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Response of the United Kingdom to the call for information on action being undertaken to promote the implementation of the road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions.

Dear Secretariat Colleagues,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide information on action being undertaken to promote the implementation of the road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions. The UK would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation of the Secretariat and the Conference of the Parties for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in this dialogue in relation to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

The UK are co-sponsoring a resolution to UNEA 5.2 requesting the establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy panel for chemicals waste and pollution, which was proposed in response to UNEA resolution 4/8 to strengthen the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste. We believe that a science-policy panel could support the BRS conventions as well as United Nations agencies, other global Multilateral Agreements, international instruments, countries and the private sector in their work on chemicals, waste and pollution by providing authoritative, independent, credible, inclusive, policy-relevant scientific advice on issues.

The establishment of such a panel will increase the availability of scientific and technical information around the globe, horizon scanning for emerging concerns and opportunities whilst communicating assessments to the public and policymakers internationally. Through inclusive geographical and regional representation across the panel's governance structures and expert groups, developing countries and economies in transition will gain access to

scientific and technical information, which will in term strengthen national capacities.

Furthermore, the UK has developed and tested our Prioritisation and Early Warning System (PEWS) to identify emerging chemical issues across different media including surface waters, soil, sediment and biota. We are establishing how evidence gathered through PEWS can most effectively inform chemicals management in the UK. This work also informs international efforts by developing links with initiatives in Europe and beyond to enhance the exchange of information on emerging environmental substances. We are proactive members of the NORMAN network who are active in the development of such systems, and we will be seeking to proactively compare our PEWS system to other Early Warning Systems and their associated tools (both those already existing and those being developed) both within the EU and internationally and will continue to refine our approach.

Within the UK much work has been done to improve the POPs inventory and research into POPs within waste streams. This information is made publicly available in line with Open-Source Data requirements, increasing the scientific evidence available to all nations. This year the UK has submitted a nomination to the Stockholm Convention for Chlorinated paraffins C14-17 with chlorination levels at or exceeding 45%, and in doing so produced significant amounts of information on the pollutant to allow all parties access to the relevant information.

UK regulators are involved in the IMPEL Shipment of Waste Enforcement Actions Project (SWEAP) on international engagement and intent to assist with customs training in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO). Under the wider engagement package, we have set up a 'verification spreadsheet' of developing countries' permitted sites to try to reduce illegal shipments to these countries. We also provide advice and guidance to inspectors and industry on the controls that apply to waste shipments in developing countries. This is done on behalf of IMPEL, with Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Environment Agency (EA) and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) being associated beneficiaries. This project aims to support the circular economy by disrupting the illegal waste trade at an EU level through improving access to technical information.

The Independent Serious and Organised Waste Crime Review in 2018 recommended mandatory electronic tracking of waste should be introduced at the earliest opportunity. It also observed that the lack of digital records presents a significant barrier to information access by interested members of industry, academia and the public, limiting opportunities to make more of waste as a resource. In the Resources and Waste Strategy 2018, the UK committed to the introduction of mandatory digital recording of waste movements, subject to consultation. This will help businesses comply with their duty of care with regards to waste and encourage a move to a more circular economy by enabling us to maximise the value we extract from our resources.

We believe that the UK's activities support the strengthening of the science-policy interface within chemicals and waste, and we look forward to building upon that in future programmes. As an international community, we must show determination in improving the implementation of scientific evidence within policymaking around the world and advance synergies to fulfil the objectives of the multilateral environment agreements.

Yours sincerely,

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