VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS
TOPICS: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO FINANCING THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE, CAPACITY BUILDING, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE SECRETARIAT

REQUEST ELECTRONIC FEEDBACK 3 ON THE CO-FACILITATORS PROPOSED TEXT AND REMOVAL OF BRACKETS

Submission by the World Health Organization

CHAPEAU TO SECTION VII ON FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS (Page 14)

Based on the written inputs and views that have been heard during the meetings of the Virtual Working Group on Financial Considerations, the co-facilitators recommend adding a chapeau paragraph to section VII on Financial considerations, as proposed below.

[Adequate, predictable and sustainable financing, technical assistance and technology transfer are essential to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development responding to the relevant objectives and targets of the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The participation of representatives of all involved stakeholders and sectors at national, regional and international levels should be ensured in the integrated approach to financing of chemicals and waste].

Comment: The final sentence should read “…of all involved stakeholders and sectors at national….

Refer to the definition of stakeholders and sectors in the compilation of recommendations, II Scope, paragraph 2, which reads "The involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders across the life cycle at the local, national, regional and global levels is critical to the sound management of chemicals and waste. Stakeholders include [but are not limited to] Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, industries, businesses, the financial sector, development banks, academia, workers, retailers and individuals. Sectors are understood to include, but not be limited to, agriculture, environment, health, education, finance, development, construction and labour. »

A. DEDICATED EXTERNAL FINANCING (Page 16, Section C)

Paragraph 16. Paragraph 16 is currently in brackets. This paragraph was not discussed extensively at IP-3. The co-facilitators seek stakeholders’ views on this paragraph.

[All stakeholders recommend to UNEA that the Special Programme should be reformed to adjust to the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral nature and scope of the Strategic Approach.]

Comment: The World Health Organization supports the specific reference to “multisectoral” so that the Special Programme can provide support to all relevant sectors implementing the Strategic Approach, including in activities involving multiple ministries at country level.

B.
C. ESTABLISHMENT OF AND ENGAGEMENT IN MULTISECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS
(Page 16, paragraph 17)

Paragraph 17. Paragraph 17 has a number of brackets. Based on the written inputs and views that have been heard during the meetings of the Virtual Working Group on Financial Considerations, the co-facilitators have proposed the deletion of “issues of concern’ and replaced it more generally to “sound management of chemicals and waste’. Views are also requested on the existing language in brackets.

Stakeholders are encouraged to create and implement multi-sectoral [transparent and accountable] partnerships [linked to the 2030 Agenda] to effectively address the sound management of chemicals and waste. Stakeholders are also encouraged to explore funding opportunities by engaging mechanisms in all sectors.

— [transparent and accountable]

Comment It is not clear what “accountable” means here, or what purpose is intended. Partnerships will be accountable to the partners/whichever body or bodies established them, as decided among them, but unless established by the ICCM they are not “accountable” to the ICCM.

— [linked to the 2030 Agenda]

Comment The practical outcome of this phrase is unclear – what is it the partnerships are expected to do to effect this? Is referencing the 2030 Agenda sufficient, or something more anticipated?

D. FINANCING THE SECRETARIAT (Page 16, paragraphs 18-22)

Paragraphs 18. Paragraphs 18 is currently in brackets. Based on the discussion at IP-3 and the written inputs and views that have been heard during the meetings of the Virtual Working Group on Financial Considerations, the co-facilitators recommend the removal of brackets on this paragraph and substitute [industry] by [all] in the last sentence to encourage contributions from all stakeholders and sectors, as unanimously proposed.

[A core budget for the beyond 2020 instrument is identified covering staff costs for non-seconded staff, office costs and travel costs, for the Secretariat, conference services and meetings. The core budget is financed by voluntary contributions from the government and other stakeholders.]

Comment “all stakeholders” should be “other stakeholders”. Firstly, government is itself a stakeholder. Second, in relation to IGOs, donors who wish to provide funds for the core budget should provide them directly to the Secretariat and not pass them through an IGO, in order to avoid inefficiencies and additional administration costs/charges, as well as for reasons of transparency and appropriate accountability for expenditure of the funds. Use of “other” provides for exceptions to this if needed, while avoiding the expectation that IGOs pass through donor funds.
Paragraphs 19-22. Paragraphs 19-22 are currently in brackets. Based on the discussion at IP-3 and the written inputs and views that have been heard during the meetings of the Virtual Working Group on Financial Considerations, the co-facilitators seek the stakeholders’ views on the alternative text below which takes into account the proposals made by Canada and Japan to streamline the text and specify the types of contributions rather than category of stakeholders. The indicative reference to the UN scale of assessment is proposed to be left on brackets as there are divergent views on this point. Views on the new proposed paragraphs 19 and 20 are sought.

19. Before the start of each year the Secretariat invites each government stakeholder, via its national focal point, to make a voluntary financial contribution [and provides a figure showing what that contribution would be according to the UN scale of assessment. Countries are encouraged to contribute at least this amount.]

20. All stakeholders support the work of the Secretariat by voluntarily contributing financial and in-kind resources, as appropriate, including but not limited to:

   a) supporting the work of the Secretariat through voluntary financial contributions.

   b) supporting the work of the Secretariat by contributing in-kind resources, including through secondment as appropriate, and sector related work of the secretariat.

   c) supporting the work of the Secretariat through hosting meetings, participation at meetings, support for production and dissemination of outputs of the beyond 2020 instrument.

Where possible, the contributions are defined at the beginning of the budget cycle by an agreement between the respective organization and the Secretariat.

Comment in c) “sector participation” should be simply “participation”, because all stakeholders are contributing support for participation of their constituencies. Also, the use of “sector” could be misinterpreted to mean that participation from sectors other than environment are not funded from the Secretariat’s meeting budget.

Paragraphs 21 and 22 are proposed to be deleted.