SUBMISSION BY UNEP

VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON GOVERNANCE AND MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION – Electronic Feedback on Sections (B) National implementation; (C) Sub-regional, regional, international cooperation and coordination; and (D) Enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement

UNEP is thankful to the co-facilitators for the opportunity offered to provide written input in relation to the mechanisms to support implementation. UNEP believes the implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument should be a shared responsibility amongst all relevant sectors and stakeholders.

B. NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION (Page 8, Section VI.B)

Paragraph 2. Based on the first sentence of the compilation text, please explain in no more than two sentences your organization’s view on the government focal point(s) and the primary role of the focal point(s). The first sentence reads as follows:

To facilitate communication, nationally and internationally, each Government should [designate or develop a network of] [a political and a technical national focal point] [to communicate on the SAICM matters and develop a network at the national level of coordinators] that represent the multi-stakeholder and multisectoral nature of [SAICM] [the instrument to communicate on the sound management of chemicals and waste matters].

UNEP believes focal points should be designated by Governments at the national and regional levels as well as by all relevant stakeholders, to ensure their participation and engagement in the implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument, where all are contributing.

Regarding Government focal point(s), UNEP believes they would be the officially designated individual/entity responsible for information exchange as required under the instrument, including receiving invitation to the meetings of the relevant bodies or national reporting to the Conference as well as coordination at national level amongst relevant ministries, sectors and stakeholders.

Paragraph 3. It has been noted that the parenthetical should include the environmental sector. Given the environmental nature of this instrument, the co-facilitators intend to remove the brackets in the parenthesis in further iterations of this section.

UNEP supports this proposal by the co-facilitators to remove the brackets and include the environmental sector throughout this section.

To support effective implementation, stronger efforts are required to ensure that national implementation involves the engagement of the appropriate range of stakeholders and sectors (e.g., the health, [environmental,] agriculture and labour sectors) to address national priorities.

[Reporting back on National Plans.]
Paragraph 4. There is no existing text on “reporting back on national plans.” Therefore, the co-facilitators, noting that there is no requirement for any stakeholder to have a national plan, propose and request views on the following text for the consideration of this Virtual Working Group on Nov. 19th:

Any stakeholder that chooses to create a national plan of action or program of implementation for itself may, when appropriate, report back to the International Conference on Chemicals Management.¹

UNEP is thankful to the co-facilitators for their proposed text and would like to share the following additional observations:

- While UNEP supports the reporting by all relevant stakeholders, there may be a need to consider the reference to “stakeholder” versus “Government” in this section related to national implementation;
- UNEP is of the opinion that the actual implementation of national plans will be a critical element, and hence believes that reporting should cover both the development of the national plans – in consultation with all relevant stakeholders and sectors – as well as progress in their implementation by the different relevant national actors.
- Finally, one may wish to streamline the wording and hence consider the terminology used in paragraph 1, which refers to “national plans of action for implementation”.

Paragraph 5. Paragraph 5 is currently in brackets. Based on the progress of the Virtual Working Group on Targets and Indicators and the importance placed on the implementation of the targets at IP-3, the co-facilitators recommend the removal of the brackets on this paragraph.

UNEP believes all actors and stakeholders should undertake actions to ensure progress on implementation of targets at the national and subnational level and hence agrees with this proposal by the co-facilitators to remove the brackets on this paragraph.

C. [International,] REGIONAL AND [SUBREGIONAL] SECTORAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION (Page 9, Section VLC)

Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 contain a very limited set of brackets with respect the levels of geographic engagement. Based on the understanding that the engagement of all stakeholders, regardless of their geographic level, has been highlighted as important throughout the IP process, the co-facilitators propose that the text reflect all of the geographic levels proposed by removing the limited brackets in paragraphs 1-4 and correcting the punctuation in further iterations of this section.

UNEP believes that the text should indeed to reflect all geographic levels as well as all sectors and stakeholders that are part of the implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument and hence agrees with this proposal by the co-facilitators to remove the related brackets in this section.

UNEP further suggest emphasising the contribution from products value chains, eg including all relevant stakeholders (including, but not limited to private sector, researchers and academia, governmental authorities, the supply chain, the consumers, the waste management). This might go beyond geographical scope.

