VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON ISSUES OF CONCERN

ELECTRONIC FEEDBACK FROM CANADA

1) General comments and considerations

- Clarity is needed on how the new modalities (for selecting/prioritizing/addressing issues of concern) would be applied to the path forward for EPIs. All issues of concern (past, present, future) should be assessed in a consistent manner, to determine on which issues the framework is best positioned to make progress.
- An important part of elaborating a plan for issues of concern is garnering sufficient commitment and resources from all actors to stimulate progress.
- Both options contain useful activities for making progress on issues of concern, and could form the basis of a step-wise approach for addressing existing EPIs and other issues of concern:
  o (from Option 1): building on the expertise of existing working groups to develop a recommended path forward for existing issues
  o (from Option 1): a process to assess the need for continuing work on the existing issues under the new framework and to review the proposed path forward for each issue, prior to a decision on future work;
  o (from Option 2): for those issues agreed upon, outlining the key functions for working groups ("main functions" from co-facilitators proposal for option 2).

2) Section IV - Co-facilitators’ proposal on the way forward for consideration by the VWG

A. Key general considerations in moving forward

i. The emerging policy issues process has been useful in raising profile of issues on the international stage.

ii. There is a need to continue many of the efforts on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern in moving forward and assess current status.

iii. Progress to date has been variable across the issues. There is a need to be flexible so that a decision may be taken on an issue by issue basis (i.e. no blanket decision).

iv. The path forward must stimulate ownership for implementation and action in moving forward for the particular emerging policy issue and / or other issue of concern.

v. The decision-making on the future of the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern will be transparent.
vi. The International Conference is the appropriate body to take decisions on the future of the current emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.

B. Proposed approach

i. At ICCM5: The ICCM5 should agree to an omnibus resolution on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern that:
   (a) Recognizes the progress on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern under SAICM to date;
   (b) Highlights any immediate and specific priority actions, as appropriate, to ensure that efforts and momentum continue where necessary and appropriate;
   (c) Sets out a process to determine next steps on the existing emerging policy issues and issues of concern under the beyond 2020 instrument (see possible options set out in (ii) below).
   (d) Requests the next session of the International Conference [ICCM6] to deliberate on and determine the path forward on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern in the beyond 2020 instrument.

ii. Options for the process to determine next steps (see B.i.(c)):

   OPTION 1
   
   (1) The responsible working group for each EP will be invited to submit a proposal on its issue to the secretariat six months before the following session of the International Conference [ICCM6] for consideration at that meeting. The secretariat will make the submissions available on the SAICM web-site.
   
   (2) The proposals will include a recommended path forward such as:
   (i) workplans;
   (ii) proposal for issue-specific targets and indicator(s) in the new instrument; and / or
   (iii) review of the emerging policy issue or issue of concern according to the modalities established for the new beyond 2020 instrument.1
   
   (3) Should no proposal be submitted, the next International Conference [ICCM6] may decide to discontinue the Emerging Policy Issue or other issues of concern. Should a submitted proposal be deemed insufficient, [ICCM6] may postpone further consideration of the future of the emerging policy issue or other issue of concern to [ICCM7]. [NEW] The International Conference may also consider proposals or recommendations for phasing down or transitioning the work on

Commented [CAN1]: Preference is for option 1, with amendments incorporate elements of Option 2 into stepwise approach, as described in our general comments above - e.g.:
- add the possibility of a recommendation for phasing down the work or transitioning the issue
- add a step to have the International Conference establish the mandate and adopt a work plan for issues that are to be continued;
- add components from option 2 which describe the main functions for the working group.

Commented [CAN3]: Intended to provide some flexibility in case the desired outcome is not to suggest continued work on the issue as an IoC under the framework.

Commented [CAN4]: Work plans should be ambitious, concrete and sufficient enough to avoid repeating any shortcomings from previous efforts.

---

1 We have set out the following three forms, based on the submissions, for discussion with the VWG: (i) workplans; (ii) proposal for specific indicators in the new instrument; and / or (iii) review of the emerging policy issue or other issues of concern according to the criteria/modalities/procedure established for the new beyond 2020 instrument. We would foresee the need to discuss this in more detail if this option is pursued.
Emerging Policy Issue or other issues of concern under the framework, such as by referring the issue to another or more appropriate forum.

(4) [NEW] For those issues where the International Conference has agreed that the work should continue under the framework, the International Conference will decide to establish (or continue) a working group for each issue, decide on the mandate of the responsible working group and adopt a work plan for each issue.

(5) [From OPTION 2] The main functions of the responsible working groups would be:

- developing and coordinating the implementation of a work plan, including proposed indicators for relevant targets under the Strategic Objectives of the Beyond 2020 instrument;
- coordinating with other subsidiary bodies, IOMC organizations and beyond (e.g. the convention secretariats) on cross-cutting issues to avoid duplication;
- monitoring and evaluating the progress against the indicators; and
- making recommendations to the ICCM (e.g. completion of the IoC, the need to continue work to address the issue, extension of the time frame of the subsidiary body, elevation of the IoC to other fora).

OPTION 2

(1) Establish a time-bound group for each of the current Emerging Policy Issues and other issues of concern and agree on and submit work plans at least 6 months prior to the following session of the International Conference [ICCM6] (e.g. in the form of a task force or an ad hoc working group) with the purpose of defining relevant objectives and milestones and laying out actions. The main functions would be:

- developing and coordinating the implementation of a workplan, including propose indicators for relevant targets under different Strategic Objectives of the Beyond 2020 instrument;
- coordinating with other subsidiary bodies, IOMC organizations and beyond (e.g. the convention secretariats);
- monitoring and evaluating the progress against the indicators; and
- making recommendations to the ICCM (e.g. completion of the IoC, extension of the time frame of the subsidiary body, elevation of the IoC to other fora).

Commented [CAN5]: Suggestion for additional text to sub-para 3 – we are flexible on wording:

Options for next steps should include the possibility of a recommendation for phasing down the work or transitioning the issue, such as by referring the issue to another more appropriate forum.

Commented [CAN6]: Suggested additional step - intended to add a step决策点 for the International Conference to establish the mandate of the responsible working group and the work plan for such issues. We are flexible on wording.

Commented [CAN7]: In a stepwise process, these "main functions" from co-facilitators Option 2 can be elevated/added on to option 1 elements.

Commented [CAN8]: Text of this bullet should be consistent with discussions on Strategic Objective C (VWG 1) – i.e.

...including proposing targets and indicators under Strategic Objective C of the Beyond 2020 instrument.

Deleted: ¶

Commented [CAN9]: Option 2 as a standalone, is missing a review process for the International Conference to assess the need for continuing work on existing issues and to review the proposed path forward prior to any decision on future work (including reviewing the current issues against the new criteria being developed; identification of resources for implementing the work plan; proposed milestones and timelines; and justification as to why the framework is the appropriate forum for the work).

Minor text changes to option 2 are shown in suggested stepwise approach above.