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The Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 – 2015 Final Report

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by the SAICM secretariat on "*The Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 – 2015 Final Report*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

FINAL REPORT

Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 - 2015

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10 September 2019

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ACRONYMS

AFR	Africa
AP	Asia Pacific
BASF	Baden Aniline and Soda Factory
BRS Secretariat	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Secretariat
CBI	confidential business information
CEE	Central & Eastern Europe
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CiP	Chemicals in Products
CLP	Classification, Labeling and Packaging
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CCNSG	National Advisory Committee for the Integrated Management of Chemical Substances, Persistent Organic Pollutants and Hazardous Waste subject to International Agreements, in Environmental Matters (Mexico)
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DTIE	Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
EAC	East African Community
EAEC	Eurasian Economic Union
EB	Quick Start Program Executive Board
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDC	Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals
EF	Environment Fund
e-learning	Electronic learning
EPI	Emerging Policy Issues
EU	European Union
EU-JUSSCANNZ	European Union - Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand
e-waste	Electronic waste
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTE	Full-time equivalent
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GPA	Global Plan of Action
HHP	Highly Hazardous Pesticides

HSLEEP	Hazardous Substances within the Life Cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products
IC	Quick Start Program Implementation Committee
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICCM	International Conference on Chemicals Management
IFCS	The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organizations
ILO	International Labour Organization
INERIS	French National Institute for Industrial Environment and Risks
IOMC	The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCS	International Programme for Chemical Safety
IPEN	International POPs Elimination Network
ISDE	International Society of Doctors for the Environment
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MERCOSUR	Mercado Común del Sur
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OELTWG	Open-Ended Legal and Technical Working Group
OEWG	Open-ended Working Group
OOG	Overall Orientation and Guidance
OPS	Overarching Policy Strategy
OSCE	Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PAN	Pesticide Action Network
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PFCs	Perfluorinated chemicals
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRTRs	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
QSP	Quick Start Programme
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical Substances European Union

SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SAEDA	Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association
SAICM	The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WEOG	Western Europe and Others Group
WHO	World Health Organization
XBF	Extra-budgetary funds

INTRODUCTION[1]

1. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a policy framework aimed at promoting the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle[2], and particularly to achieve the 2002 Johannesburg goal agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, that "by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment". SAICM is not legally binding but builds international cooperation and bridges international and national policy, as chemicals and hazardous waste have significant local impacts. It also bridges the responsibilities and opportunities of all relevant stakeholders, including governments, industry and civil society.

2. SAICM is broad in its remit and approach through its focus on the entire scope of chemicals management. That is, it addresses the majority of chemicals including all agricultural and industrial chemicals (as well as the focused lists of chemicals from, for example, the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions); and all aspects of the chemical lifecycle, from generation to use and disposal, including the generation, management and illegal traffic of hazardous waste. The involvement of many sectors and stakeholders are interconnected in SAICM.

3. SAICM aims to coordinate, catalyse and facilitate action to improve management of chemicals and hazardous waste at all levels. It is a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral forum that is governed by a series of 'SAICM Documents' composed of:

- Dubai Declaration;
- Overarching Policy Strategy;
- Global Plan of Action;
- Resolutions adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), including the ICCM4 resolution welcoming the Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG) for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals;
- Other relevant documents, including those from subsidiary bodies (e.g. meeting reports), as appropriate.

4. The Global Plan of Action, while not a consensus document, helps inform the activities of SAICM stakeholders.

5. These "documents" all relate to the target date of 2020 as provided for by the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. It is evident that, in the face of a rapidly growing and expanding production and use of chemicals and generation of hazardous waste, the challenges of sound management of chemicals and waste become more pressing and remain a priority for action in getting to and beyond 2020. This is especially so in developing countries and countries in transition that have experienced a significant increase in chemical production and use, and will continue to do so over the coming decades.

OBJECTIVE

6. The objective of the evaluation is to provide an analysis of SAICM activities from 2006-2015 to support the intersessional process of the ICCM to develop recommendations and to enable ICCM5 to take an informed decision on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

[1] See SAICM overview. Accessed at: http://saicm.org/About/SAICMOverview/tabid/5522/language/en-US/Default.aspx
[2] See, in particular Dubai Declaration paragraphs 25 & 26

7. The evaluation, where appropriate, draws on lessons learned with respect to the implementation of the Strategic Approach, including:

- Impact of the Strategic Approach;
- Strengths, weaknesses and gaps in implementing the Strategic Approach, taking into account the eleven basic elements identified in the Overall Orientation and Guidance;
- Institutional arrangements within the voluntary multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach of the Strategic Approach.

BRIEF HISTORY

8. The emergence of the sound management of chemicals on the international agenda can be traced back to the publication, in 1962, of Rachel Carson's groundbreaking book *Silent Spring*. In her book Carson highlighted the significant detrimental impact that the indiscriminate spraying of DDT was having on the environment.[3]

9. Carson's book is widely attributed to the birth of the modern environmental movement and the subsequent banning of the use of DDT in the USA in 1972.[4] Carson's work, in part, prompted many countries to establish environment ministries and environmental protection agencies.[5]

10. Over the course of the 1970s and 1980s, a number of events took place that further highlighted the need for sound chemicals management. Four notable examples that had a significance influence in raising the profile of (un)sound chemicals management and emphasising its importance for the global community, regional groups and nation states were:

- Seveso (Italy, 1976): release of dioxin gas from a chemical manufacturing plant affected residents from neighbouring communities. Studies have revealed incidences of skin lesions, higher incidences of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and diabetes within the effected communities. Exposure of pregnant women to the dioxin release has been found to be linked to lower sperm counts in their male children. This disaster promoted the European Commission to adopt legislation – the Seveso Directive – on the prevention and control of such accidents.[6]
- Love Canal (New York, 1978): leaching of chemical waste from a landfill into elementary school grounds built on the landfill was linked to birth defects and heightened risk of leukemia among local residents.[7] This incident shaped grassroots environmental activism highlighting the links between marginalised/ disempowered communities and exposure to chemicals.[8] At the federal level this incident prompted Congress to pass the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) – or Superfund Act. As well as levying a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and granting federal authority for dealing with hazardous waste sites, the Act established a national priorities list of chemical waste sites for decontamination.[9]
- Bhopal (India, 1984): leaking of poison gas from a Union Carbide[10] pesticides plant killed at least 3,800 people immediately, morbidity and premature death for thousands of others. The

[3] Carson, R; Darling, L; Darling, L (1962) Silent Spring, Riverside Press, Cambridge, Mass
[4] OECD (2011) 40 Years of Chemical Safety at the OECD: Quality and Efficiency. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Paris, p.6.
[5] IPEN (2014) An NGO Guide to SAICM.
[6] European Commission (2018) Major accident hazards: The Seveso Directive - Technological Disaster Risk Reduction. Accessed at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/seveso/
[7] Beck, EC (1979) The Love Canal Tragedy. EPA Journal., January. Environmental Protection Agency. Accessed at: https://archive.epa.gov/epa/aboutepa/love-canal-tragedy.html
[8] Mah, A (2013) Lessons from Love Canal: toxic expertise and environmental justice. openDemocracy. Accessed at: https://www.opendemocracy.net/alice-mah/lessons-from-love-canal-toxic-expertise-and-environmental-justice
[9] EPA (2018) Superfund: CIRCLA overview
[10] Union Carbide was acquired by Dow Chemical in 2001.

