UNITED NATIONS

UNEP/EA.7/INF/11

United Nations Environment Programme

Distr.: General
15 October 2025

English only

UNEDITED ADVANCE VERSION

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
Seventh session
Nairobi, 8–12 December 2025
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

International environmental policy and governance issues

Information on the work carried out within the framework of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as it relates to the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out information on the mandates of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and on the activities conducted within the framework of the conventions, as they relate to items on the agenda of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme. The information has been submitted by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The annex is presented without formal editing.

* UNEP/EA.7/1.

Annex*

Information on the work undertaken within the framework of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as it relates to the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

I. Introduction

1. In the first section, the present document provides an overview of the main outcomes of the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants which were held back to back from 28 April to 9 May 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland.

2. In subsequent sections, the document outlines developments under the conventions of relevance to the implementation of:

(a) Resolution 5/8 on science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution;

(b) Resolution 5/14 on an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution;

(c) Resolutions 6/4 and 6/6, respectively, on promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other relevant environmental instruments; and on fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and MEAs;

(d) Resolution 6/5 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals;

(e) Resolution 6/9 on sound management of chemicals and waste;

(f) Resolution 6/11 on highly hazardous pesticides.

II. Key highlights of the outcomes of the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties

3. The seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were held back to back from 28 April to 9 May 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland.

4. The conferences of the Parties resulted in 56 decisions that expand and strengthen action on chemicals, wastes, and pollution management, helping to protect human health, safeguard the environment and biodiversity, and support efforts to tackle climate change, thereby advancing global efforts to “make visible the invisible”.

5. At its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, among other things:

(a) On legal, compliance and governance matters:

(i) Adopted an amendment to Annex IV to update the descriptions of disposal operations under the Convention. Effective on 1 January 2030, this amendment will enhance the Convention’s environmental controls by improving legal clarity as to what constitute waste under the Convention;

(ii) Adopted the programme of work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee for 2026–2027;

(b) On strategic issues:

* The annex has not been formally edited.

(i) Adopted the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for the period 2025–2031;

(ii) Adopted 30 recommendations to improve the Prior Informed Consent procedure, covering six clusters of action: exchanging information with/between competent authorities, capacity of competent authorities, transit transboundary movements, notification decision-making processes, financial guarantees, and maritime transport of waste. The Conference of the Parties also extended the work of the working group to continue exploring further options;

(c) On Scientific and technical matters:

(i) Adopted four technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) wastes, including technical guidelines on wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with UV-328;

(ii) Decided that a guidance document should be developed on the identification of electrical and electronic waste under the new entries adopted by decision BC-15/18, as well as on the distinction between waste that is to be classified as electrical and electronic waste (Y49 or A1181) and waste that is related to such electrical and electronic waste but can be classified under another entry in Annex II, VIII or IX;

(iii) Decided to continue the updating of the technical guidelines on ESM of waste lead-acid batteries and the development of technical guidelines on ESM of other waste batteries;

(iv) Decided to continue the development of technical guidelines on ESM of used and waste pneumatic tyres;

(v) Decided to update the technical guidelines on ESM of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds;

(vi) Decided to continue the work by a small intersessional working group to advance the work on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents;

(vii) Reviewed the progress made by the four partnerships currently established under the Convention, namely the Plastic Waste Partnership, the Household Waste Partnership, the Partnership for Action on Challenges Relating to E-waste (PACE II) and Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE);

(viii) Initiated work on textile wastes by inviting Parties and observers to provide comments and relevant data, regarding experiences, challenges and costs related to trade in used textiles and textile wastes, as well as views on how transboundary movements of textile wastes and their management could be addressed under the Basel Convention.

6. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, among other things:

(a) Amended Annex III to the Convention to list the pesticide carbosulfan and severely hazardous pesticide formulation fenthion (ultra-low-volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) therein as recommended by the Chemical Review Committee, thus subjecting the chemicals to the Convention's PIC procedure. The listings entered into force on 22 October 2025;

(b) Adopted the programme of work of the Compliance Committee for 2026–2027;

(c) Agreed on intersessional work to enhance the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention by addressing impacts regarding the listing of chemicals in Annex III and its implementation.

7. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, among other things:

(a) Amended Annex A to list three new chemicals therein, namely the pesticide chlorpyrifos and the industrial chemicals medium-chain chlorinated paraffins and long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds, for eventual phase-out. Medium-chain chlorinated paraffins are used in metal working fluids and as flame retardants, plasticizers, and

additives in plastics. Long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds (PFAS group) are used in commercial products to provide oil-, grease-, water- and stain-repellent properties to other substrates;

(b) Decided to add a specific exemption for UV-328 for aircraft industry use until 2030;

(c) Urged Parties to implement measures to meet their obligations under the Convention, in particular with respect to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) elimination towards meeting the 2025 and 2028 goals;

(d) Adopted the inaugural programme of work of the Compliance Committee for 2026–2027.

8. On joint issues to the three conventions, the conferences of the Parties, among other things:

(a) Welcomed the Secretariat's engagement with several international bodies and processes, including with:

(i) UNEP (e.g. participation in meetings of CPR and UNEA, Regional Ministerial Environment Forums, provision of inputs to various UNEP reports; participation in: One UNEP Textile Initiative, One Planet Network, Zero Waste Day, UN Decade for the Ecosystem Restoration, Global Mercury Partnership, Global Environment Outlook, Global Partnership on Marine Litter, Green Customs Initiative (GCI), Montevideo Law Programme, Bern Process, United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environment Agreements (InforMEA), Asia Environmental Enforcement Recognition of Excellence (AEEE); participation in UNEP technical assistance activities through GEF projects on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, such as FARM, FIRE, ISLAND projects; the programme on Capacity-Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP MEAs Programme); subregional workshops to strengthen country capacities to advance synergies in MEAs implementation);

(ii) The intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment;

(iii) The ad hoc group on a science-policy panel;

(iv) The Global Framework on Chemicals;

(v) The Minamata Convention on Mercury;

(vi) The Convention on Biological Diversity;

(vii) The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer;

(viii) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

(b) Decided on a range of steps to strengthen efforts to address illegal traffic in chemicals and wastes including encouraging Parties to provide voluntary reports on cases, experiences and challenges, and promoting stronger engagement of customs and enforcement agencies.

9. Over 2000 participants from 182 Parties and 205 observer entities attended the meetings, which demonstrates the breadth and depth of engagement across governments, civil society and international organizations to tackle the triple planetary crisis.

10. All the decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties during their 2025 meetings are set out in the reports of the respective meetings, which are publicly available on the websites of the conventions:

(a) Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal on the work of its seventeenth meeting (document UNEP/CHW.17/29), available here;

(b) Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade on the work of its twelfth meeting (document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/28), available at: here;

(c) Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its twelfth meeting (document UNEP/POPS/COP.12/32), available at: here.

11. Relevant decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties at their 2025 meetings were transmitted to the Executive Director of UNEP in a letter dated 14 June 2025.

III. Developments under the conventions of relevance to the implementation of UNEA resolutions and update on cooperation between the BRS Secretariat and UNEP

12. At their 2025 meetings, the conferences of the Parties adopted 20 decisions inviting UNEP to cooperate with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to engage in specific activities in support of the objectives of the conventions, for instance on technical assistance or capacity-building, or on specific programmatic areas (e.g. on DDT, PCB, national implementation plans, global monitoring plan).

13. At their 2025 meetings, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm convention, in their decisions BC-17/23, RC-12/10 and SC-12/24, on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations, among other things:

(a) Welcomed the relevant resolutions adopted by UNEA-6, including resolution 6/9 on sound management of chemicals and waste,[1] resolution 6/11 on highly hazardous pesticides,[2] resolution 6/5 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals,[3] resolution 6/4 on promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments,[4] resolution 6/6 on fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements[5] and resolution 6/3 on enhancing the role and viability of regional forums of ministers of the environment and United Nations Environment Programme regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges;[6]

(b) Reiterated their request to the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of UNEP in fostering the implementation of activities described in UNEA resolutions that are relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(c) Invited the Executive Director of UNEP, when carrying out activities of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to cooperate with the Secretariat and to take into account relevant decisions of the conferences of the Parties and the programmes of work of the conventions.

14. Within these mandates, the Secretariat has continued to engage with UNEP at the programmatic level with a view to contributing to the implementation of certain aspects of the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2025, the UNEP Programme of Work for 2024–2025 and UNEA resolutions of relevance to the conventions. UNEP has continued to undertake activities to provide support to Parties for the implementation of the conventions as well as in response to specific requests from the conferences of the Parties to the conventions.

