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## **Canadian comments to the Co-Chair Summary - Response to July 7 request**

### **General:**

It will be very important that a document leading from the Co-Chairs summary serve to guide and move the discussion forward at the next intersessional meeting.

### **Vision:**

- Having a timeless vision will be most helpful for the future, and can be grounded in milestones that allow for adjustments, new information, progress review etc. The first such milestone should/could be 2030, to coincide and take advantage of the momentum of the SDG process.
- Achieving sound management of chemicals and waste will advance many of the SDGs (and as reflected in UNEA 1/5) as “an essential and cross-cutting element of sustainable development” with benefits for the environment, health, poverty eradication, the economy and society.
- The current vision and global goal of sound management of chemicals and waste is remains valid, is timeless and could be re-worded/re-invented/re-branded to promote greater engagement, political awareness.
- The vision is not exclusive – an overarching strategic view and aspirational direction of the full chemicals and waste cluster with mechanisms (existing, future) working in complementarity toward its achievement, and with shared responsibility among governments, industry, ENGOs and others.
- While we support the vision for a post 2020 framework which focusses on prevention, it will be important to elaborate a practical program of work that is achievable and measurable, to make and track progress towards that vision, noting that not all countries are at the same level in starting the achievement of the vision. As such, measurable objectives may be different for each group and region.

### **Scope:**

- It will be important to consider both the long-term policy elements within UNEA 1/5 and the 6 core action areas and 11 basic elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance Document as a guide for identifying the scope of the post-2020 agenda. These could help to provide structure/shape to the vision/strategy and/or a road map forward.
- A road-map or policy objectives/targets approach would be useful, with consideration of respective roles of different actors (industry roles vs. governments’ vs ENGOs or others). This program of work could be articulated as a SAICM road map and could cover the 2020-2030 period with milestones in support of the 2030 Agenda.
- The scope needs to include a balance between addressing challenges of developing countries and ability to detect and respond to emerging issues.
- Priority should be given to chemicals management programs in countries that do not have them, and on activities which support national and regional implementation of the OOG, which should be strongly emphasized - possibly via national action plans.

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- Further discussion is needed on which aspects of waste/circular economy should be prioritized for inclusion in the 2020-2030 road map. The current scope includes waste within the lifecycle of chemicals, and reflects ongoing initiatives within the chemicals and waste cluster to address waste issues, and is also linked to advancement of goals under the SDG agenda, particularly for developing countries.
- Scope will involve a range of actors and mechanisms, and will mean greater coordination, collaboration to respond to emerging issues and challenges at all levels (global, regional, national).

**Governance:**

- It will be important to confirm who is best placed to lead or support implementation of priorities. This is likely to require engaging new sectors and/or stakeholders.
- Once we've established our priorities and identified who/what organization is best placed to take on various areas of work, we will be in a better place to determine the most efficient governance mechanisms and consider the question of financing priorities. These decisions are not feasible until plans are more firmly established.
- We will need to examine mechanisms for securing commitment to ensure that we are making progress toward our goals.
- Once a Policy Framework and 'roadmap' are established, we could consider a mechanism such as a charter where each player could outline its commitments.
- We will want to clarify the nature and scope of the relationship between the MEAs and SAICM and how best to use the knowledge and capacity of IOMC organizations. Internationally, cooperation across/among a suite of mechanisms will be needed to achieve the vision, including cooperation/coordination among existing mechanisms (i.e. MEAs, SAICM.2, UNEA, OECD, IOMC, WHO etc.), new collaborative activities, new partnerships and ad-hoc processes.
- A voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach will be valuable within the suite of mechanisms, and its activities focused on where it is best place to act, and most effective in advancing the vision/goal.
- The paper states that "the future platform needs to link sectors and promote synergies, fill in gaps and coordinate with decision making bodies of the participating organizations for IOMC, other relevant agencies and organizations". It goes on to state that "this could include augmenting the current stakeholder-based arrangements for the ICCM to one where the sectors can play a more formal role". How this will be achieved through rules of procedure at ICCM and the question of the structure, role, and financing of a Secretariat in facilitating this, in the context of a broadened multi-sectoral partnership, will need further consideration and clarification.