Bhopal disaster prompted the Government of India to create the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1985. This Ministry was delegated responsibility for administering and enforcing environmental laws in India.[11] However, according to the UN's special rapporteur on hazardous substances and wastes, the victims of the incident are yet to see "any semblance of an effective remedy and accountability for a preventable disaster now more than 30 years old".[12]

- Koko (Nigeria, 1988) Throughout the 1980s radioactive, toxic and hazardous waste was exported to Africa.[13] One case that made international news was that of the export from Italy of mixed chemical waste, including of highly toxic PCBs, to the river port of Koko in Nigeria. The waste was stored in drums that leaked. Reports of premature births and deaths from contaminated rice followed. Amidst the international outcry, the waste was removed and finally incinerated in the UK.[14] Following the Koko incident and many others, the UN drew up plans to regulate the trade in hazardous waste through the Basel Convention.[15]

11. The international community's efforts to address the sound management of chemicals, and more recently of chemicals and waste, have been reflected in numerous UN initiatives, including:

1921: ILO's White Lead (Painting) Convention (No.13) – Convention concerning the use of white lead in painting; entered into force in 1923.

1948: The first World Health Assembly created an expert committee and a section in the Secretariat to work on environmental sanitation (which included work on, air pollution, water quality, food standards, pesticide safety, and occupational health).

1964: WHO Expert Committee report 'Environmental change and resulting impacts on health'

1971: ILO Benzene Convention (No 136) – Convention concerning protection against hazards of poisoning arising from benzene entered into force in 1973.

1972: FAO Working Party of Experts and WHO Expert Committee report 'Pesticide Residues in Food'.1972: First major UN international Conference on Environment in Stockholm, Sweden and the establishment of UNEP.

1974: ILO Occupational Cancer Convention (No 139) – Convention concerning prevention and control of occupational hazards caused by carcinogenic substances and agents; entered into force in 1976.

1977: Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention (No 148) – Convention concerning the protection of workers against occupational hazards in the working environment due to air pollution, noise and vibration; entered into force in 1979.

1980: International Programme for Chemical Safety (IPCS) – a cooperative programme of the WHO, UNEP and ILO – established following the UN Conference on the Human Environment (1972). Hosted by the WHO, this programme aimed to establish the scientific basis for the sound management of chemicals, and to strengthen national capabilities and capacities for chemical safety.[16] UNEP withdrew from this Programme and today, it remains an initiative of WHO and ILO.

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[11] Broughton, E (2005) The Bhopal disaster and its aftermath: a review. Environmental Health: A Global Access Science Source 4(6).
[12] The Independent (2017) Bhopal disaster victims may never get compensation following Dow-DuPont merger, fears UN official. Thursday 14 September. https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/bhopal-disaster-victims-dow-dupont-merger-un-india-official-gas-leak-chemical-industrial-a7946346.html
[13] The Independent (2006) Toxic shock: how Western rubbish is destroying Africa. Thursday 21 September. https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/toxic-shock-how-western-rubbish-is-destroying-africa-5330605.html
[14] Blowers, A (2006) Transboundary transfers of hazardous and radioactive wastes. In: Sloep, PB; Blowers, A (Eds) Environmental Policy in an International Context. Chapter 6, pp.151-186. Elsevier Ltd.
[15] The Independent (2006) Toxic shock: how Western rubbish is destroying Africa. Thursday 21 September. https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/toxic-shock-how-western-rubbish-is-destroying-africa-5330605.html
[16] WHO (2018) International Programme on Chemical Safety, Accessed at: http://www.who.int/ipcs/en/

1986: ILO Asbestos Convention (No 162) Convention concerning safety in use of asbestos; entered into force in 1989.

1989: Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal – was adopted in response to a public outcry following the discovery, in the 1980s, in Africa and other parts of the developing world of deposits of toxic wastes imported from abroad. The Convention came into force in 1992. Its principal aims are to control the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and promote environmentally sound waste management.[17]

1990: ILO Chemicals Convention, (No. 170) – Convention concerning Safety in the use of Chemicals at Work; entered into force 1993 – setting out responsibility of employers, duties of workers, rights of workers and their representatives and responsibility of exporting states.

1991: Bamako Convention on the ban on the import of all hazardous and radioactive wastes into Africa and to minimize and control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes within the African continent; entered into force in 1998. The impetus for the Bamako convention arose, in part, from the failure of the Basel Convention to prohibit trade of hazardous waste to less developed countries as evidenced by the Koko case in Nigeria (see paragraph 10 above).[18]

1992: Agenda 21 Chapter 19 – laid out the plan of action to ensure the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products, agreed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) – the Earth Summit.[19] (The six programme areas of work defined by the plan of action are reflected in SAICM.)

1993: ILO Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention (No 174). Convention concerning the prevention of major industrial accidents; entered into force in 1997.

1994: The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) was established. Its first meeting was in April 1994 at the International Conference on Chemical Safety, convened by the Executive Heads of UNEP, ILO and WHO, at the invitation of the government of Sweden. The IFCS had a non-institutional arrangement whereby representatives of Governments met, together with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to consider all aspects of the assessment and management of chemicals. The aim was to integrate and consolidate national and international efforts to promote the objectives of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21. The IFCS was established to provide policy guidance, identify priorities, develop strategies and, where appropriate, make recommendations to Governments, international organizations, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations involved in chemical risk assessment and environmentally sound management of chemicals. Meetings of the IFCS laid much of the foundation to develop the Strategic Approach.

1995: The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. The participating organizations are the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), , the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (joined in 1997). The purpose of the IOMC is to promote coordination of the policies and activities pursued by the participating organizations, jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment. It is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding written in 1995 and signed by the executive heads of each of the participating

[17] Basel Convention (2018) Overview. Accessed at: http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/Overview/tabid/1271/Default.aspx

[18] https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/environmental-governance/what-we-do/strengthening-institutions/bamako-convention

[19] UNCED (1992) Agenda 21 – Chapter 19: Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products. Accessed at: http://www.un-documents.net/a21-19.htm

organizations.[20] The World Bank and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) joined in 2010 and 2012, respectively.

1998: Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides – places a duty on those countries exporting banned or restricted hazardous chemicals and pesticides to fully inform and request permission from the importing country about the trade and to provide full information about the hazardous chemicals/ pesticides.[21]

2000: The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted at the September 2000 Millennium Summit, defined targets to be realised by 2015 aimed at reducing poverty, hunger and disease amongst others. Whilst the sustainable management of chemicals was not explicitly referred to in any of the targets or goals, UNDP inferred the importance of chemicals management in achieving the goals.[22]

2001: Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants –prohibits, production, use, export and import of different categories of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), requires measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes, and seeks their ultimate elimination.[23]

2002: World Summit on Sustainable Development – Johannesburg Plan of Implementation – defined the 2020 goal of 'aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment'. This goal is the overall objective of SAICM.

2006: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is finalized with a ministerial declaration that declares that the sound management of chemicals is essential to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development.

2007: WHO International Health Regulations entered into force – aiming to help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide.

2012: The 2012 Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development, which in its outcome document "The Future We Want" addressed in-depth the need to ensure the sound management of chemicals and waste, including in its paragraph 213 the reaffirmation of "our aim to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment".

