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**Building a Safer and Greener Africa's Future:
African Strategy and Action Plan for Environmentally Sound
Management of Chemicals and Wastes
2025 - 2035**

Preface

Building a safer and greener future for Africa demands a unified, continent-wide approach to chemicals and waste management. The African Strategy and Action Plan for Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes (2025–2035) sets out this comprehensive blueprint, identifying critical governance gaps, streamlining coordination across the Bamako, Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, and fostering practical interventions to protect human health and ecosystems.

Anchored in Agenda 2063, The Africa We Want, and aligned with Africa's broader sustainable development frameworks, the Plan bridges high-level political commitment with concrete technical action. It establishes clear targets to strengthen legal and regulatory systems, enhance data and monitoring platforms, build institutional and technical capacity, and mobilize finance for green, safe solutions throughout the chemicals and waste lifecycle.

By prioritizing innovation, local and traditional solutions and whole-of-society participation, this Strategy and Action Plan provides a unified framework to harmonize national priorities, leverage regional capabilities and fulfil international obligations, ensuring a healthier, more resilient and circular economy for all Africans.

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List of acronyms and abbreviations

AfDB – African Development Bank
AMR – Antimicrobial Resistance
AMCEN – African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AUC – African Union Commission
AU – African Union
BRS – Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (Conventions) Secretariat
COP – Conference of the Parties
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment
EPR – Extended Producer Responsibility
ECOWAS – Economic Community of West African States
EAC – East African Community
SADC – Southern African Development Community
ECCAS – Economic Community of Central African States
EU – European Union
GEF – Global Environment Facility
GFC – Global Framework on Chemicals
IPC – Infection Prevention and Control
MEA / MEAs – Multilateral Environmental Agreement(s)
NDC – Nationally Determined Contribution
NDP – National Development Plan
PCBs – Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PFAS – Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
POPs – Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRTR / PRTRs – Pollutant Release and Transfer Register(s)
REC / RECs – Regional Economic Community(ies)
SEA – Strategic (Social and) Environmental Assessment
SDG / SDGs – Sustainable Development Goal(s)
UNITAR – United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund
WHO – World Health Organization

Executive summary

The African Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (2025–2035) presents a coordinated continental response to the challenges of rapidly growing hazardous chemical and waste streams driven by industrialization, urbanization and global market flows that threaten human health and ecosystem integrity. Developed under the leadership of the African Union Commission, in collaboration with UNEP, AMCEN, the strategy unites national priorities, regional capabilities, and international commitments under one visionary framework.

Rising industrialisation, population growth, increasing complexity of waste generated, imports of hazardous materials and lack of institutional and infrastructural capacity have made chemical and waste management a critical issue for African countries. Besides addressing the major pollution challenges and the associated health impacts, the strategy for the Environmental Sound Management of chemicals and waste could lead to multiple economic and social benefits through job creation and livelihood provision.

The purpose of the Pan-African Strategy is to provide a unified continental framework for addressing the life cycle of chemicals and waste, from production and use to disposal and recovery.

1. Introduction

Africa stands at a pivotal juncture in its development journey. As the continent embraces rapid urbanisation, industrial growth, agricultural intensification, and infrastructure expansion, its chemicals and wastes footprint is rising. Chemicals and wastes now touch nearly every aspect of life -shaping public health, food safety, environmental resilience, and economic productivity.

Chemicals play an important role as an integral part of our everyday lives in materials, articles and products globally. Their sound management is crucial for preventing and minimizing adverse impacts on human health and the environment. The global chemical industry was estimated at US\$ 5 trillion in 2017, and its size is projected to double by 2030. The sound management of chemicals and wastes is essential for protecting human health and the environment. Exposure to hazardous chemicals and waste throughout their life cycles threatens human health.

Africa is disproportionally facing rapidly growing health and environmental burdens from unsound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes, driven by industrialization, urbanization, open dumping and burning of waste (e-waste, textile, plastics, incinerators' fly ashes, etc), agricultural inputs, and lack of infrastructure and weak enforcement of laws and regulations. This contributes to pollution, health risks, biodiversity loss, and climate-related vulnerabilities. Yet, for too many communities,

mismanagement of chemicals and waste continues to threaten the very foundations of sustainable development.