15. Cooperation has taken place through the participation of UNEP and the Secretariat as observers in meetings of the respective governing bodies, on a bilateral basis, and through the use of coordination mechanisms such as the UNEP senior management team; the joint task force on programmatic cooperation between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention and the Chemicals and Health Branch of UNEP; and the MEA focal points network between the UNEP Law Division and MEAs administered by UNEP.

IV. Resolution 5/8 on science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

16. As described in document UNEP/EA.7/6, UNEA, in its resolution 5/8, among others:

[1] UNEP/EA.6/Res.9; see, in particular, paras. 1 and 5–8.

[2] UNEP/EA.6/Res.11; see, in particular, paras. 2 and 3.

[3] UNEP/EA.6/Res.5; see, in particular, paras. 2 and 3.

[4] UNEP/EA.6/Res.4; see, in particular, para. 2.

[5] UNEP/EA.6/Res.6; see, in particular, para. 1.

[6] UNEP/EA.6/Res.3; see, in particular, para. 3.

(a) Decided that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution;

(b) Further decided to convene, subject to the availability of resources, an ad hoc open-ended working group that would prepare proposals for the science-policy panel;

(c) Requested the Executive Director of UNEP to cooperate closely with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organizations and bodies, as appropriate;

(d) Requested the Executive Director of UNEP to convene an intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of considering the establishment of a science-policy panel, upon completion of proposals prepared by the ad hoc open-ended working group.

17. With respect to its participation in the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, the Secretariat carried out the following activities:

(a) Maintained bilateral contacts with the secretariat of the ad hoc open-ended working group and gave briefings and responded to queries on topics relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(b) Attended the three sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group, including the resumed third session which was held from 15–18 June 2025, in Punta del Este, Uruguay;

(c) Attended the Intergovernmental Meeting held back to back with the resumed third session of the ad hoc open ended working group, on 20 June 2025, during which the decision establishing the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP) was adopted.

18. In their 2025 decisions on international cooperation and cooperation with other organizations, the conferences of the Parties welcomed the cooperation between the Secretariat and UNEP in the context of the ad hoc open-ended working group, and requested the Executive Secretary to cooperate closely with the appropriate bodies of the science-policy panel, once it has been established.

V. Resolution 5/14 on an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

19. In its resolution 5/14 on an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, UNEA, among other things:

(a) Reaffirmed the importance of cooperation, coordination and complementarity among relevant regional and international conventions and instruments, with due respect for their respective mandates, to prevent plastic pollution and its related risks to human health and adverse effects on human well-being and the environment;

(b) Requested the Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee, to begin its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024;

(c) Requested the Executive Director to facilitate the participation of, and close cooperation and coordination with, relevant regional and international instruments and initiatives and all relevant stakeholders in the context of the mandate of the intergovernmental negotiating committee.

20. As per paragraph 3 (k) of the resolution, the intergovernmental negotiating committee is to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, with provisions to promote cooperation and coordination with relevant regional and international conventions, instruments and organizations, while recognizing their respective mandates, avoiding duplication, and promoting complementarity of action.

21. Similar to previously adopted decisions calling for cooperation with the intergovernmental negotiating committee, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions took decisions BC-17/23, RC-12/10 and SC-12/24, in which they:

(a) Welcomed the cooperation between the Secretariat and the intergovernmental negotiating committee secretariat;

(b) Requested the Executive Secretary to cooperate and coordinate closely with the Executive Director of UNEP in the context of the mandate of the intergovernmental negotiating

committee and to participate in its work on issues relevant to the three conventions, including in relation to POPs in plastic products.

22. Building on the technical assistance projects funded by the European Union and the Governments of France, Germany, Netherlands (the Kingdom of), Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the Secretariat and the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) signed in August 2025, a €2 million financing agreement to tackle plastic pollution in Cabo Verde, Senegal, and French-speaking West Africa. This three- year project will strengthen national capacities to reduce plastic pollution, ensure sound management of plastic waste and protect human health and the environment.

23. With respect to its participation in the intergovernmental negotiating committee, since March 2024, the Secretariat undertook the following activities:

(a) Participated in the fourth and fifth (first and second part) sessions of the intergovernmental negotiating committee. At each of these sessions, the Secretariat made written submissions setting out information on obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches in the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions of relevance to the work of the committee;

(b) Supported the secretariat of the intergovernmental negotiating committee in document preparation and other aspects of the preparation as well servicing of the sessions.