2013: Minamata Convention on Mercury – bans the creation of new mercury mines and regulates the phase-out of existing ones; the phase out and phase down of mercury used in a range of products and processes; control measures on emissions to air and on releases to land and water; requires governments to regulate the informal sector of artisanal and small-scale gold mining.[24] The convention entered into force in 2017.

2015: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Chemicals management is embedded throughout the SDGs and, is mainstreamed into the goals. A review of the targets associated with each SDG reveals the pervasiveness of the sound management and chemicals and waste in the

[20] https://www.who.int/iomc/participants/iomc-mou.pdf
[21] Rotterdam Convention (2018) Overview. Accessed at: http://www.pic.int/TheConvention/Overview/tabid/1044/language/en-US/Default.aspx
[22] See UNDP (undated) How is the sound management of chemicals related to the Millennium Development Goals? UNDP Environment and Energy Group, Bureau for Development Policy. Available at: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals_management/how-is-the-sound-management-of-chemicals-related-to-the-mdgs.html (Accessed 1 November, 2018).
[23] Stockholm Convention (2018) Overview. Accessed at: http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/Overview/tabid/3351/Default.aspx
[24] UN Environment (2018) Minamata Convention on Mercury. Accessed at: http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Convention/tabid/3426/language/en-US/Default.aspx

2030 agenda as well as the centrality of ensuring vulnerable groups are 'not left behind'. Target 12.4 of the SDGs, which contains the commitment "By 2020, (to) achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment". The 2020 goal contained in SDG target 12.4 reflects the evolution of multilateral commitment from the Johannesburg Plan of Action goal to the Rio+20 The Future We Want 2020 goal and most recently the 2020 goal contained in the 2030 Agenda. This evolution has also been reflected in ICCM resolutions, including the objective contained in ICCM resolution IV/4 for ICCM "to take an informed decision on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and of the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.[25]

SCOPE, METHODS AND THEORY OF CHANGE APPROACH

12. The terms of reference for the evaluation are set out in the Annex to ICCM resolution IV/4.[26]

13. SAICM is an international, multi-stakeholder non-legally binding agreement defined in the Dubai Declaration and developed through resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. Government delegates from 117 countries (plus observers from 27 countries)[27], together with representatives from Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO), the chemical producing industry and civil society undertook to actively promote and further the sound management of chemicals through the adoption of the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS). The OPS articulates the scope and objectives of SAICM together with financial considerations and institutional arrangements for implementation and monitoring progress.[28]

Institutional arrangements within the voluntary multi-sectoral approach of the Strategic Approach

14. The SAICM institutional structure and stakeholders are shown in Figure 1 below. The Figure depicts the institutional relationships described in paragraph 15-28 below.

Figure 1: SAICM Institutional structure (2006-2015)

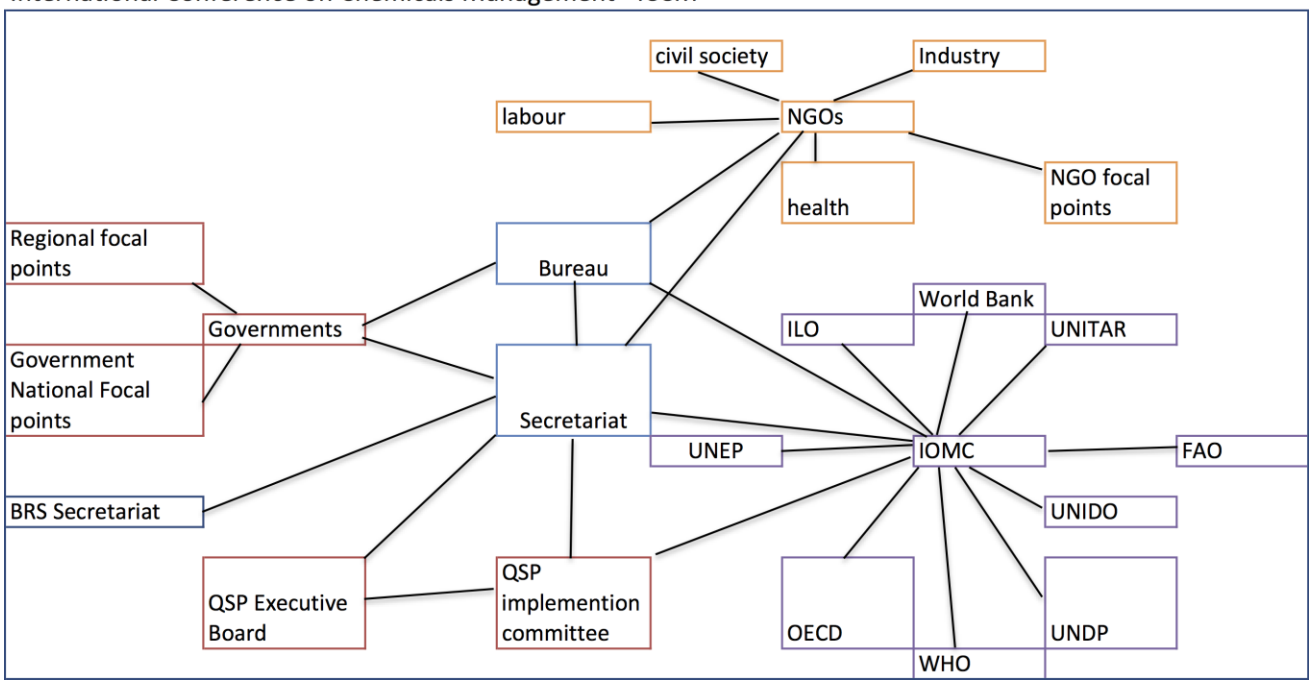
[25] It has been pointed out that a significant difference between the SAICM overall objective and target 12.4, is that the latter has broadened the scope from minimising significant adverse effects, to that of minimising all adverse impacts (Honkonen, T; Khan, SA (2017) Chemicals and Waste Governance Beyond 2020: Exploring Pathways for a Coherent Global Regime. Nordic Council of Ministers.

[26] SAICM/ICCM.4/15 pp. 49-50

[27] SAICM/ICCM.1/7, paragraphs 16 & 17.

[28] See SAICM (2006) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. UNEP, WHO.

International Conference on Chemicals Management - ICCM



15. The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) convenes regularly (every three years until 2015) and brings together all stakeholders. The Conference represents the decision-making body of SAICM (see Figure 2 below).

16. The SAICM Bureau comprises five government representatives, one from each region (endorsed at each Conference): Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, Western Europe and Others Group, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Bureau members are typically representatives from the ministries of environment or foreign affairs. One Bureau member serves as President with the other four members serving as vice-presidents. In addition to these five Bureau members, an additional five Government representatives are invited to participate in Bureau meetings – the regional focal points. The regional focal points role is set out in ICCM resolution II/2 including: chairing regional meetings, disseminating information of interest to focal points within their region, collecting views from Strategic Approach national focal points on matters of interest to the region, and assisting in the flow of information and views from the region to its respective Bureau member.[29]

17. In light of the multi-stakeholder character of the Strategic Approach, the President of the Bureau invites four representatives of non-governmental participants and one representative of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to participate in the discussions during the meetings of the Bureau for the purpose of advising and responding to the Bureau, unless the Bureau decides that part or all of its meeting shall be limited to governmental participants. The four non-government representatives represent the health sector, labour, civil society (public interest groups represented by an IPEN participating organization since ICCM1) and the chemical producing industry (represented by ICCA since ICCM1). Their role is to advise the Bureau on the views and perspectives of the stakeholders that they represent.