The illegal export of toxic wastes to African Countries (dumping at Koko in Nigeria) has led to catastrophic consequences for the environment and human health. Most developing countries have weak environmental regulations. Corruption is rife thus leading to the dumping of hazardous wastes in legacy mines and uncontrolled dump sites. The dumping of hazardous waste in the developing countries gained attention in the 1980s when environmental groups exposed the voyages of the "ships of death," such as, the Khian Sea and the Karin B, which attempted to dump hazardous wastes in unsuspecting countries. This attention led to the adoption of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in 1989. Which was later followed by the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (Bamako Convention) in 1998. The Bamako Convention prohibits the import into Africa of any hazardous waste. The Convention entered into force on 22 April 1998. The Bamako convention is a response to Article 11 of the Basel convention which encourages parties to enter bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements on hazardous waste to help achieve the objectives of the convention.

While many African countries are party to a suite of binding and voluntary international instruments on chemicals and waste, including the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Minamata, and Bamako Conventions, the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), and has developed regional conventions, gaps persist in negotiations, implementation, technical capacity, coordination, and financing. Africa is also actively participating in the negotiations of an international legally binding treaty on plastic pollution. All these instruments are designed with the objective of protecting human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and waste.

The Global Framework on Chemicals agreed upon in 2023 at the 5th International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder agreement that aims to protect human health and the environment from the negative impacts of chemicals and waste. It guides countries and stakeholders in addressing the lifecycle of chemicals, from production to disposal. The Framework supports sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063. The Framework complements other international agreements and arrangements and supports, but is not intended to duplicate, their implementation.

A continental strategy on environmentally sound management of chemicals and

wastes is therefore urgently needed to coordinate and align national actions, foster partnerships, raise Africa's voice in the global world, mobilise resources, and support the achievement of SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), the Global Chemicals Framework and the African Union 2063 Agenda, and implementation of Bamako Convention, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the context of transiting towards a circular, non-toxic prosperous society and economy.

2. Vision, Mission, and Guiding

2.1. Principles Vision:

A sustainable Africa where chemicals and wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner to protect human health, safeguard ecosystems, and promote inclusive green growth, achieving a pollution-free Africa.

2.2. Mission:

To establish and implement an inclusive, results-oriented continental framework for coordinated and harmonised chemicals and wastes governance in Africa that builds national capacities, strengthens regional cooperation, and mobilises finance and enhances innovation.

2.3. Guiding Principles:

- a) Precautionary approach
- b) Whole of society approach
- c) Polluter pays principle
- d) Principle of environmental justice
- e) Principle of the lifecycle management
- f) Principle of gender equality and youth engagement

3. Strategic Objectives (2025–2035)

- A. Strengthen governance and institutional frameworks
- B. Enhance capacity and technical infrastructure
- C. Promote sustainable production, consumption and disposal of chemicals
- D. Revitalization of the Bamako Convention and eliminate illegal trafficking of hazardous wastes
- E. Integrate chemicals and wastes management into health, education, and development agendas
- F. Foster research, innovation, and indigenous solutions
- G. Secure sustainable financing and partnerships
- H. Coordinate implementation across all Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Bamako Convention, to ensure coherence and synergies in chemicals and waste management.

A. Strengthen governance and institutional frameworks

Goal

To enhance the enabling environment for chemicals and wastes management through robust legal and regulatory systems, empowered institutions, and coordinated governance at national, regional, and continental levels.

Objectives

1. Establish and enforce coherent legal and policy frameworks aligned with international commitments.
2. Strengthen national institutional mandates, coordination mechanisms, and accountability.
3. Enhance regional cooperation and harmonization among chemical and waste related MEAs.
4. Promote transparency, public participation, and the right to a clean and healthy environment.

Key Components and Actions

1. Policy and Legal Reform

- Conduct national reviews of existing legislation and identify gaps.
- Update laws to incorporate among others:
 - Life-cycle management of chemicals and wastes.
 - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
 - Hazardous waste import/export controls.
- Institutionalize the institutionalise the guiding principles above
- Align national legal frameworks with:
 - Bamako Convention
 - Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Minamata Conventions, Global Framework on Chemicals and Science Panel Policy
 - Global Plastics Treaty

2. Institutional Coordination and Mandate Clarification

- Clearly define roles/responsibilities of ministries, department, agencies and private sector (Environment, Health, Industry, Customs, etc.).
- Establish/strengthen / multistakeholder process on chemicals and waste.
- Create dedicated units for chemicals/waste within environment ministries and inspectorates.

