTRIA, GERMANY and SWITZERLAND are actively promoting Chemical Leasing through the UNIDO Global Chemical Leasing Programme, established in 2005, and the Global Chemical Leasing Award, established in 2010;

The GERMAN government launched an initiative for an International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3) that aims to support the global breakthrough of Sustainable Chemistry, implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the development of SAICM-post-2020 policy frameworks for fostering the transition to sustainable chemistry concepts within industries.

THEREFORE, UNIDO, AUSTRIA, GERMANY and SWITZERLAND (hereinafter referred to as “Partners”) hereby declare:

1. Their intention to set up a framework for close cooperation between the Partners regarding Chemical Leasing, in particular with the objective to contribute to:
  - a. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as outlined in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015;
  - b. Supporting SAICM and in particular its goal that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;
  - c. Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), as highlighted in the Lima Declaration on Industrial Development adopted by UNIDO member states in 2013;
  - d. Achieving other Goals set by Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the international Chemical Conventions (e.g. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Minamata Convention on Mercury).
2. Their intention to take action in the following areas:
  - a. Awareness raising and inclusion of the Chemical Leasing business model in local, national, regional and intergovernmental policies, programmes and activities such as related to Sustainable Chemicals Management, Sustainable and Green Chemistry, Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production and Circular Economy;
  - b. Advocating and enabling Chemical Leasing to become a mainstream business model across industries and countries;
  - c. Up-scaling of Chemical Leasing within companies and organisations;
  - d. Promotion of Chemical Leasing as a circular economy business model by fostering the safe use of chemicals in an inclusive and cooperative manner and

for the sake of human health and ecosystems, and by promoting resource efficiency and the reuse and recycling of goods with a goal of “zero waste”;

- e. Research into Chemical Leasing, scientific publications and academic support;
  - f. Implementation of activities set out in the SAICM Global Plan of Action in order to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle by means of Chemical Leasing;
  - g. Promotion of Chemical Leasing to advance synergies across the international Chemical Conventions and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
3. Their intention to cooperate for the purpose of continuous development and optimization of the Chemical Leasing business model and to initiate, coordinate, communicate and facilitate the projects and activities in the above-mentioned areas by the following means:
- a. Nominating focal points of each Partner;
  - b. Establishing working groups, constituted by representatives from each Partner and invited guests;
  - c. Exchange of relevant information and documents, subject to such restrictions and arrangements as may be considered necessary to preserve the confidential nature of certain information and documents;
  - d. Engagement of stakeholders, and encourage them to make co-financing, share Chemical Leasing-related experiences and technical expertise with others;
  - e. Support the implementation of the UNIDO Global Chemical Leasing Programme and the Global Chemical Leasing Award;
  - f. Involvement and communicate with the public.
4. The Partners share the understanding that:
- a. The implementation of the envisaged activities depends on the availability of the necessary resources and funds;
  - b. This Declaration will take effect upon its signature. Each Partner can cancel the cooperation under this Declaration by written information to the other Partners;
  - c. This Declaration is not intended to create any legal obligation;
  - d. This Declaration should be open for additional Partners.