18. All SAICM representatives – Government and non-government alike – have served, until 2015, a three-year term with nominations of new representatives for each stakeholder group endorsed at each ICCM.

19. The SAICM Secretariat serves the International Conference, Bureau meetings and intersessional meetings, as well as regional meetings where appropriate (see Figure 2, below). It is responsible for stakeholder coordination and has reporting duties. The duties of the Secretariat are laid out in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy:

[29] SAICM/ICCM.2/15, p. 32, paragraph 9

- To facilitate meetings and intersessional work of the Conference [ICCM], as well as regional meetings, with maximum multi-stakeholder participation, and to disseminate the reports and recommendations of the Conference;
- To report to the Conference on the implementation of the Strategic Approach by all participants;
- To promote the establishment and maintenance of a network of Strategic Approach stakeholders at the national, regional and, in the case of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international levels;
- To facilitate the development and dissemination of guidance materials to support implementation of the Strategic Approach by stakeholders;
- To provide guidance to stakeholders in the initiation of project proposals;
- To provide information clearing-house services such as provision of advice to countries on implementation of the Strategic Approach, referral of requests for information to relevant sources and facilitation of access to information and expertise in support of specific national actions;
- To ensure that recommendations from the Conference are conveyed to relevant global and regional organizations and institutions;
- To promote the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information;
- To establish and maintain a working relationship with participating organizations of IOMC in order to draw upon their sectoral expertise.

20. In addition to the activities listed above, the Secretariat was also mandated to facilitate the operation of the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP), in accordance with its agreed term:[30]

- Provide administrative support to the QSP trust fund;
- Receive project proposals and screen them before submitting them to the QSP trust fund Implementation Committee; and,
- Facilitate meetings of the QSP trust fund Implementation Committee and the QSP Executive Board.

21. A thirteenth activity was added to the project's mandate in the original project document:[31]
- Administration of the Information Exchange Network on Capacity-Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals INFOCAP[32] - as part of the development of the information clearing house.

22. National government focal points from all five regions are the conduit by which SAICM is implemented at the national level. Governments have been invited by the SAICM Secretariat to designate a national focal point. These have been predominantly representatives from the ministries of environment (80%+), with the remaining representatives coming from ministries of health, agriculture and foreign affairs. The SAICM Overall Policy Strategy, in its paragraph 23, provides the role of national focal points.

23. The IOMC, a co-convenor of the first international conference (ICCM1 in 2006), has played a key role in the implementation of SAICM through its capacity-strengthening programmes designed to support countries in the Africa, Asia-Pacific Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean regions to implement SAICM. IOMC Participating Organizations (IOMC POs) delivered this support through their sectorial work and their role as executing agencies on the QSP projects, supporting development of project proposals, and providing online chemicals management tools.

[30] SAICM Secretariat Original Project Document (2006), p 12
[31] SAICM Original Project Document (2006), p 12
[32] See https://old.saicm.org/images/saicm_documents/infocap.htm

24. The NGO focal points support the implementation of SAICM at the national level. Civil society and health and labour sector and scientific sector NGOs play an important role in the implementation of SAICM through their work in activities such as: seeking reforms in national, state and provincial chemicals-related policies, laws and regulations; campaigning to end industrial polluting practices and to highlight the presence of toxic chemicals in children's toys; campaigning for the establishment of national pollutant release and transfer registries (PRTRs); seeking to end the misuse and reliance on pesticides in agriculture; monitoring human blood for toxic chemicals and to publicise results; opposing improper waste disposal, and promoting waste minimisation; advocating on behalf of workers, farmers and fishing communities to protect against chemical exposure and chemical hazards in the workplace[33], defining the principles of green chemistry, the assessment of the hazards of nanomaterials and the creation of education and information exchange for various groups of people and industry.

25. The chemical producing industry plays a role in supporting the implementation of SAICM through its promotion of the Responsible Care programme and Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) implementation. The crop protection industry also provides training and capacity-building for regulators and for farmers in pesticide management. Container management of pesticides and contributions to programmes to deal with obsolete stocks of pesticides are part of industry's support of SAICM, although the scale of the problem is large and much remains to be done. Industry works closely with IOMC members and supports them in chemicals management programmes, through the production of online chemical management tools. In support of SAICM, the pharmaceutical industry has developed an environmental management approach – Eco-Pharmaco-Stewardship – aimed at environmental risk assessments.[34]

26. The joint Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) secretariat is responsible for preparing and servicing the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the BRS conventions and their subsidiary bodies, to receive and convey information related to implementation of the BRS conventions to assist or facilitate assistance to parties upon request and to coordinate with other international bodies as appropriate.[35] The goals of the three conventions broadly aim to protect human health and the environment from chemicals and waste and promote sustainable development, as does the SAICM goal. These secretariats collaborate with the SAICM secretariat in their respective work through sharing information, hosting joint events, and participating in each other's activities as appropriate. The BRS secretariat provides inputs to relevant SAICM processes in areas of common interest.[36] [37]

27. The QSP was designed as a voluntary, time-limited programme to fund projects that "support activities to enable initial capacity building and implementation in developing countries, least developed countries, and small island developing States and countries with economies in transition". The QSP Executive Board provided oversight and accountability for the QSP trust fund. The Board comprised two government representatives from each of the five UN regions and all the bilateral and multilateral donors and other contributors to the programme.

28. The QSP trust fund Implementation Committee was the body responsible for reviewing and selecting proposals and monitoring performance. The committee was comprised of representatives from each of the IOMC organizations.

[33] IPEN (2014) An NGO Guide to SAICM, pp. 39-41
[34] SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.1/3
[35] see http://www.brsmeas.org/Secretariat/Overview/tabid/3609/language/en-US/Default.aspx
[36] Tuula Honkonen and Sabaa A. Khan (2017) Chemicals and Waste Governance beyond 2020: Exploring pathways for a coherent global regime. p. 71
[37] The Minamata Convention that entered into force in 2017. As with the BRS Secretariat, the Minamata Secretariat will collaborate with the SAICM Secretariat.

Management of the Strategic Approach

29. The stakeholders listed in Figure 1 have been collectively responsible for the delivery of SAICM over the 2006-2015 period. The SAICM secretariat has played a central role in supporting and enabling stakeholders to deliver on their commitments under SAICM.