3. Regulatory and Enforcement Capacity

- Strengthen compliance and enforcement mechanisms
- Train regulatory inspectors, customs agents, and environmental prosecutors.
- Develop enforcement guidelines and inspection protocols.
- Establish and maintain licensing and permitting systems for chemical use and

waste handling.

- Introduce digital tracking systems for transboundary movements.
- Introduce regulations that prohibit open waste burning at any level and ensure its effective enforcement.

4. Transparency, Accountability, and Public Participation

- Strengthen environmental impact assessments (EIA) and strategic social and environmental assessments (SEA) and public participation for major chemical-related projects.
- Launch national chemicals/waste registries and reporting platforms (PRTs).
- Strengthen whistleblower protections and grievance mechanisms.

5. Subregional and Continental Cooperation

- Strengthen RECs (e.g., ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, ECCAS) as platforms for:
 - Policy and legislative harmonization
 - Shared enforcement intelligence
 - Technical guidelines development
- Establish and operationalize a multi-stakeholder African Chemicals and Waste Governance Forum under AUC.
- Promote regional legal instruments or protocols for shared issues (e.g., e-waste, illegal waste trade).

Enablers

- Political will and AU/AMCEN declarations
- Support from UNEP, BRS Regional Centers, AfDB
- Mobilised resources from African Countries and institutions, GEF, GFC, and bilateral donors

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator	Target by 2035
No. of countries with updated chemicals and waste legislation	45+
No. of countries with functioning national multistakeholder processes	40+
% of hazardous waste imports/export permits digitized and traceable	70%
Regional cooperation frameworks operationalized	All 5 RECs
% of countries with national chemicals/waste registries	60%
% reduction in open waste burning	60%

B: Enhance Capacity and Technical Infrastructure

Goal:

To build strong human, institutional, and technological capacity across African countries for the effective and environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycles.

Objectives

1. Strengthen human capital through specialized education, training, and knowledge exchange.
2. Strengthen national and regional laboratories, monitoring, and data systems.
3. Upgrade infrastructure for the safe handling, treatment, storage, and disposal of chemicals and hazardous wastes.
4. Promote the use of digital tools and innovation to support implementation and enforcement.

Key Components and Actions

1. Human Resource Development

- Conduct needs assessments to identify critical skills gaps at national and regional levels.
- Develop and institutionalise training programs for government officials (environment, customs, health, labor, industry).
- Establish or strengthen academic and vocational programs in chemical safety, toxicology, environmental engineering, and waste management.
- Promote south-south cooperation and staff exchange programs within Africa.

2. Laboratory and Analytical Capacity

- Establish, equip and accredit national reference laboratories for chemical testing, pollutant monitoring, and hazardous waste characterization.
- Facilitate regional centres of excellence for specialized chemical analysis (e.g. POPs, heavy metals, pesticides).
- Train laboratory technicians and scientists in modern analytical techniques.

3. Waste Management Infrastructure

- Support the development of:
 - Hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities
 - E-waste recycling plants
 - Collection and storage sites for obsolete chemicals (e.g. pesticides, PCBs)
- Promote regional shared facilities where national capacity is limited.
- Implement minimum environmental and safety standards for facilities.
- Transition from open and controlled dumpsites to sanitary landfills and increased sorting through material recovery facilities to enable a circular economy.

4. Monitoring and Surveillance Systems

- Establish national Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) and inventory databases for chemicals, pesticides, industrial emissions, and legacy wastes.
- Introduce early warning systems for chemical incidents.
- Use satellite and drone technology for illegal waste dump site detection and environmental monitoring.

5. Digitalization and Information Management

- Create national digital platforms for:
 - Chemicals and waste tracking
 - Licensing and reporting
 - Public disclosure and data sharing
- Support real-time transboundary movement monitoring systems at customs and border posts.
- Promote the use of mobile apps for community reporting of pollution hotspots.

Enabling Conditions

- Strong institutional mandates and legal basis for capacity investments
- Partnerships with UNEP, UNITAR, WHO, UNIDO, African universities, and technical bodies
- Financial mobilization through GEF, bilateral donors, AfDB, and public-private partnerships

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator	2035 Target
No. of trained chemical/waste professionals	5,000+
Functional national reference laboratories	45+
Countries with up-to-date chemical inventories	40+
Countries with operational PRTR systems	30+
No. of new/rehabilitated hazardous waste treatment facilities	25+
Digital customs/waste movement systems operational	30+ countries
percentage of reduced waste ending up in open dumpsites	50%

C: Promote Sustainable Production and Consumption of Chemicals

Goal:

To reduce harmful impacts of chemicals throughout their life cycle by encouraging safer alternatives, responsible industry practices, and informed consumer choices across the African continent.

