The United States would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat and the co-facilitators for their efforts to provide concrete proposals, as well as the context around those proposals, to make progress with respect to Section D. Consistent with the request to provide input only in the event of disagreement, the United States is pleased to provide the following comments.

Paragraph 4

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.

The United States appreciates and accepts the suggestion from Colombia and the United Kingdom to delete both phrases. Should that not, however, prove to be a path forward, we would like to note that we do not feel comfortable with the term “essential” as we do not believe that it is accurate. We would find either “an element” or “a contribution” to be acceptable.

Paragraph 12

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][implementation of the beyond 2020 instrument], following a common and shared [and timeless] vision to be adopted by ICCM-5 [taking into account any engagement][and endorsed][and formally recognized] by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), other relevant international bodies such as the governing bodies of the IOMC members, and relevant MEAs [to secure the necessary ownership].

The United States accepts this recommendation from Japan. In addition, we remain skeptical that UNGA is likely to be the right place to pursue a resolution with respect to the substance of the instrument.

Canadian Recommendation for Paragraph 13

13. To improve multi-sectoral cooperation and coordination on the sound management of chemicals and waste, the IOMC should promote broad participation, and coordination of policies and activities, of relevant intergovernmental bodies and their members to contribute to the achievement of the beyond 2020 framework.

As a general matter, the United States is supportive of the direction of this paragraph and appreciates the contribution from the Government of Canada. However, we remain hesitant with respect to whether the IOMC should “promote” the “coordination of policies and activities” of other bodies, which may have their own priorities and governance structures. We do believe the text should encourage the IOMC to promote broad participation in the work of the beyond 2020 instrument. We can also imagine that there is a role for the IOMC to facilitate awareness among its member organizations of the policies and activities that are occurring in other relevant intergovernmental bodies to ensure that such contributions to the work of the instrument are taken into account.