30. Figure 2 below shows the timeline of the SAICM process – the three-yearly conferences and the events that took place between them until 2015. The management and delivery of the SAICM process (i.e. the events/activities depicted in Figure 2) were primarily the responsibility of the SAICM Secretariat, located within the Chemicals and Health Branch of UNEP.[38]

31. In 2006, the first Conference (ICCM1) was convened, attended by government delegates from 177 countries (plus observers from 27 countries), together with representatives from Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO), industry and civil society.[39] ICCM1 resulted in the Dubai Declaration, the Overarching Policy Strategy, the Global Plan of Action and the adoption of resolutions that included the implementation arrangements (the ToR for the SAICM Secretariat), and the institutional arrangements for the Quick Start Programme.[40]

32. The Open-Ended Legal and Technical Working Group (OELTWG) was convened at ICCM1 with the purpose of developing a proposal for the rules of procedure of the Conference, to be presented for consideration at ICCM2.[41] The OELTWG met in Rome 21-24 October 2008.[42] The rules of procedure were accepted at ICCM2 and were spelt out in Resolution ll/1. The rules covered stakeholder definitions and participation, setting of ICCM agendas, the officers and operation of the Bureau, the role of the secretariat, establishment of subsidiary bodies and the process of decision-making.[43]

33. The Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) was established as a subsidiary body at ICCM2 with the purpose of preparing proposals to further the 2020 goal, reviewing the outcomes of regional meetings, identifying priority issues and drafting resolutions for consideration at ICCM.[44] The OEWG convened one meeting between each ICCM (as reflected in paragraph 4, Resolution ll/6). These meetings were held 15-18 November 2011 and 15-17 December 2014.[45]

34. The SAICM Bureau, mandated at ICCM2 to meet as required – remotely or in person – to advise the President (of the Bureau) and the SAICM secretariat on the conduct of SAICM business, convened two teleconferences in 2009, in preparation for ICCM2, two meetings in 2010 and 2011, in preparation for ICCM3, and three meetings in 2013, 2014 and 2015 in preparation for ICCM4.[46]

35. The Overarching Policy Strategy envisaged regional meetings as an essential component of the implementation of the Strategic Approach within the regions, specifically to:

(i) Review progress on implementation of SAICM;
(ii) Provide guidance in implementation to stakeholders;

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[38] The overall objective of the Secretariat as stated in the original Secretariat project document was "… to maximise the number of countries and stakeholders participating in the implementation of SAICM by providing the necessary secretariat services called for in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy and ICCM Resolution l/4" (original project document, p.10).
[39] SAICM/ICCM.1/7, paragraphs 16-20 for a complete list of representatives.
[40] SAICM (2006) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. UNEP, WHO.
[41] Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session. SAICM/ICCM.1/7, paragraph 9.
[42] See SAICM/ICCM..2/2 for the report of the OELTWG meeting.
[43] SAICM/ICCM.2/15, pp.23-31.
[44] SAICM/ICCM.2/15, Resolution l/6.
[45] For report of OEWG1, see SAICM/OEWG.1/19. For report of OEWG2, see SAICM/OEWG.2/13*
[46] See https://old.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=79&Itemid=482 for minutes of these meetings.

(iii) Enable discussions and exchange of information to take place.[47]

36. Over the period 2006-2015 five meetings took place in the Africa Region, The Central and Eastern Europe Region and the Western Europe and Others Region, and four meetings took place in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region and Asia-Pacific Region (see Figure 2).[48]

37. The Quick Start Programme Implementation Committee convened six monthly meetings to review applications, monitor progress of funded projects and report to the Quick Start Programme Executive Board. The Executive Board met annually over the period 2006-2015 (see Figure 2).[49]

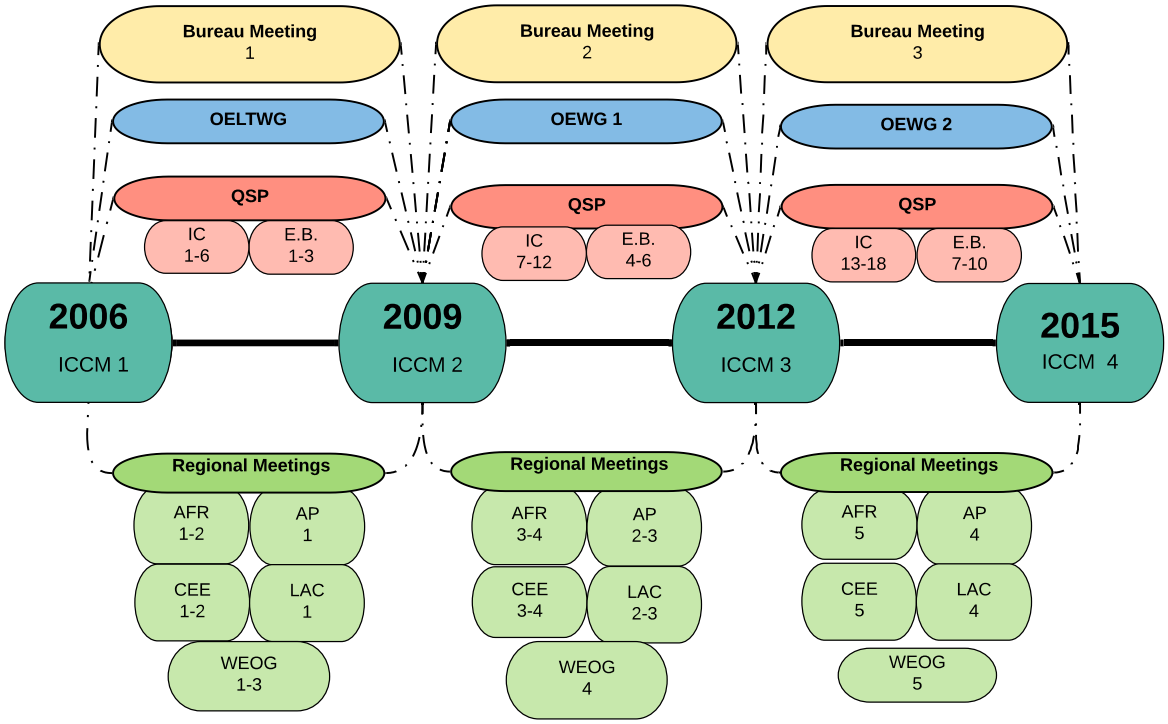
38. The SAICM Secretariat, hosted in UNEP's Chemicals and Health Branch in Geneva, played a central management role in ensuring the coordination and smooth operation of the SAICM institutions presented in Figure 2. (The specific functions of the Secretariat are presented in paragraph 19 above.)

[47] See SAICM (2006) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. UNEP, WHO, Overarching Policy Strategy, paragraph 26

[48] See https://old.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=98&Itemid=492 for the meeting reports

[49] See https://old.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=164&Itemid=503 for the reports of the 18 QSP Trust Fund Implementing Committee, and https://old.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=106&Itemid=501 for the reports of the 10 QSP Executive Board meetings.

Figure 2: Timeline of SAICM process (2006-2015)



Theory of Change

39. The Theory of Change maps the pathways by which SAICM seeks to deliver on the overall objective 'to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment'.[50] The Theory of Change provides a framework to assess the degree of success that SAICM has had in achieving the overall objective.

40. No Theory of Change was constructed at the outset of SAICM in 2006. The Theory of Change presented in this section has been developed from the original SAICM texts and resolutions.[51] Figure 3 depicts the Theory of Change for this evaluation.

41. The outputs from the SAICM process were the resolutions, procedures and modalities agreed upon at the conferences – ICCM1, ICCM2, ICCM3 and ICCM4. These outputs arose as a direct consequence of the activities undertaken – the Conference, associated Bureau meetings, and inter-sessional meetings (Open Ended Working Group and Regional meetings). Successful completion of these activities was expected to result in the delivery of the outputs shown in Figure 3.

