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Cc: Jacqueline ALVAREZ/UNEP/GVA/UNO
Date: 09/18/2017 11:06
Subject: Co-chairs Comments 5 SepTCA.docx

Dear Jacob and Brenda,

I have the pleasure of sharing with you comments prepared by UN Environment through the Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division, related to the "Co-chairs' summary of the discussions during the first meeting in the inter-sessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020", February 2017, Brazil.

We find the co-chairs summary a very good starting point covering a range of pertinent issues. Rather than providing detailed observations on the summary, we would like to propose an approach for structuring and advancing the negotiations of the beyond 2020 process, drawing upon lessons-learned from the international biodiversity cluster.

The proposal specifically elaborates on, and responds to the point in the Co-Chairs Paper under Scope that "the Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach". The proposed approach is also considered compatible with, and responds to the decision taken at the fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 4) that "the intersessional process should, among other things, consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". It also builds on the intervention of UN Environment at the 1st intersessional meeting which is annexed to the note.

The overall purpose of the suggestion is to foster, as soon as possible, a dialogue among key stakeholders to advance a results-oriented approach in the development of an approach on chemicals and waste management beyond 2020, including development of specific targets and indicators.

In preparing these comments, the Branch interacted with, and received valuable comments from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions which expressed an interest in cooperating within its mandate in any relevant steps that may be decided concerning the way forward. We have also shared the comments with the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and further discussions are envisaged later in the year. We also understand that UNITAR may be interested in organizing a workshop on this topic in early 2018.

We would be most pleased to learn if the suggested approach is of interest to the co-chairs and if they would be interested in a further dialogue and reflections on the proposed approach.

Thank you in advance.

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 - Co-chairs Comments 5 SepTCA.docx

Co-chairs' summary of the discussions during the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Comments by UN Environment (August 2017)

UN Environment, through the Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division, is pleased to provide comments related to the “Co-chairs' summary of the discussions during the first meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020”, February 2017, Brazil. In preparing these comments, the Branch interacted with, and received valuable comments from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions which expressed an interest in cooperating within its mandate in any relevant steps that may be decided concerning the way forward.

We find the co-chairs summary a very good starting point covering a range of pertinent issues. Rather than providing detailed observations on the summary, we would like to propose an approach for structuring and advancing the negotiations of the beyond 2020 process, drawing upon lessons-learned from the international biodiversity cluster. The proposals specifically elaborate on, and responds to the point in the Co-Chairs Paper under Scope that “the Aichi Targets for biodiversity were referenced as a potential model approach”. It also builds on the intervention of UN Environment at the 1st intersessional meeting, which is annexed to this note.

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2011-2020)

In October 2010, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Nagoya, Japan, adopted a revised Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for the 2011-2020 period.

The Strategic Plan includes 6 key elements:

- i. Rationale
- ii. Vision Statement
- iii. Mission Statement
- iv. 5 Strategic Goals and 20 Targets
- v. Implementation, Monitoring, Review and Evaluation
- vi. Support Mechanisms

While adopted under the CBD, the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets created a common framework, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for all partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development, including governments, industry, civil society and development cooperation partners. It also guided the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans¹.

At the global level, the Global Biodiversity Outlook has provided a tool to collect state-of-the-art knowledge on the implementation of the goals and targets and to generate insights for policy-making and possible revision and adjustment of the targets.

Related to the above, on December 22, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (Resolution 65/161). The UN Decade on Biodiversity

¹ For further details please refer to <https://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/>.

serves to support and promote implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Why is the Aichi model and experience from the Biodiversity Cluster relevant?

- The international governance of the biodiversity cluster, similar to the chemicals and waste cluster, includes autonomous legally-binding multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) as well as voluntary approaches.² In the case of chemicals and waste, the MEAs include, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions the Minamata Convention and the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol, while voluntary approaches include, for instance, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the IOMC.
- Biodiversity, as chemicals and waste management, requires action in many sectors of government (environment, agriculture, industrial development etc.), by different key actors, and at various levels of governance (i.e. international, regional, national, sub-national and local).
- The approach taken in the biodiversity cluster has been accepted by a wide range of governments and stakeholders as a means of addressing a complex policy issue through global and national action. It also has proven to be an effective way to measure progress in achieving the overall vision of biological diversity conservation.

