b. Mainstreaming

We would propose that the text of paragraph 6 should read:

6. National Governments should integrate sound chemical management into their development plans and priorities. For developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the mainstreaming of their national chemicals and waste priorities into the development planning processes for funding as part of official development assistance may increase their access to funding for national priorities in relation to chemicals and waste.

The first bracketed sentence in paragraph 7 that begins “Countries should” is redundant of paragraph 6 and should be deleted.

c. Private sector involvement

The United States can support a call to governments to implement actions to encourage industry involvement in the integrated approach, through the development of legislation on the responsibilities of industry and national administration, the provision of incentives for the sound management of chemicals, and the promotion of measures by industry to internalise costs. We believe governments should have the flexibility to implement the laws and policies in this regard that suit their national circumstances and therefore do not support any call for countries to implement specific policies, such as extended producer responsibility schemes.

The United States also supports encouraging private-sector entities throughout the value chain to increase their contributions to the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and associated waste through a range of approaches and partnerships.
We are concerned with the calls in the text for the financial sector to develop guidance (paragraphs 11 and alt 11) as it is unclear what entity or entities in the financial sector would develop this guidance or what impact such guidance would have within the sector.

d. Dedicated external financing

External financing complements the components of mainstreaming and industry involvement. Stakeholders should seek to secure funds, including development assistance aid from innovative donor sources outside the traditional funding sources in the environment sector. This can be facilitated by mainstreaming at the national level.

Donors should, where possible, provide dedicated external financing, including, for example, resources to support the Global Environment Facility and other multilateral, regional and bilateral sources, and to support the effective implementation of the Special Programme on institutional strengthening in the chemicals and waste cluster, with a view to supporting institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions and the Strategic Approach.

All stakeholders should contribute to the instrument’s financing in accordance with their means.

de. Capacity building

The United States believes that beyond 2020 instrument should prioritize opportunities for capacity building and information exchange on core chemicals management and enhance opportunities for national preparation around evolving issues like sustainable chemistry, the increased global demand for safer products and processes, and best practices toward the adoption of safer solutions. This would include sharing knowledge on existing chemicals to help emerging economies with risk assessment and risk management, as well as sharing approaches for addressing new chemicals.

At IP-3, the United States suggested the establishment of internationally recognized tiers of achievement as a way to incentivize more robust implementation of core chemicals management. For example, countries could work toward the implementation of policies and activities to reach the following tiers:

Tier 3: Take priority risk reduction actions and have a system in place to inventory and evaluate the safety of chemicals and implement further risk management activities to address risks from chemicals, incorporating the latest trends and advancements and avoiding outdated approaches and scientific methods.

Tier 2: Tier 3 and implement a compliance monitoring and enforcement strategy, including increasing transparency for chemicals information to engage the public and industry. (Pollutant Transfer and Release Registers (PRTRs), such as the Toxics Release Inventory in the United States, are an example of a mechanism for transparency and public engagement.)

Tier 1: Tier 3, tier 2, and establish policies or incentives to encourage the development of safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable solutions. (For example, Germany has launched the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Center, which promotes the development of sustainable chemistry solutions worldwide.)