42. The outcomes that were assumed to arise from successful completion of the outputs were – the delivery of the portfolio of QSP projects, delivery of the initiatives agreed upon for each emerging policy issue and an effective monitoring system for tracking progress in achieving the 2020 goal.

43. The realization of the SAICM outcomes depended on a number of drivers – that is factors that would influence the success in achieving the outcomes that were under the sphere of influence of the SAICM stakeholders. These were: the capacity of the secretariat to deliver on its functions;

[50] SAICM (2006) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. UNEP, WHO, Overarching Policy Strategy, paragraph 13

[51] The Theory of Change framework employed for the SAICM impact evaluation has been adapted from the UN Environment's framework, see UN Environment Evaluation Office (2018) Introduction to Theory of Change.

information sharing and collaboration between stakeholders; adequate financing available to deliver the outcomes.

44. The outputs and outcomes were the direct remit of SAICM and its stakeholders (shown in Figure 1). The wider goals of SAICM are shown in Figure 3 – Intermediate State l, Intermediate State ll and Impact. SAICM, as an international voluntary agreement, was envisaged to contribute to these wider goals, with the recognition that SAICM's contribution was one part of the broader international community's efforts to achieve these goals. This evaluation also addresses how effective SAICM has been in contributing to these goals.

45. Successful realisation of the outcomes directly contributes to the achievement of Intermediate State l: strengthened capacity, commitment, technical and scientific knowledge, political will to implement and mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste. However, a significant driver enabling SAICM outcomes to contribute to Intermediate State l is the ability and capacity of National Focal Point to "…act as an effective conduit for communication on Strategic Approach matters..." and "…to facilitate communication, nationally and internationally..."[52]

46. With strengthened capacity, commitment, technical and scientific knowledge, as well as the political will to implement and mainstream SAICM (Intermediate State l), SAICM stakeholders will be a position to contribute to the five OPS five objectives of risk reduction, knowledge and information sharing, governance, capacity-building, illegal international traffic – Intermediate State ll. The overall impact presented in the Theory of Change is the 2020 goal. Delivering on the five OPS objectives will contribute to the realization of the 2020 goal.

47. Typically, the timeline presented in a Theory of Change extends well beyond the initial project intervention and the delivery of the project's outputs and outcomes. The intermediate states and overall impact may occur several years after the completion of the project. In the case of SAICM, the intermediate states and overall impact were envisaged to be achieved during the lifetime of SAICM.

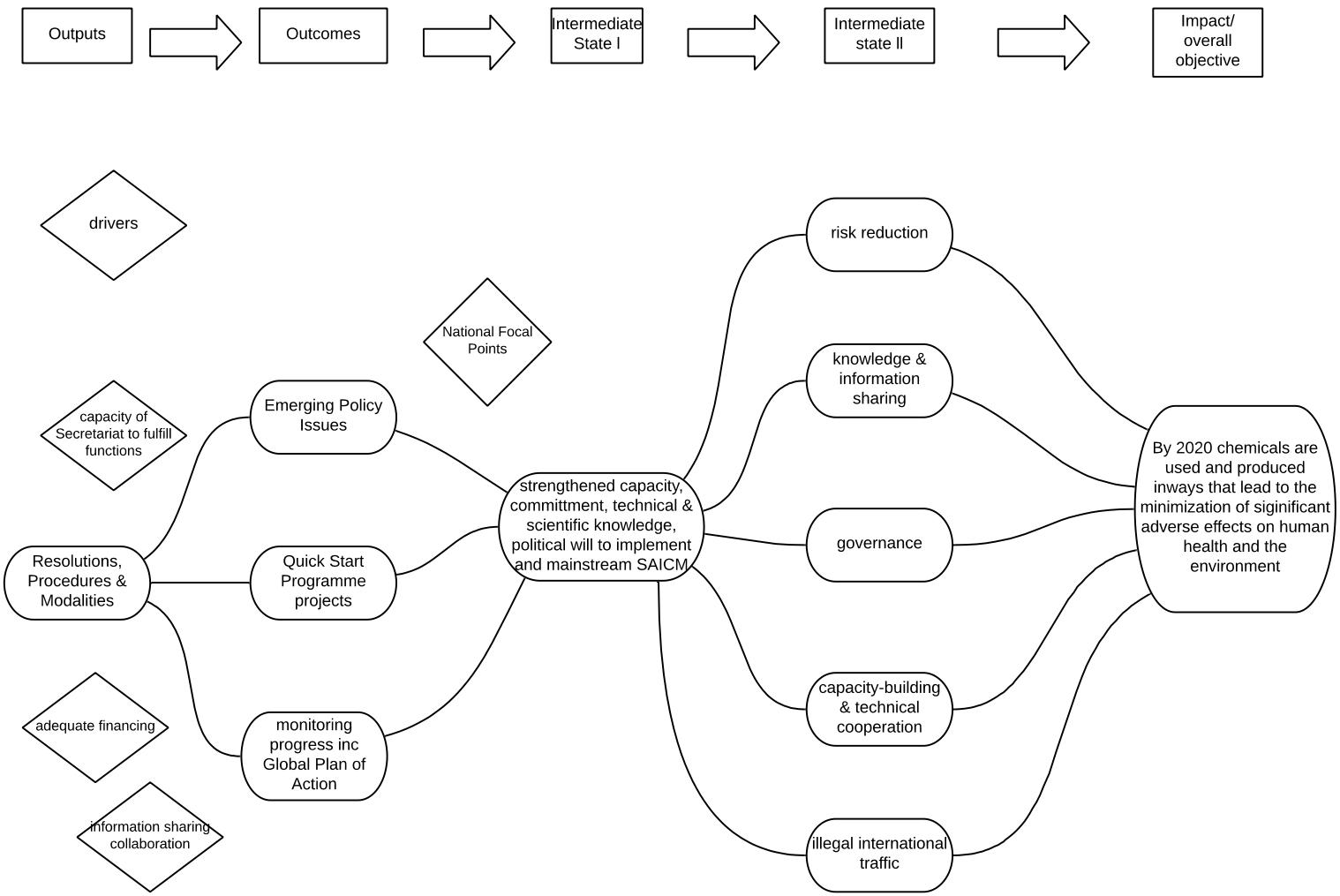
48. The structure of the sections that follow are aligned with the pathways presented in the Theory of Change (Figure 3). The next section describes the outputs – the resolutions, procedures and modalities of SAICM (paragraph 51 to paragraph 123 of this report). This is followed by an analysis of the outcomes – the EPIs, the QSP and monitoring progress (paragraph 124 to paragraph 183). An assessment of the drivers of change – capacity of SAICM secretariat, levels of financing and degree of information sharing and collaboration – is then made (paragraph 184 to paragraph 212). The data used to inform this part of the evaluation has been drawn primarily from SAICM documents and reports, and reports produced by SAICM stakeholders.

49. Analysis of progress made in strengthening capacity, commitment, technical knowledge, political will to implement and mainstream SAICM (Intermediate State l) (paragraph 213 to paragraph 282) is drawn from interview data with National Focal Points. This is followed by an assessment of the capacity of National Focal Points to deliver on their role (paragraphs 283 to 302). Interviews with NFPs provide the data for this assessment.

