

## Pilot testing of the statistical guideline for measuring flows of plastic throughout the life cycle in Vietnam

*December 2024 – February 2025*

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### 1. Introduction

Plastic pollution is one of the most pressing and visible environmental issue and is part of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution. To address this challenge, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) have jointly developed a statistical guideline for measuring flows of plastic throughout the life cycle. This statistical guideline aims to provide policy makers with high quality statistics on plastic that are comparable at the national, regional, and global levels.

In response to an official request from the General Statistics Office of Vietnam, UNEP, in partnership with UNITAR, has organized a pilot testing of the statistical guideline for measuring flows of plastic throughout the life cycle in Vietnam. The aim of the pilot testing is to support the General Statistics Office of Vietnam in calculating plastics indicators, using the statistical guideline for measuring flows of plastic throughout the life cycle.

The pilot testing will be conducted by UNEP and UNITAR in Vietnam from December 2024 to February 2025 in an online format as a part of a broader project “Strengthening national capacities of nine Asia-Pacific countries to address plastic pollution by developing, updating, monitoring and reporting on National Action Plans, in the context of the negotiation for a global agreement”, which is funded by the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund.

The pilot testing involves several key activities for the General Statistics Office of Vietnam such as:

- Exercise to review the status of plastic statistics in Vietnam using a self-assessment tool;
- Analysis of available plastic-relevant statistics in Vietnam through the Exercise on extracting plastic data on production and trade;
- One-day pilot testing workshop (see more information in Part 2 of this Concept Note);
- Calculation of apparent consumption of plastic and plastic waste generated using the plastic toolkit;
- Validation of calculated data using the plastic toolkit;
- Final meeting to discuss the results before the end of the pilot testing.

Participants will also be invited to complete both pre- and post- pilot testing surveys to gather feedback and measure the effectiveness of the pilot testing.

#### 2. Content of the pilot testing workshop

To support the pilot testing, an online workshop will be held on the time between 20 and 24 January 2025. The workshop will cover key dedicated sessions on:

- **Plastic production, consumption, and trade**, which will cover key definitions from the statistical guideline, including core indicators for the supply and use phases of plastic production, consumption, and trade. It will also explore plastic production, consumption, and trade

statistics along with the data sources specific to Vietnam. Participants will engage in calculating core indicators on plastic production, consumption, and trade based on the statistical guideline.

- **Plastic waste**, which will address plastic waste streams and plastic waste-related indicators. The session will also explore waste management policies in Vietnam, particularly those related to plastics, and cover methodologies for calculating plastic waste generated. Additionally, the Plastic-KEY classification system and its application in Vietnam will be discussed.
- **Plastic toolkit for calculating apparent consumption of plastic and plastic waste generated**, which will provide hands-on application and demonstration of the plastic toolkit designed to calculate apparent consumption of plastic and plastic waste generated.

Throughout the workshop, participants will be invited to actively engage in several activities, including participating in discussions and Q&A sessions, as well as taking part in the plastic toolkit exercise. The workshop will conclude with an interpretation and reporting session of the results generated by the plastic toolkit that will equip participants with understanding of how to effectively apply the statistical guideline and the plastic toolkit.