24. The secretariat of the intergovernmental negotiating committee submitted information on its work at the fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention[7] and the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties.[8]

A. Basel Convention

25. At its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention considered, among other things, the following items that are of relevance to the implementation of resolution 5/14:

(a) Further consideration of plastic waste, including on the amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention adopted in decision BC-14/12 (plastic waste amendments), particularly regarding their implementation, challenges and impacts;[9]

(b) The activities of the working group of the Partnership on Plastic Waste to implement its workplan for the biennium 2024–2025 and approval of the workplan of the partnership for 2026–2027;[10]

(c) Work of the expert working group on the review of Annexes[11] was extended with the mandate to review whether any additional constituents or characteristics in relation to plastic waste should be added to annex I or III, respectively, to the Convention.

26. In its decision BC-17/11, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention invited Parties and observers to provide comments on the amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Convention (plastic waste amendments), particularly regarding their implementation, challenges and impacts, by 28 February 2026. The decision further requests the Secretariat to compile the information received and submit it to the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for consideration at its fifteenth meeting in June 2026.

27. In its decision BC-17/19, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention welcomed the activities of the working group of the Partnership on Plastic Waste to implement its workplan for the biennium 2024–2025[12]. These activities include the development of a series of knowledge briefs addressing issues such as essential uses of single-use plastics, informal sector integration, expansion of recycling systems, detection of contamination in shipments of waste and plastic waste in textiles and clinical waste streams., In addition, and thanks to the generous financial support provided by the Governments of Germany, Norway, Switzerland and the United States of America, 38 pilot projects have been selected for implementation by the steering group of the Partnership's working group. These projects are intended to test and demonstrate practical, on-the-ground solutions for preventing and managing plastic waste in an environmentally sound manner. Topics include improving plastic

[7] UNEP/CHW/OEWG.14/INF/15/Rev.1, annex II.

[8] UNEP/CHW.17/INF/62–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/51.

[9] Decision BC-17/11.

[10] Decision BC-17/19, UNEP/CHW.17/18/Add.3.

[11] https://www.basel.int/tabid/6269/Default.aspx.

[12] The report on the activities of the working group of the Partnership on Plastic Waste is provided in document UNEP/CHW.17/INF/50, available at: https://www.basel.int/tabid/9743.

waste collection, recycling and recovery systems, developing circular economy models and extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, enhancing monitoring and control of transboundary movements, strengthening community engagement and informal sector integration and reducing marine litter and leakage through innovative local and regional initiatives. Implementation of 15 projects has so far been completed. A third call for proposals for pilot projects under the Partnership's pilot project programme was issued in January 2025, with a set of new projects expected to commence in 2026.

B. Stockholm Convention

28. The Stockholm Convention provides measures to reduce releases of POPs, including plastic additives, chemicals used in the production of plastics, and by-products, from intentional production and use, unintentional production, and stockpiles and wastes.

29. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention listed three new chemicals, including medium-chain chlorinated paraffins and long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds, in Annex A to the Convention, for eventual phase-out. The two chemicals are widely used as plastic additives. The Conference of the Parties also welcomed updated guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices, including those addressing releases of listed POPs used in plastic materials and products, and from related recycling and waste management processes.

30. There are currently 37 entries of chemicals or groups of chemicals listed under the Convention, of which 19 are associated with plastics.

C. Cross-cutting

31. On plastics, thanks to the generous financial support provided by the European Union, France, Germany, Netherlands (the Kingdom of), Norway, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund, Sweden and Switzerland, more than 80 countries are currently receiving technical assistance under the conventions to strengthen their capacity for addressing plastic pollution.[13] The BRS technical assistance activities on plastic pollution cover the full life cycle of plastics and aim to enhance national capacity for prevention, minimization, environmentally sound management (ESM) and control of transboundary movements of plastic waste.

32. These include the development of national plastic waste inventories, the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks, capacity-building for customs and enforcement officers on the implementation of the Plastic Waste Amendments,[14] and pilot projects promoting innovative circular economy solutions. These include extended producer responsibility schemes, financing and business models for recycling, and traceability systems for chemicals in plastics. For example, through the 'Further actions to address plastic waste under the Basel Convention'[15] project, countries such as Ghana, Malawi, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe have developed national inventories and strategies for the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, leading to improved data availability, enhanced regulatory capacity, and reduced leakage of plastic waste and illegal trade. In more challenging contexts, the 'Plastic Waste in Remote and Mountainous Areas project'[16] addresses the unique constraints of remote, high-altitude, and low-infrastructure zones, particularly affected by waste from tourism and long-distance microplastic transport, through a blend of awareness raising, pilot interventions, and capacity building tailored to remoteness and infrastructure limitations.