50. Assessment of progress made in achieving the five OPS objectives (Intermediate State ll) (paragraph 301 to paragraph 375) is drawn from data the online survey with SAICM stakeholders and a review of SAICM reports and documents, as well as SAICM stakeholder reports, UN reports and academic articles. Assessment of the degree to which the 2020 goal has been reached (paragraph 378 to paragraph 392) is based on NFP interviews and the literature. The overall conclusions of the evaluation are presented (paragraph 394 to paragraph 438).

[52] SAICM/ICCM.1/7, p. 25, paragraph 23

Figure 3: Evaluator's Reconstructed Theory of Change



OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS OF SAICM

Outputs: Resolutions, Procedures and Modalities

51. The resolutions agreed at each Conference (see Figure 2 above) represent a main output of SAICM. Table 1 below lists the resolutions endorsed at each Conference – ICCM1 to ICCM4.

ICCM1

52. One hundred and fifty-four Governments were represented at ICCM1, together with representatives from 20 intergovernmental organizations and 45 non-government organizations.[53]

53. The Dubai Declaration, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action were agreed at ICCM1. The overall objective of SAICM articulated in the Overarching Policy Strategy was to: achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimisation of significant adverse effect on human health and the environment. The overall objective had five components:

- Risk reduction
- Knowledge and information
- Governance
- Capacity-building and technical cooperation
- Illegal international traffic

54. Section V of the Overarching Policy Strategy described the financial aspects of SAICM. As a voluntary international agreement, achieving SAICM objectives were dependent on voluntary financial contributions. Section V provided a range of suggestions as to how financial resources could be leveraged. These included:

- Integrating SAICM objectives in relevant programmes and plans;
- Assessing and adopting economic instruments intended to internalise the external costs of chemicals;
- Strengthening current voluntary industry initiatives;
- Developing new initiatives and partnerships with foundations, academia and non-governmental organizations;
- Provision of in-kind contribution;
- Donors responding to requests from developing countries;
- UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations including SAICM objectives within their activities;
- Making more effective use and building upon existing sources of relevant global funding;
- Establishing the QSP;
- Governments and other stakeholders, including industry and non-governmental organizations, providing resources to enable the secretariat to fulfill its mandated functions set out in paragraph 28 of the OPS.[54]

[53] SACIM/ICCM.1/7 paragraphs 16-20
[54] SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 19

Table 1: ICCM Resolutions

ICCM1	ICCM2	ICCM3	ICCM4
I/1: Implementing arrangements	**II/1**: Rules of procedure of the International Conference on Chemicals Management	**III/I**: Financial and technical resources for implementation of the Strategic Approach	**IV/1**: Implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal
I/2: Tribute to the Government of the United Arab Emirates	**II/2**: Regional activities and coordination	**III/2**: Emerging policy issues	**IV/2**: Emerging policy issues
I/3: Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety	**II/3**: Financial and technical resources for implementation	**III/3**: Managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives	**IV/3**: Highly hazardous pesticides
I/4: Quick Start Programme	**II/4**: Emerging policy issues	**III/4**: Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach	**IV/4**: The Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020
	II/5: Managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives	**III/5**: Indicative budget and staffing table for the period 2013−2015	**IV/5**: Activities of the secretariat and budget
	II/6: Establishment of an open-ended working group		
	II/7: Commission on Sustainable Development		
	II/8: Health aspects of the sound management of chemicals		
	II/9: Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety		
	II/10: Indicative budget, staffing table and programme of work for the period 2010–2012		

55. The financial considerations of the OPS were a contentious issue at ICCM1. The main area of contention related to the removal of specific references to the World Bank and the GEF in that section. The draft Overarching Policy Strategy had these

two institutions named (in square brackets).[55] One participant opposing their inclusion, argued that these two institutions "… were dedicated to alleviating poverty and should therefore not be specifically mentioned in a scheme for chemicals management."[56]

56. Many participants objected to the deletion of reference to the two institutions asserting that environmental protection and chemicals management were core to alleviating poverty. They cited Millennium Development Goal 7 on environmental sustainability that explicitly linked environmental protection to sustainable development. Other participants objected to the removal of the World Bank and GEF from 'financial considerations'. They stressed the need for a reliable and sustainable financial mechanism to underpin activities needed to achieve the 2020 goal.[57]

57. In the event, references to the World Bank were removed from the final agreed Overarching Policy Strategy. However, during the final debate, Switzerland wished it to be noted that its agreement to accept the deletion of references to the World Bank from various parts of the Strategic Approach documents was based on the understanding that the World Bank would be covered by any references to the IOMC once it had joined the IOMC,[58] (although the IOMC was not specifically referred to in Section V – financial considerations). The World Bank joined the IOMC four years later in 2010.

58. During the final debate, it was also agreed that the ICCM1 report would reflect the view of some participants, that the possibility of GEF opening a "chemicals window" should be discussed at ICCM2.[59] However, no such discussion took place. (In 2018, the GEF approved an US$ 8.18 million project "Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management'.[60])

59. Section Vll of the OPS – implementation and taking stock of progress – outlined the functions of ICCM and regional meetings. This section also detailed the functions of the secretariat (see paragraph 20 above).[61]

60. The Global Plan of Action comprised 273 activities across the five OPS objectives and work areas. Each activity had associated targets and timeframes, indicators of progress and actors to be involved in their implementation.[62]

61. Resolution l/1 outlined the implementation arrangements for SAICM called upon delegates to participate in SAICM through: designating national and regional focal points, holding regional meetings, providing financial support, technical assistance and training to Governments of least developed countries and small Island developing States. The resolution also invited UNEP and WHO to provide staff and resources to enable them to take lead roles in the SAICM Secretariat, welcoming the offer of UNEP and potential offer from WHO, to provide a professional staff member of the secretariat. The resolution also invited UNEP and IOMC organizations to

[55] See SAICM/ICCM.1/3
[56] SAICM/ICCM.1/7 paragraph 28
[57] SAICM/ICCM1.1/7 paragraphs 29 and 30
[58] SAICM/ICCM.1/7 paragraph 68
[59] SAICM/ICCM.1.7 paragraph 67
[60] SAICM/OEWG.3/6, p. 3
[61] SAICM/ICCM1.7 pp. 24-26
[62] SAICM/ICCM.1/7 pp. 33-93

facilitate the development of the Quick Start Programme.[63] Resolution l/2 paid tribute to the Government of the United Arab Emirates or hosting ICCM1.

62. Notwithstanding the decision of ICCM1 not to formally incorporate the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety into SAICM, Resolution l/3 invited the Forum to continue its important role in providing an open, transparent and inclusive forum for discussing issues of common interest. The resolution also requested the SAICM secretariat to establish and maintain a working relationship with the Forum in order to draw upon its expertise.

