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Session 1: GLWQA Annex 12 Review Recommendations Respecting the GLBTS: Implications and Opportunities

Annex 12 provides a blue print to the Parties to address persistent toxic substances in the Great Lakes basin, and charges the Parties *“to virtually eliminate the input of persistent toxic substances in order to protect human health and to ensure the continued health and productivity of living aquatic resources and human use thereof...”*. Annex 12 program elements include developing source inventories of PTS, monitoring PTS in biota and media in the basin, developing and maintaining an “early warning system” (i.e., surveillance to anticipate possible threats, which includes screening, modeling, etc), human health studies, toxicological research, as well as the development of mitigation strategies.

Essentially, Annex 12 contains the necessary components of what is contemplated by the draft Great Lakes New Substance Evaluation Framework (attached), and which provide the basis for GLBTS Step 1 and 2 (sources and regulations) analyses of potential chemicals of concern to the Parties.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Review of Annex 12 produced recommendations respecting and/or involving an active role for the GLBTS in the implementation and oversight of Annex 12. These include the following:

- Develop a management framework for addressing chemicals under Annex 12, *in order to set priorities and decide which chemicals to address first*;
- Integrate disparate pieces of early warning system into a cohesive and integrated system..... *to rapidly separate newly identified chemicals that are a potential threat from those that are not*;
- *Generate a roll-up report of Annex 12, gathering information from national and regional programs that address all facets of Annex 12 perhaps as part of the GLBTS Annual Report.*
- *Codify the GLBTS program in Annex 12, to provide for the overall management of Annex 12 activities.*

Questions

- In response to these recommendations, how might a multi stakeholder forum add value to the Parties' responsibilities under Annex 12?
- How would a new engagement such as this impact upon the current GLBTS program regarding its structure, mandate, and resources?
- Should the future focus of the GLBTS, with respect to new substances of concern, be Steps 1 and 2 analyses and general information gathering, in order to set priorities and decide which substances could be appropriately dealt with by the GLBTS (vis a vis Annex 12)? Why or why not?