33. Building on these ongoing efforts, the Secretariat and the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) signed, in August 2025, a €2 million financing agreement to tackle plastic pollution in Cabo Verde, Senegal, and French-speaking West Africa. This three- year project will strengthen national capacities to reduce plastic pollution, ensure sound management of plastic waste and protect human health and the environment.

VI. Resolutions 6/4 and 6/6

34. As described in document UNEP/EA.7/9, UNEA, in its resolution 6/4, requested the Executive Director of UNEP to, among others:

[13] https://www.basel.int/tabid/8772.

[14] https://www.basel.int/tabid/8426.

[15] https://www.basel.int/tabid/8344.

[16] https://www.basel.int/tabid/10209.

(a) Assist Member States, on request, to enhance synergies, cooperation or collaboration;

(b) Collect and synthesize good practices, tools, success stories and lessons learned and share them with Member States, relevant partners and stakeholders, through relevant existing regional and global platforms and forums, and building on existing initiatives, to improve synergies, cooperation or collaboration.

35. In resolution 6/6, UNEA requested the Executive Director of UNEP, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the governing bodies of the MEAs and in cooperation with the respective MEA secretariats, to:

(a) Strengthen and promote the capacity-building initiatives of UNEP to facilitate coherent and effective implementation of MEAs at the regional and national levels on a Member State–driven basis, including through the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law and through UNEP regional offices, regional centres of MEAs and United Nations regional commissions;

(b) Develop an analysis of case studies, success stories and lessons learned from cooperation, collaboration and complementarities at the national level in the implementation of MEAs;

(c) Strengthen cooperation between the UNEP and United Nations country teams (UNCTs), and encourage the latter to mainstream the objectives of multilateral environmental agreements into their work.

36. In their 2025 decisions on international cooperation, the conferences of the Parties welcomed the work facilitated by UNEP under the Bern process, including the outcomes of its third conference, and invited the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue its engagement, in collaboration with other MEAs, in the process. They encouraged Parties to engage in the Bern process and actively promote cooperation and policy coherence among MEAs at the national level, taking into account national circumstances, needs and priorities through, as appropriate, a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

37. To facilitate cooperation and collaboration with other MEAs and processes, and to support Parties in identifying potential areas for integrated actions, the conferences of the Parties also took note of three reports recently developed by the Secretariat exploring interlinkages with other MEAs and frameworks:

(a) Exploratory study on interlinkages between the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;[17]

(b) Report on how the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions might contribute to the implementation of the 2030 targets and 2050 goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;[18]

(c) Report on how the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions might contribute to the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.[19]

38. On the integration of MEAs targets in United Nations Development Cooperation Frameworks, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the guidance developed the Implementation and Compliance Committee on how individual Parties can integrate actions to address their needs under the Basel Convention into their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.[20]

39. Highlighting the reports and guidance developed under the conventions to strengthen linkages with other processes, the Secretariat actively participated in the activities implemented by UNEP in response to UNEA-6 resolutions, as follows:

(a) Bern Process: The Secretariat participated in the Bern III Conference, held in January 2024, and has continued to engage in related collaborative activities throughout 2025. These included participation in a webinar on 25 June 2025 and in an expert workshop on 27–28 August 2025, in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland. The workshop aimed to support the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), including

[17] UNEP/CHW.17/INF/58–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/48.

[18] UNEP/CHW.17/INF/59–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/49.

[19] UNEP/CHW.17/INF/57–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/47, annex I.

[20] UNEP/CHW.17/12/Add.1.

by facilitating the participation of MEAs in the review, and to consider the future role of the Bern process;

(b) Subregional workshops to strengthen country capacities to advance synergies in MEAs implementation and to promote integration of MEAs needs within national planning processes:

(i) The subregional workshops on "Implementation of Biodiversity, Chemicals and Waste MEAs" convened in Dakar, Senegal (26–28 November 2024), and in Nairobi, Kenya (11–13 November 2025);

(ii) The Southern African Development Community subregional workshop on "Mainstreaming Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Objectives in the United Nations Country Teams to Catalyse Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Transitions", held in Gaborone, Botswana (4 to 6 March 2025);

(iii) The Central Asia subregional workshop on "Advancing effective MEAs implementation in Central Asia: Promoting synergies and rights-based approaches to combat pollution", held in Almaty, Kazakhstan (17–19 June 2025).

