

Submission on Elements of the High-Level Declaration

UK Government

The UK is supportive of the adoption of a High-Level Declaration with a strong message that business as usual is not an option and urgent action is needed to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste. The High-Level Declaration should set out clear commitments and ambitious outcomes for all relevant stakeholders to accelerate progress towards protecting the environment and human health from the impacts of harmful chemicals.

*Q1. What would you consider the most important aspects and key messages for strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste and political commitment for a just and resilient world that require anchoring in an HLD?*

We consider some of the most important aspects and key messages to be:

- Setting out a clear case for action and commitment to tackle pollution and environmental degradation.
- Global production and consumption have grown, leading to ever-increasing emissions and pollution around the world despite ambitious global agreements and targets.
- Environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change are complex, interconnected global issues which are accelerating at an unprecedented rate. To tackle these issues urgent global action and transformational change is needed.
- Interrelated and interdependent challenges such as biodiversity loss, land, freshwater and ocean degradation, pollution and climate change need to be addressed in a more coherent and systemic way.
- Collaborative science is essential to support action at all levels and the work to strengthen the links between the scientific evidence and the international decision making community through a credible, transparent and authoritative science policy interface is critical for reaching our ambitions.
- Closer cooperation between relevant multilateral agreements, international organisations, industry and others is needed for the effective and efficient implementation of the Beyond 2020 Framework on Chemicals and Waste.
- Support sustainable supply chains, improved global standards for the management of chemicals and waste, as well as the use of innovative approaches such as nature-based solutions and sustainable practices.

*Q2. What should the scope, key elements and messages of the ICCM5 HLD cover? Considering, inter alia:*

- *The current context (COVID-19, economic recovery interventions, and the need to make significant progress on SMCW).*
- *The enhanced contribution of the SMCW to implement the 2030 Agenda and address present and future needs.*
- *Progress in efforts undertaken to date, and critical gaps to be addressed.*

The scope of the High-Level Declaration should:

- Align with previous global agreements, relevant resolutions and commitments e.g. the Dubai Declaration, Rio, Doha, the Leaders Pledge for Nature and relevant UNEA resolutions

- Highlight and improve links and synergies with relevant international agreements as appropriate e.g. health, biodiversity and climate change
- Strengthen the multi-sectoral approach and include actions/commitments from all relevant stakeholders
- Include the wider ICCM5 agreement on the new framework and key elements
- Include commitment to a strengthened Science:Policy Interface and focus on continued action
- Include commitments to a green recovery (particularly in light of COVID-19) and promote innovation
- Address global challenges posed by issues of international concern
- Be forward looking

*Q3. How should the ICCM5 HLD be structured, including participation, responsibilities, and processes to address current challenges?*

The structure for the declaration should align with the structure of negotiations and the elements being discussed under the Beyond 2020 Framework e.g. governance, aims/objectives/targets/indicators, improving implementation and financial considerations. We would welcome the inclusion of a high-level declaration including commitments in key areas to improve implementation, strengthen collaboration across multilateral environment agreements, and reduce the impact of chemicals and waste on the environment and human health. It could also include commitments for the future. This could include commitments from a range of actors to take action to support the implementation of the Beyond 2020 framework.

It is also important that the multisectoral nature of the Beyond 2020 process is recognised and we would welcome the involvement of a range of stakeholders.