Intersessional Roadmap

The United States expresses its concern that the roadmap for intersessional activity was developed without adequate national or regional consultations including with our government, and it would be hard to view this as a country-driven process. We are also concerned that the scope and pace of work described in the roadmap are untenable in light of the significant disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; countries may not have the resources to support such an ambitious set of activities. We also want to reiterate our concerns that the Chair is proposing to develop a document outlining areas of agreement or consensus. We see efforts to identify elements of agreement or consensus about the response options as beyond the mandate outlined in UNEA resolutions 3/7 and 4/6. Our understanding of the mandate is that we are compiling information on existing and potential response options as input for consideration at UNEA-5. We also think it would be helpful for us and other countries to have a clear understanding of how the roadmap fits into the process to prepare for UNEA-5, for example if it is a replacement for other meetings. The roadmap plan that was released is substantially different than the path forward discussed at the last AHEG meeting. In light of our concerns, we suggest pausing the roadmap activities and reconsidering the roadmap after direct consultations with member states as well as regional consultation by Bureau members.