Objectives

1. Encourage industry transition to safer chemicals, green chemistry, and cleaner technologies.
2. Support regulatory and market-based incentives for sustainable chemical management.
3. Promote consumer awareness and demand for non-toxic products and services.
4. Foster circular economy principles in chemicals and materials use

Key Components and Actions

1. Green Chemistry and Safer Alternatives

- Promote research, development, and deployment of non-toxic and low-impact chemicals, including:
 - Safer agrochemicals and biopesticides
 - Alternatives to mercury, lead, and PFAS
- Provide incentives for manufacturers and importers to switch to green chemistry.
- Establish regional innovation hubs and partnerships with African universities and R&D institutions.

2. Sustainable Industrial Practices

- Encourage companies to adopt:
 - Cleaner production processes
 - Chemical substitution plans
 - ISO 14001 environmental management systems
- Develop national voluntary sustainability standards for chemical-intensive sectors (agriculture, textiles, construction, mining).
- Require industries to conduct chemical risk assessments and disclosures.

3. Green Public Procurement and Eco-Labeling

- Develop and implement green public procurement (GPP) policies prioritizing non-toxic products (e.g., paints, cleaning agents, office equipment).
- Introduce African eco-labels for low-toxicity products, building on existing schemes (e.g., EcoMark Africa).
- Encourage retailers and distributors to label hazardous products clearly and promote safer alternatives.

4. Circular Economy and Lifecycle Approaches

- Promote material and chemical reuse, recycling, and recovery systems in key sectors:
 - Plastics
 - E-waste
 - Construction
 - Textiles
- Eliminate unnecessary or single-use chemicals where possible.
- Develop extended producer responsibility (EPR) frameworks for chemical-containing products.
- Promote sorting and segregation of waste at the source and waste to resource conversion

5. Public Awareness and Behavior Change

- Launch public campaigns on the health and environmental impacts of toxic chemicals in consumer products.
- Integrate chemical safety messages into education curricula and community outreach.
- Promote youth-led green innovation challenges and start-up accelerators.

Enabling Factors

- Strong enforcement of labelling, import/export control, and consumer protection regulations
- Access to innovation financing and SME support
- Regional coordination through RECs and the African Green Industrialization Initiative
- Engagement of the private sector, academia, and civil society

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator	2035 Target
Countries with green chemistry strategies or programs	30+
Manufacturers adopting cleaner production or ISO standards	500+
Countries implementing GPP for chemicals	35+
Toxic chemical use reduced in priority sectors	30%
Products covered by African eco-label schemes	5,000+
National EPR schemes established for priority waste streams	40+
Percentage of waste recycled/upcycled	60%

D. Revitalization and Operationalisation of the Bamako Convention and Elimination of Illegal Trafficking of Hazardous Wastes

Goal:

To fully operationalise and implement the Bamako Convention as Africa's primary legal instrument on wastes including importation and illegal trafficking of hazardous wastes, ensuring a toxic-free environment for all.

Objectives

1. Revitalize and implement the Bamako Convention as a binding and effective regional mechanism on wastes.
2. Strengthen national and regional enforcement capacity to prevent and penalize illegal hazardous waste trade.
3. Enhance coordination between countries, RECs, and global conventions (Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm). Harmonize policies and build synergies with other waste-related MEAs.
4. Boost institutional capacity and financing for implementation.
5. Enhance monitoring, data systems, and enforcement mechanisms.
6. Promote stakeholder engagement including youth, civil society, and private sector actors

Key Components and Actions

1. Legal and Institutional Strengthening

- Advocate for regional ratification of the Bamako Convention by all AU member states.
- Support the harmonization of national laws to incorporate Bamako provisions, including bans on hazardous waste imports.
- Strengthen the Secretariat of the Bamako Convention through establishing a permanent Secretariat with clear mandates and adequate staffing, and ensure predictable financing, and operational capacity.
- Strengthen the National Bamako Focal Points with clear enforcement mandates.

2. Operationalization of the Convention

- Reactivate and regularly convene the Conference of the Parties (COP) and technical working groups.
- Develop and adopt:
 - Model national legislation
 - Waste categorization guidelines
 - Hazardous waste manifest systems
- Create a Continental Early Warning and Rapid Response System for illegal hazardous waste movements.

