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Agenda Item 3(c) – New and Emerging Issues

Thank you, Chair.

Canada is pleased with the proposal put forward by the Ottawa River Institute on the impacts of neonicotinoids on biodiversity. This proposal clearly meets all six criteria for a new and emerging issues identified in decision IX/29 para. 12. Pollinators are a key component of global biodiversity, providing vital ecosystem services to crops and wild plants.

Health Canada's PMRA is currently conducting a re-evaluation of all uses of neonicotinoid insecticides

Canada would also like to draw attention to the IUCN Task Force on Systemic Pesticides response to this proposal submitted on August 27th, 2013 in which the Chair, Dr. Maarten Bijleveld van Loonmond writes that a number of independent scientists established a Task Force on Systemic Pesticides in 2009. They aim to clearly describe ever increasing risks to ecosystems and biodiversity, to demonstrate the imbalance in present knowledge, to determine the consequences for public health, to look for alternatives, and inform the public at large.

which notes that this

supports the intention by Mexico agrees to Mexico

that this proposal could be considered in the

As well, Canada notes that there is a proposal for a global thematic assessment of pollination services in the new draft work programme for IPBES: Deliverable 3(a) Thematic fast-track assessment on pollination and food production. The recently posted advance document on the scoping for an assessment on pollination (para 8) mentions that risks posed to pollinators from the use of chemicals including neonicotinoids will be assessed.

Given this information, Canada believes that the elaboration of a full scientific and technical analysis with options for action by the SBSTTA is not necessary given the international work already underway, as well as the planned work of IPBES.

~~Thank you, Chair.~~