Compatibility with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Results-based Management

- A set of international chemicals and waste goals and targets has the potential, as in the Biodiversity Cluster, to provide a unifying framework to guide complementary and coordinated cross-cutting global, regional and national level action.
- These goals and targets could complement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by elaborating a prioritized list of complementary international chemicals and waste management goals and targets which are developed by and target key actors engaged in the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- The proposed approach would also be compatible with, and responds to the decision taken at the fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 4) that “the intersessional process should, among other things, consider the need for and develop recommendations regarding measurable objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

Building Upon and Bringing Together Existing Decisions in the International Chemicals and Waste Cluster

- In defining possible strategic goals and targets for the the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, existing relevant international agreements and processes need to be taken into account, bearing in mind that, with respect to MEAs, decision making remain under the authority of their respective governing bodies.
- A number of them are captured in the compilation on Global Environmental Goals (see http://geg.informea.org/goals?ui_theme=3). Further work could be undertaken to obtain a more complete picture of existing decisions and targets.

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- Any goals and targets to be developed should not duplicate existing decisions and targets, but be seen as an opportunity to create coherent guidance for cross-cutting management action, taking into account existing capacities, needs and status of the different stakeholders. The framework developed should be flexible enough to offer complementary to and foster coordination with the work of existing MEAs and relevant frameworks. They should also consider existing efforts to measure progress in advancing chemicals and waste management, such as the work of the IOMC on simple indicators of progress.
- Relevant decisions include , the five objectives of SAICM (adopted in 2006), the elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG) to advance sound chemicals management at the national and regional levels (adopted in 2015), as well as key - and still relevant - decisions adopted by Heads of States at major global summits, including Agenda 21, Chapter 19 (which includes provisions for international and national level action), as well as decisions adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Rio plus 20 Summit. In addition, relevant decisions to be taken into account include those adopted by the governing bodies of the relevant MEAs, noting that the identification, monitoring and review of goals and targets under each MEA falls under the purview of its governing bodies.
- Building on information collected through the Global Environmental Goals and by international organizations engaged in chemicals and waste management, a compilation of existing targets in the area of international chemicals and waste management could be developed.

Annex 2 provides an indicative example for a specific goal and related targets focusing on national systems for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, an area which has received a lot of attention during the first inter-sessional meeting. It is important to note that this example is meant to be illustrative only.³

Possible Next Steps

If the proposed approach of developing strategic goals and a set of limited targets is of interest to stakeholders participating in the beyond 2020 process, UN Environment would be pleased to work with interested actors (i.e. Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) organizations, chemicals and wastes MEA Secretariats, governments, academia, industry, and other stakeholders) in further discussing this approach and preparing a background paper to inform the second intersessional meeting on chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in March 2018.

• ³ An indicative list of possible goals and 20 targets has been developed informally which is available from the Chemicals and Health Branch upon request.

Annex 1: Strategic Plan on Biological Diversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets

https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/2011-2020/Aichi-Targets-EN.pdf

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 2010-2020
 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

The Strategic Plan is comprised of a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and 30 ambitious yet achievable targets, collectively known as the Aichi Targets. The Strategic Plan serves as a flexible framework for the implementation of national and regional targets and it promotes the coherent and effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

THE VISION

"By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."

THE MISSION

"Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2050 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's diversity of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. To ensure this, pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; adequate financial resources are provided; capacities are enhanced; biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed; appropriate policies are effectively implemented, and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary approach."

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Strategic Goal 1: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- By 2010, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably
- By 2010, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems
- By 2010, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions
- By 2010, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impact of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits

Strategic Goal 2: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- By 2010, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced

Strategic Goal 3: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- By 2010, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes
- By 2010, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly those most in decline, has been improved and sustained
- By 2010, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for conserving genetic diversity and safeguarding their genetic diversity

Strategic Goal 4: Increase the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- By 2010, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable
- By 2010, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification
- By 2010, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation

Strategic Goal 5: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- By 2010 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementation an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan
- By 2010, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels
- By 2010, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied
- By 2010, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resources needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties

Please feel free to use the Aichi Biodiversity Targets icons in your own materials. More details at www.cbd.int/tp

Annex 2: Indicative example of a strategic goal and related targets for chemicals and waste management

VISION

By [], significant adverse effects deriving from chemicals and waste are prevented, minimized and managed as an essential contribution to a [pollution-free planet], [non-toxic environment] and achieving sustainable development.

1 *Strategic Goal 1:*

2 *Strategic Goal 2:*

3 *Strategic Goal 3: National systems for sound chemicals and waste management and relevant capacities are in place in all countries⁴*

Target

By 2022 countries have developed a national chemicals and waste management strategy within the national sustainable development context, covering all stages of the life cycle.

The development of a national strategy through engagement of key sectors and stakeholders provides an opportunity to take stock, set priorities and take action and mobilize commitment of decision-makers to integrate chemicals and waste management in the national implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Conditions for meeting the target

- ✓ Key government sectors and stakeholder are committed to engage in a national strategy development process
- ✓ The national process is fully linked to national efforts to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and other relevant national policies
- ✓ Opportunities are identified to integrate the implementation of international agreements on chemicals and wastes

The target applies to all stakeholders in society.