3. Border Control and Enforcement

- Train customs, port, and border officials on:

- Waste identification
- Documentation verification
- Risk profiling
- Develop waste shipment tracking systems using barcodes, GPS, and digital permits.
- Encourage inter-agency coordination between environment, customs, transport, and justice sectors.
- Establish regional enforcement task forces under RECs.

4. Intelligence Sharing and Regional Cooperation

- Create a continental database of illegal trafficking incidents and suspected actors. Enhance regional cooperation, especially on cross-border waste trafficking: Develop African Waste Trade Watch – a centralized digital platform for monitoring. Partner with universities and research institutions for baseline data collection and pollution mapping.
- Promote real-time intelligence exchange between countries and RECs.
- Collaborate with INTERPOL, UNEP, and Basel Convention networks on international investigations.
- Develop a continental protocol for joint inspections and prosecutions.

5. Public Awareness and Whistleblower Protections

- Raise awareness about the health and environmental risks of illegal waste dumping.
- Introduce incentives and protections for whistleblowers and community reporters.
- Partner with investigative media and civil society to expose illegal trafficking operations.

Enabling Conditions

- Strong political support from AU and AMCEN
 - Dedicated funding for the Bamako Convention Secretariat and national enforcement efforts. Encourage flow of funds into the Bamako Convention Trust Fund supported by partners (AfDB, GEF, UNEP, EU, etc.). Promote private sector and circular economy investments to reduce hazardous waste flows.
 - Support from African Countries, UNEP, GEF, BRS Secretariat, GFC, and bilateral donors
 - Collaboration with legal networks, customs unions, and environmental watchdogs
- Review the Bamako Convention to address new and emerging issues.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator	2030 Target
No. of AU member states party to the Bamako Convention	50+
Countries with harmonized national laws banning hazardous waste imports	45+
National Bamako focal points established and functional	45+
Reported illegal shipments intercepted	↑ (year-on-year improvement)
Regional enforcement operations conducted	5+ per year
Funding allocated to Bamako Secretariat and operations	USD 10M+ annually

Revitalizing the Bamako Convention is both timely and necessary. With Africa increasingly facing the brunt of global waste dumping and chemical pollution, the Convention offers a uniquely African-led legal instrument to assert environmental sovereignty, protect public health, and contribute to the Africa We Want (AUC Agenda 2063).

E. Integrate Chemicals and Waste into Health, Education, and Development Agendas

Goal:

To mainstream the sound management of chemicals and wastes across national health, education, and development sectors to protect human health, support sustainable development, and strengthen institutional coherence.

Objectives

1. Protect public health by linking chemicals and waste management with health surveillance and disease prevention systems.
2. Mainstream chemicals and waste issues into national education systems to promote awareness, innovation, and long-term behavioral change.
3. Align chemicals and waste governance with national development planning, budgeting, and sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Key Components and Actions

1. Health Sector Integration

- Mainstream chemicals and waste exposure as public and environmental health risks in national health strategies.
- Strengthen health surveillance systems to monitor chemical-related

diseases (e.g., respiratory illnesses, neurological disorders, cancers).

- Develop chemical poisoning treatment protocols and emergency preparedness plans in hospitals.
- Train healthcare workers on toxic exposure identification and response.
- Integrate waste management and concerns of AMR into infection prevention and control (IPC) across healthcare facilities.

2. Education and Capacity Building

- Integrate **environmental health and chemical safety modules** into primary, secondary, and tertiary education curricula.
- Develop **teacher training programs** in collaboration with ministries of education and universities.
- Promote **research and innovation** in green chemistry, waste valorisation, and toxicology through African universities and research institutes.
- Support youth-led campaigns and innovation hubs focusing on chemical safety and pollution prevention.

3. Development Planning and Budgeting

- Include chemicals and waste priorities in:
 - National Development Plans (NDPs)
 - Poverty Reduction Strategies
 - Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris agreement and climate plans
- Promote inter-ministerial budget coordination for chemicals and waste programs.
- Encourage development banks and donors to **integrate chemicals and waste management** into development financing criteria.
- Ensure that national implementation of **Agenda 2063 and the SDGs** reflects chemicals and waste linkages.

4. Cross-Sectoral Coordination Mechanisms

- Establish or strengthen **national multisectoral platforms** that include environment, health, education, labor, agriculture, and industry ministries.
- Create **joint action plans** on priority issues like lead exposure, mercury in schools and clinics, e-waste, and pesticide poisoning.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing between national and local authorities on mainstreaming approaches.