40. The Secretariat also participates in the activities undertaken under the Montevideo Programme aimed to facilitate an effective implementation of MEAs. In the context of InforMEA, the Secretariat is also cooperating with UNEP and other MEAs secretariats on the development of an application tailored to UNCTs to enhance access to MEA-related legal obligations, decisions, and national commitments.

VII. Resolution 6/5 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals

41. In resolution 6/5 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals, UNEA, among other things:

(a) Requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources, in cooperation with Member States, including national focal points appointed pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/12, stakeholders and experts, while ensuring equitable regional balance, building on existing work and avoiding duplication, to establish a digital knowledge hub to compile, among other things, information on existing good practices relevant to the environmental aspects of minerals and metals and to share, as appropriate, that information with all Member States and stakeholders;

(b) Also invited the Executive Director, within the scope of available resources, to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant international and regional organizations and forums, and with relevant stakeholders, on environmental aspects of minerals and metals.

42. The Secretariat has submitted a set of relevant Basel Convention technical guidelines for consideration and inclusion in the digital knowledge hub. The technical guidelines that are relevant to wastes from mining and waste streams containing metals and minerals are:

(a) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds (Basel Convention, 2022);

(b) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes in specially engineered landfill (D5) (Basel Convention, 2022);

(c) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound incineration of hazardous wastes and other wastes as covered by disposal operations D10 and R1 (Basel Convention, 2022);

(d) Technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention (Basel Convention, 2023);

(e) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds (R4) (Basel Convention, October 2004).

43. More specifically in relation to waste streams of equipment containing metals and minerals, as mandated by decision BC-17/5, there is ongoing intersessional work on the updating of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used-lead acid batteries and on developing new technical guidelines on other batteries (e.g. lithium batteries).

44. In addition, in relation to secondary extraction of minerals and metals from e-waste, the Parties to the Basel Convention mandated the Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste (PACEII) to develop guidance on environmentally sound repair and refurbishment of used and environmentally sound management of waste of television screens, audio and video equipment as well as of refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment.[21]

45. The Secretariat is also contributing to the implementation of UNEA resolution 6/5 through active engagement in global dialogues. In this context, the BRS Secretariat is co-organizing in collaboration with UNECE, UNEP and OHCHR a UNEA-7 multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) side event entitled "Managing Environmental, Industrial and Social Risks of Critical Energy Transition Minerals: Policies and Solutions for a Resilient Planet". The event will promote coordinated approaches to addressing the environmental and social risks associated with the life cycle of critical energy transition minerals, in line with the UNEA-7 theme "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet".

46. At its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted an amendment to Annex IV to the Convention to enhance clarity of the disposal operations. Among the changes, the description of disposal operation D4 was revised to explicitly include tailings dams as an example under surface impoundment. The updated text that enters into force on 1 January 2030 reads: "Surface impoundment (e.g. placement of liquids or sludge into pits, basins, ponds, tailings dams, lagoons)". This amendment further strengthens the Basel Convention's applicability to mining-related waste management and supports the environmentally sound management of such disposal operations.

47. At its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention also requested the continuation of work on recommendations on possible amendments to Annexes I and III to ensure a clear and up-to-date understanding of the substances and objects falling under the Convention's scope. This work aims to align the Convention's coverage of hazardous wastes with current industrial and waste management practices, thereby strengthening the protection of human health and the environment, and may result in the inclusion of additional hazardous waste streams not currently covered.

VIII. Resolution 6/9 on the sound management of chemicals and waste

48. In resolution 6/9 on sound management of chemicals and waste, UNEA, among other things:

(a) Acknowledged the voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;

(b) Requested the Executive Director to prepare a report, subject to the availability of resources, building on existing measures and initiatives to address lead, cadmium, arsenic, and organotins, and to continue the work of UNEP in supporting Member States in their actions;

(c) Requests the Executive Director to facilitate coordination between the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, within the scope of their respective mandates, in order to enhance complementarity and avoid duplication.

49. In their 2025 decisions on international cooperation, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, among other things:

(a) Welcomed the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals;

(b) Took note of the report of the Secretariat on how the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions might contribute to the implementation of the Framework,[22] and requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement the proposed activities to contribute towards the implementation of the Framework;[23]

[21] Decision BC-17/19 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

[22] UNEP/CHW.17/INF/57–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/47, annex I.