Possible indicators

- Number of countries with national chemicals and waste management profiles updated to provide robust baseline information
- Number of countries with strategies in place that were developed through engagement of key sectors and stakeholders

⁴ Several targets are needed to achieve this goal. The strategic goals should be aspirational while the targets and indicators need to be achievable within the timeframe and considering stakeholders circumstances. A flexible framework with living indicators that can provide the platform to measure progress.

Target

By 2025 all countries have basic legislation in place to manage chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle

Sound legislation and standards are a necessary condition for ensuring that dangerous chemicals and wastes are properly labelled, risks are identified and managed and certainty is provided to all actors concerning their roles and responsibilities.

Conditions for meeting the target

- ✓ Governments are aware of the importance and value of putting in place a robust regulatory systems
- ✓ Industry values a robust regulatory framework as an opportunity that creates certainty rather than constraints
- ✓ Knowledge-sharing takes across countries to learn from regulatory measures taken in other countries

The target mainly applies to government and industry stakeholders.

Possible indicators

- Number of countries with legislation in place to implement the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
- Number of countries with national chemicals legislation in place that covers the life cycle
- Number of countries with national waste legislation in place that covers the life cycle

Target

By 2025

Conditions for meeting the target

Possible indicators

Annex 3:

Statement by UN Environment on Vision, Goals and Targets for a Beyond 2020 Approach on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste

First intersessional meeting on SAICM and chemicals and waste beyond 2020, February 2017, Brazil

1. Development of an Inspirational and Aspirational Vision

UN Environment supports efforts under SAICM and the ICCM to develop an ambitious vision for chemical and waste management beyond 2020. As a reminder to ourselves, the original 2020 goal from WSSD in 2002 stated: “by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment”.

This goal was expanded to SDG Target 12.4 which states: *By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.*

There are some improvements over the WSSD 2002 goal that has guided SAICM, but it too will end in 2020. Taking into account where we have come from since 2002 and taking into account the SAICM experience and the 2030 agenda, we believe there is an opportunity to identify a new long term vision which is both inspirational and aspirational to guide us for the coming decades.

Therefore, we would like to observe a number of recent or ongoing relevant visionary discussions in related international fora:

- The report on “Healthy Environment, Healthy People” prepared by UN Environment for UNEA2 included four integrated lines of action to address the nexus environment and health. One of these lines is *Detoxify: Focus on the Removal of harmful substances from and/or mitigate their impact on the environment in which people live and work.*
- The upcoming meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions will have the theme: *"A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste"*.
- Finally, the theme of *"pollution free planet"* being considered for the third session of UNEA3 with support of many member states.

We may be able to take inspiration from some of these more ambitious visions to develop our beyond 2020 vision for chemicals and waste.

2. Complementing a Vision with Strategic Goals and Targets

A vision and strategic approach beyond 2020 would benefit from a set of strategic goals and a focused number of targets. We believe targets could be global, national and sectoral and should build on the objectives of the Overarching Policy and Strategy and the Overall Orientation and Guidance, requested by ICCM3 and presented to ICCM4.

We would like to give the example of the Convention on Biological Diversity, where five strategic goals and 20 targets were developed -- the so called Aichi Biodiversity targets. The focus on 20

strategically selected targets helped to provide focus to the biodiversity agenda and to bring together action related to various global biodiversity instruments through all stakeholders. It also facilitates review of progress made against the targets through the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

We consider that this approach may be feasible in designing the beyond 2020 approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste. To move forward we suggest a brief review to what extent lessons learned in the global biodiversity cluster may be relevant for the beyond 2020 work under SAICM.

3. Identification of Potential Topics Relevant to a Beyond 2020 Approach

As indicated in the information document SAICM/IP.1/Inf1 on the linkages of the Global Chemicals Outlook and the intersessional process on beyond 2020, the Steering Committee for the Global Chemicals Outlook identified in December 2016 about 15 topics it considers important for addressing chemicals and waste management beyond 2020. For these topics, GCO-II aims to bring scientific research and knowledge to SAICM and the beyond 2020 process, and to help develop options to implement the chemicals and waste dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, as called for by UNEA 2.

The topics identified by the GCO-II Steering Committee for priority analysis and research include both *chemical management* topics, as well as *enabling topics*, such as research and development, innovation, education, and economic incentives. Further details and the indicative outline of GCO –II can be found in the information document SAICM/IP.1/Inf1.

Thank you for our attention.