Enabling Conditions

- Strong leadership from relevant ministries, departments and agencies; supported by other major stakeholders
- Political commitment to intersectoral collaboration
- Engagement of academic institutions and youth networks
- Technical and financial support from WHO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, and development partners

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator	2030 Target
Countries with chemicals integrated into national health strategies	40+
Health professionals trained on chemical poisoning and IPC	50,000+
Countries with chemicals and waste content in school curricula	35+
National development plans addressing chemicals and waste	40+
Joint ministerial coordination platforms operational	45+

4. Institutional and Governance Framework

- **Continental Level:** AUC/AMCEN to oversee coordination, policy harmonization, and monitoring
- **Regional Level:** RECs to support implementation, capacity building, and enforcement
- **National Level:** Ministries of Environment, Health, Industry, Education, and Planning to co-lead national implementation
- **Secretariats:** Strengthen the Bamako Convention Secretariat and national focal points

5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Framework

- Annual progress reports at national and regional levels
- Mid-term review (2030) and final evaluation (2035)
- Use of performance scorecards and digital dashboards
- Stakeholder feedback loops and learning exchanges

6. Alignment with the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)

The African Strategy is fully aligned with the principles, targets, and enabling actions of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), adopted in Bonn in 2023. The GFC provides a comprehensive platform for collective action to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste globally, with measurable targets to 2030 and beyond.

6.1. Strategic Linkages

- **Targets:** Africa adopts the GFC's 28 targets and indicators as reference points for national and regional implementation.
- **Enablers:** Capacity-building, financing, stakeholder engagement, and data systems emphasized in the GFC are embedded within this Strategy.
- **Lifecycle Approach:** Promotes the safe design, use, and disposal of chemicals across all sectors, fully embraced in Strategic Pillars A–G.

6.2. Regional Contribution to the GFC

African stakeholders will contribute to GFC implementation through:

- Policy Coherence: Ensuring national chemical management policies are consistent with GFC goals.
- Reporting: Participating in global voluntary reporting under the GFC, coordinated by AMCEN and the AUC.
- Partnerships: Engaging in multi-stakeholder partnerships and South-South cooperation to share knowledge and technologies.
- Pollution Prevention: Prioritizing actions on priority pollutants including highly hazardous pesticides, lead, mercury, and plastics.

6.3. Key Priorities for Africa under the GFC

- Elimination of illegal waste trafficking under GFC Target B4
- Phasing out harmful substances in consumer goods under Target B3
- Expansion of sustainable financing aligned with GFC Enabler D
- Full participation in GFC monitoring, reporting, and review mechanisms

7. Implementation Matrix (2025–2035)

Strategic Objective	Key Activities	Lead Actors	Timeline	Indicators
A1. Harmonize legal and institutional frameworks	Review and revise national laws; establish inter-ministerial coordination bodies	Ministries of Environment, Justice, RECs	2025–2028	# of countries with updated laws and operational national platforms
B1. Enhance technical capacity	Build and equip laboratories; train technical staff	Ministries of Health, Science, Education	2025–2030	# of labs upgraded; # of staff trained
C1. Promote sustainable production	Introduce green chemistry incentives; enforce EPR laws	Industry Ministries, private sector	2026–2030	# of EPR systems operational; # of green-certified products
D1. Eliminate hazardous waste trafficking	Strengthen customs and enforcement; regional task forces	Bamako Secretariat, Border Agencies	2025–2029	# of seizures reported; # of trained enforcement officers
Eliminate open dumping and burning of waste	Implement the regional roadmap on transformative actions on waste	National and local governments		# of dumpsites closed % of volume reduction in open waste burning

E1. Mainstream in health and education	Revise curricula; include chemicals in health plans	Ministries of Health, Education	2025–2030	# of curricula revised; # of countries with integrated health plans
F1. Foster innovation	Fund research programs; support innovation hubs	Ministries of Science, donors, academia	2026–2035	# of indigenous solutions piloted; # of research grants awarded
G1. Secure financing	Develop investment frameworks; access GEF/GCF	Ministries of Finance, AUC, AMCEN	2025–2035	\$ mobilized; # of countries with national chemicals/waste budgets

Annexes

- Annex I: Glossary of Key Terms
- Annex II: Stakeholder Map
- Annex III: Financing Mechanisms and Donor Landscape
- Annex IV: Synergies with MEAs and SDGs