**New and emerging issues/ Issues of Concern:**

- We will need a mechanism to identify emerging issues and assess/advise on their implications and a triage function and ability to set priorities and determine level of action required for

emerging issues, best placed instrument and responsibilities across actors. We will need to identify and prioritize other issues of concern (previously defined as Emerging Policy Issues [EPIS] but likely need to be expanded to include broader issues such as promotion of green chemistry or addressing science/policy questions). This may require the establishment of a new prioritization process.

- The paper recognizes the existing mechanisms for provision of science advice (second bullet) and identifies UNEP and WHO and the MEA convention secretariats; we suggest that OECD should be added as an important body particularly in its work on Risk Assessment and for its contribution to the IOMC toolbox. In addition, we have to recognize the importance of the scientific subsidiary bodies of the conventions (not just the secretariats) eg. POPRC and CRC – who provide global Risk Assessment and Risk Management guidance for substances, especially where developing countries are unequipped to do so themselves.
- We agree that scientific and technical capacity building facing new and emerging issues or issues of concern that require global action on specific chemicals and groups of chemicals taking into account different needs at the regional level will be very important, we suggest that in taking into account these national and regional differences and needs, information sharing for policy capacity building could be equally (or more) important.
- There should be a distinction made between:
  - Addressing new scientific knowledge/evidence regarding concerns of specific chemicals and groups of chemicals that require policy/action;
  - Foresight for emerging technologies/innovations:
    - new chemistries with unknowns that require policy considerations;
    - new solutions for existing issues that may benefit from policy incentives (e.g. green chemistry to eliminate/reduce toxic side-products during production process, reduce impurities/contaminants in final products)
- The importance and benefit of upstream solutions should be recognized (i.e. no hazardous waste issue if we have clean production at the outset) while also providing for the need to address existing challenges.
- Chemicals in products (including imports/trade, and recycling/re-use) remains a pressing issue.

#### **Science- policy interface:**

- Rather than creating a new body, we may wish to recognize strengths/abilities of existing science-based mechanisms in informing policy making (UNEP, WHO, MEAs including technical subsidiary bodies, OECD, UNEA, and ad hoc processes on specific issues, i.e. marine litter). These bodies could be mobilized to investigate new issues and provide advice.
- This would require new collaborative efforts between or among these scientific bodies but would also bring efficiencies and better results.

#### **Financing:**

- The Co-Chair Summary states that “Providing sustainable, adequate, comprehensive and predictable financing in the long-term with emphasis on the role of developed countries” will be

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important. However, we argue that this contradicts the first bullet that the integrated approach to financing which is composed of the 3 important and mutually supporting elements of mainstreaming, enhanced industry involvement and dedicated external financing is essential. We need to re-inforce the importance of the (existing) integrated approach to financing (which was the result of extensive global negotiation), and its three components.

- Recognizing that governments have finite resources and are already contributing across many mechanisms (i.e. GEF, Special Programme, assessed contributions, voluntary funding...), broadening the donor base, particularly actors like industry, will be critical to predictable, sustainable funding that developing countries are seeking.
- Access/ability to deliver funds as “implementing agencies” should be considered – e.g. WHO not currently accredited to obtain funds under GEF.

#### **Sustainable and Green Chemistry:**

- As above under scope – there are several concepts that could be catalysts for the vision, including sustainable and green chemistry

#### **National Implementation:**

- Each country responsibility to implement sound management of chemicals and waste, including legally binding obligations for implementation of commitments under the MEAs.
- There is a need to mainstream the vision/global goal into national policies, legislation, and budgets.
- For developing countries, lack of basic chemicals regime should continue to be a priority.