Paragraph 1. regions [and] subregions [and countries]

Proposed by co-facilitators: regions, subregions, and countries

¹ Subject to further discussions regarding the name of the Beyond 2020 Instrument.
**Paragraph 2.** Regional, interregional and sectoral collaboration play integral roles in supporting the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels, including among trading partners and other regional organizations.

Proposed by co-facilitators: International,

**Paragraph 3.** Regional meetings and coordination mechanisms play an important role in enabling stakeholders in each region to exchange experience and identify priority needs in relation to implementation, as well as to develop regional positions on key issues.

Proposed by co-facilitators: International and

**Paragraph 4.** Regions and subregions are encouraged, where appropriate:

a. To identify common priorities;

b. To develop regional implementation plans for the sound management of chemicals and waste, and to consider regional or subregional approaches and projects;

c. To appoint a regional focal point.

Proposed by co-facilitators: Regions, subregions, and countries

Owing to the need for actual implementation of the instrument at all relevant levels, UNEP would like to further suggest that an additional sub-paragraph be added under paragraph 4, after b, which would read:

"To support the implementation of the instrument."

**Paragraph 5.** Comments not requested (no existing brackets)

D. **ENHANCED SECTORAL AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

(Pages 10-11, Section VLD)

This section was considered extensively at IP-3. Views are requested only on the existing language in the remaining brackets.

**Paragraph 1.** [and commitment]

UNEP believes the text in brackets should remain, to emphasize the need for all relevant sectors and stakeholder’s commitment towards the sound management of chemicals and waste.

**Paragraph 2.** At the national level, governments, as appropriate, should undertake, in accordance with their laws, regulations and policies, [taking into account their national circumstances,] actions to build or improve regulatory and non-regulatory frameworks and institutional structures and capacities for multi-sectoral coherence [for the sound management of chemicals and wastes][in the implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument], as well as [promote][encourage] complementary action by relevant stakeholders.

**Paragraph 3.** [conventions.]

b. Relevant regional [conventions,] programmes, bodies and processes, such as health and environmental ministerial forums, should support and augment such national efforts, fostering coordination and cooperation.

Commented [A3]: Private sector - industry

Commented [A4]: And alternates

Commented [A5]: Relevant Conventions( including regional ones), programmes.
Paragraph 4. It is also essential that at the international level, relevant international organizations and bodies, in particular the IOMC organizations [and the chemicals and waste-related conventions] also support national and regional efforts to enable and enhance the participation of stakeholders and sectors and to promote awareness regarding the crosscutting nature of the sound management of chemicals and waste as [an essential element], a contribution to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Paragraph 5. In addition, mindful of the need to avoid duplication and taking into account their respective mandates [and constituencies], [such][relevant] international organizations and bodies [should be][are] invited to [endorse and adopt][formally recognize] [the beyond 2020 instrument] and strengthen their own engagement on [and ownership of] policies and actions for the sound management of chemicals and waste [through establishing a mechanism to coordinate activities and further include them in their programmes of work and budgets], [including coordinating relevant activities and programmes of work] relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals and targets.

Paragraph 6. [the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and waste] [the implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument]

Paragraph 7. [throughout the value chain of chemicals and waste]

Paragraphs 8-10. Comments not requested (no existing brackets)

Paragraph 11. The second half of the sentence contains a single bracket related to the assessment of the levels of achievement [resulted in progress]. The co-facilitators recommend the removal of the brackets on this paragraph.

Paragraph 12. All efforts to enhance sectoral and stakeholder engagement should be expected to lead to strengthened cooperation and coordination with respect to the [sound management of chemicals and waste].
Paragraph 13. Paragraph 13 is currently in brackets. Based on the discussion at IP-3 and the importance placed on the existing role of the IOMC Organizations, the co-facilitators recommend the removal of the brackets on this paragraph.

[To improve the multi-sectoral cooperation and coordinating structure focused on chemicals and waste, the IOMC should promote broad membership and participation of relevant intergovernmental bodies, including international organizations and secretariats of chemicals and waste related conventions, and seek guidance from governmental representation from their respective governing bodies to strengthen their sound management of chemicals and waste prioritization, coordination, engagement and support for national implementation, within their respective mandates.]

Commented [A8]: And taking into account the synergies with the Biodiversity Conventions,…………………

Commented [A9]: As well as the biodiversity conventions…