[23] Ibid., annex II.

(c) Requested the Secretariat to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

A. Global Framework on Chemicals – For a planet free of harm from chemicals and wastes

50. In line with relevant mandates, the Secretariat has continued to cooperate with the secretariat of Framework since its establishment at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, in September 2023.

51. As a participating organization to Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the BRS Secretariat takes part in the current collaborative efforts with governments and other stakeholders to develop Implementation Programmes, including drafting mandates, terms of reference and workplans of programmes, for consideration at the first session of the International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals. The Secretariat is also engaged in other work streams under the Framework, such as emerging policy issues and issues of concern and measurability structure and indicators, where the Secretariat has been identified as custodian of several indicators. Cooperation also takes places on other issues of common interest, such gender and interlinkages with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

52. In line with the 2025 decisions highlighted above, the Secretariat is implementing activities falling under seven components of its programmes of work and budgets for 2026–2027, aimed to support the Framework. These activities encompass technical assistance and capacity development, strengthening partnerships, joint communication, outreach and public awareness efforts, as well as international cooperation and coordination. [24]

B. Report on lead, cadmium, arsenic and organotins

53. Building on its earlier cooperation with UNEP in the preparation of assessments and reports on issues of concern, the Secretariat provided inputs to UNEP report on lead, cadmium, arsenic and organotins submitted to UNEA-7.[25]

54. The Secretariat participated in the updating of the report the State of the Science of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals 2012, through the expert group established to guide and support the work.

55. The Secretariat is cooperating and collaborating with UNEP on a wide range of activities and projects related to the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes under the conventions.

C. Coordination among financing mechanisms and innovative financing approaches

56. In line with SC COP decisions on financial mechanism the Secretariat continues to collaborate with the Global Environment Facility, as the principal entity entrusted with the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention, to enhance coordination and complementarity with other relevant funding mechanisms, including the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, the Specific International Programme under the Minamata Convention and the Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening. These collaborative efforts are especially critical in responding to the growing financial demands under the conventions and the increasing pressure on traditional grant-based funding.

57. Building on these efforts, the Secretariat is actively exploring complementary financing approaches to expand the overall resource base. This includes promoting innovative and blended finance to leverage private capital, engaging non-state actors and multilateral development banks, and mobilizing additional investments from related sectors, such as the energy sector, through initiatives like the World Bank–led Global PCB Elimination Programme.

[24] https://www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/InterlinkageswithotherMEAsandprocesses/Overview/tabid/9429/language/en-US/Default.aspx.

[25] UNEP/EA.7/INF/7.

IX. Resolution 6/11 on highly hazardous pesticides

58. In resolution 6/11 on highly hazardous pesticides, UNEA requested the Executive Director of UNEP to support the work of the global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides (GAHHPs).

59. The Secretariat participates as observer in the task force, which was formed in November 2023, under the leadership of FAO and with experts from UNEP, WHO and UNDP to drive the process for establishing the Alliance. An operational framework for the GAHHPs was presented at the GFC Open-Ended Working Group held in Punta del Este, Uruguay from 24-27 June 2025, during a dedicated GAHHPs Workshop. It is anticipated that the GAHHPs will be formally established in 2025, and officially launched at the first session of the International Conference of the GFC in 2026.

60. The Secretariat supports countries that are Parties to the conventions in addressing the challenges of highly hazardous pesticides, and cooperates with UNEP on relevant activities, in particular:

(a) Provides technical assistance to Parties in implementing their obligations under the conventions related to the sound management and control of listed pesticides. According to the conventions technical assistance plan, assistance can encompass:

(i) Strengthening Parties' capacities to monitor and report pesticide incidents and identification of HHPs with a view to identifying SHPF pursuant to Article 6 and Annex IV to the Rotterdam Convention;

(ii) Strengthening Parties' capacities to inventory of POPs pesticides, take actions for their phase out and introduction of safer alternatives; as well as for the environmentally sound management of their wastes;

(b) Promoting alternatives to DDT use; and supporting the intersessional process of consultations with Parties in the Stockholm Convention DDT register on a possible phase out plan for DDT and withdrawal from the DDT register;

(c) Supporting the work of the DDT Expert Group to recommend to the COP to the Stockholm Convention the continued need for DDT as vector disease control and on any actions deemed necessary to reduce the reliance on DDT in the light of the assessments undertaken by the Expert Group, based on scientific, technical, environmental and economic information related to DDT.