Agenda Item 5 — Existing EPIs & other issues of concern

At ICCM5:
Agree to an omnibus resolution on the existing SAICM EPIs & other issues of concern that:

i. Recognizes the efforts and progress;
ii. Welcomes the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern made by UNEP following resolution UNEA 4/8;
iii. States the intention to determine and set the path forward on the existing SAICM EPIs and other issues of concern in the beyond 2020 instrument at its next session [ICCM6];
iv. Highlights any immediate and specific priority actions to ensure that efforts and momentum continue where appropriate;
v. Requests the responsible IOMC organizations, in consultation with stakeholders, to propose a recommended path forward such as a draft work plan with clear timelines and milestones to ICCM6, including: (a) an assessment on how further work on the issue contributes to achieving the Vision, Strategic Objective(s) and Targets of the new instrument; and (b) proposing additional indicators as needed for relevant targets.
vi. From ICCM6 onwards, notes that any existing EPIs and other issues of concern that continue under the new instrument would follow procedures that are established for 'issues of [international] concern' under the beyond 2020 instrument.

Canada’s comments:

Sub-paragraph ii

- The report was prepared in response to the request from UNEA and meant to be a thought-starter, thus we would prefer replacing "Welcomes" with "Acknowledges".

Sub-paragraph iv

- As we would not want to impede or stop any ongoing progress that is currently being made with respect to existing EPIs and other issues of concern, we support allowing such work to continue in the interim, until a decision is made at ICCM6 on the path forward for each of these issues.

Sub-paragraph v

- This seems to assume that work plans will be proposed for all existing EPIs and other issues of concern, and preclude the possibility of having other proposals be considered (by the responsible IOMC or by stakeholders) as a path forward for an issue (such as the possible recommendation to not continue work under the framework and/or to continue the work under another forum instead). Thus, we suggest changes to provide some flexibility for allowing the consideration of other proposals.
- An important part of elaborating a work plan is garnering sufficient commitment and resources from all actors to stimulate progress. We would suggest that, in developing the work plan, the responsible IOMC organization may wish to consider and identify resources needed for the implementation of the work plan, as well as sources of funding/contribution and any commitments of resources.
- Additional changes are suggested for improved clarity.

Sub-paragraph vi

- We support having the mechanism for implementation (i.e., work plans, tracking progress, and determining the need for further work) apply to existing EPIs / other issues of concern as well.
We suggest it be made clearer whether the responsible IOMC for existing EPIs / other issues of concern would be invited to take on the tasks of multi-stakeholder committees (set out in paragraph 2 of iii. Decision-making and adoption).