63. Resolution l/4 established the QSP, its institutional arrangements and strategic priorities. The Appendices to this resolution identified the strategic priorities of the QSP and the terms of reference for the QSP Trust Fund. The three strategic priorities were:

- Development or updating of national chemical profiles and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management;
- Development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement the Strategic Approach, building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals-related agreements and initiatives;
- Undertaking analysis, interagency coordination, and public participation activities directed at enabling the implementation of the Strategic Approach by integrating – i.e., mainstreaming – the sound management of chemicals in national strategies, and thereby informing development assistance cooperation priorities.[64]

ICCM2

64. One hundred and forty-six Government representatives registered for ICCM2 together with representatives from 25 intergovernmental organizations and 59 representatives of non-government organizations.[65]

65. Resolution ll/1 focused on the rules of procedure for the ICCM. These rules were drafted and proposed by the OELTWG, established at ICCM1. Forty-six rules covered rules of participation by inter-governmental and non-governmental participants; the setting of the agenda for each conference; representation, credentials and accreditation of participants (governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental); officers and operation of the Bureau; functions of the Secretariat; subsidiary bodies; conduct of business; adoption of decisions; public and private sessions; languages of the conference; amendments to rules of procedure.[66]

66. The success of the regional meetings held between ICCM1 and ICCM2 led to the adoption of Resolution ll/2 that underlined the important role of regional meetings and coordination mechanisms in enabling stakeholders in each region to exchange experiences and identify regional priority needs. The resolution encouraged regions to develop SAICM implementation plans, and further, called for regional organizations, Governments and financial institutions to provide resources – both financial and in kind support – to support regional networks. The resolution also assigned

[63] ICCM1, Resolution l/1, paragraphs 6-14
[64] SAICM/ICCM.1/7 pp. 101-104
[65] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 paragraphs 20-26
[66] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 pp. 23-31

responsibility to the SAICM Secretariat to assist in regional coordination, including through the provision of teleconference services and use of the SAICM website.[67]

67. Reflecting the voluntary nature of SAICM, Resolution ll/3 invited all stakeholders to provide funding for the implementation of SAICM. The resolution reiterated the invitation to stakeholders in Section V – financial considerations – of the OPS, to: integrate SAICM objectives in multilateral and bilateral development assistance cooperation to facilitate the allocation of necessary resources at the national, subregional, regional, bilateral and multilateral levels; international financial institutions to build on existing synergies and to strengthen their support for activities contributing to SAICM objectives including through in-kind contributions.

68. Resolution ll/3 also recognised the need to broaden the donor base for the QSP and urged all stakeholders – Government and non-government alike – to contribute to the QSP.

69. The resolution also invited stakeholders to assess the steps that they had taken to implement the financial arrangements called for in this resolution, and to report to the Secretariat in preparation for a review and evaluation of the adequacy of financial arrangement for SAICM implementation at ICCM3.[68]

70. Resolution ll/4 was aimed at emerging policy issues identified at ICCM2 and deemed to be of sufficient importance and priority for achieving the 2020 goal, whilst not having been generally recognized or sufficiently addressed to date. The four issues identified as such at ICCM2 were: lead in paint, chemicals in products; hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products; nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.[69]

71. Addressing the 'lead in paint' issue focused on advocating for a global partnership to promote phasing out the use of lead in paints that would adopt terms of reference based on those presented at ICCM2.[70] The resolution requested that UNEP and WHO serve as the secretariat for the global partnership, and that the partnership developed a business plan articulating clear milestones for progress in achieving a global phase-out of lead in paint in the following areas:

- Raising awareness of toxicity to human health and the environment and alternatives;
- Guidance and assistance to identify potential lead exposure;
- Assistance to industry (manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers);
- Prevention programmes to reduce exposure;
- Promotion of national regulatory frameworks.

72. Addressing the 'chemicals in products' issue primarily focused on establishing a project to collect and review existing data on information systems pertaining to chemicals in products (including regulations, standards and industry practices), assessing that information, identifying gaps and developing specific recommendations to address those information gaps. The resolution requested UNEP to lead and facilitate the project, proposing that the information clearing house mechanism (see

[67] For details of Resolution ll/2 see SAICM/ICCM.2/15 pp. 31-32
[68] For details of Resolution ll/3 see SAICM/ICCM.2/15 pp. 32-33
[69] SACIM/ICCM.2/15 pp. 34-40
[70] SAICM/ICCM.2/10/Add.1

paragraph 19, above) be used for the project. The project was to be overseen by a steering group comprising one expert from each region nominated by the SAICM Bureau, together with four representatives of non-government participants represented on the Bureau and one representative of IOMC. Progress made in the 'chemicals in products' project was to be reported at OEWG1 and ICCM3.

73. Resolution ll/4 called for IOMC and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to develop, plan and convene a workshop to consider issues in relation to hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products that would develop a series of options and recommendations for future work. The workshop outcomes were to be shared at ICCM3.

74. In regard to the fourth emerging policy issue agreed at ICCM2, conference invited the OECD, other members of OECD and the International Organization for Standardization to engage in dialogue with stakeholders with a view to gaining further understanding of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, in particular, around issues of relevance to developing countries and economies in transition. A report on the progress made to be shared at ICCM3. The resolution requested that SAICM stakeholders facilitate access to relevant information; to share new information as it became available; to use regional meetings to increase understanding of the information available. The resolution also noted for the SAICM website and the information clearing house as mechanisms to facilitate the engagement.

75. The Annex to Resolution ll/4 provided details of the process for proposing new emerging policy issues and the mechanism by which these would become recognised by ICCM as emerging policy issues.

76. Resolution ll/5 arose as a result of ICCM2 failing to come to a consensus that 'Managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives' should be classified as an 'emerging policy issue'. An information documented was presented to conference on the dangers to human health and the environment posed by perfluorinated chemicals,[71] with several representatives endorsing the proposal to discuss the issue. However, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the procedure for identifying emerging policy issues had been bypassed, and to accept the issue for discussion would undermine the agreed procedure.[72] In the event, Resolution ll/5 invited OECD and other IOMC members to establish a stewardship programme aimed at reducing emissions of perfluorinated chemicals of concern in products and to work toward global elimination. The resolution focused on promoting surveys on product content and environmental release of perfluorinated chemicals, together with promoting the exchange of information on current alternatives, potentially safer alternative substances and technologies. As with several of the emerging policy issues, the resolution called for the SAICM secretariat to make information available through the information clearing house (or similar mechanisms).[73]

[71] SAICM/ICCM.2/INF/49
[72] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 paragraph 101
[73] SACIM/ICCM.2/15 pp. 40-41

77. Resolution ll/6 established an inter-sessional forum – the open-ended working group – designed to be a subsidiary body to conference, to consider the implementation, development and enhancement of SAICM by:

- Reviewing and prioritizing proposals for emerging policy issues in preparation of the next session of the Conference;
- Continuing discussion on work on emerging policy issues;
- Considering proposals for the inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action;
- Considering initiatives that are being undertaken and addressing progress and gaps in achieving the SAICM goal;
- Considering the outcomes of regional meetings;
- Identifying priority issues for consideration for inclusion in the agendas of the sessions of the Conference.[74]

78. At ICCM2 there was some discussion over the role of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety within SAICM. The Forum had proposed that it became the advisory body to SAICM. Whilst this proposal received some support, it was rejected. Representatives observed that the Conference itself would provide the sort of body that the Forum had previously.[75] The establishment of the open-ended working group effectively ruled out future involvement of the Forum in SAICM (see paragraph 82 below). It is noted that the Forum did not participate in future conferences.

79. The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry offered to host a scientific meeting a year prior to the ICCM3, enabling a scientific perspective to be incorporated into the Conference's structure. However, this offer was also rejected, with representatives pointing out that all stakeholders should be included and that one body should not be endorsed over another.[76]

80. Resolution ll/7 focused on the role of SAICM in facilitating the deliberation of chemicals issues in the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development. The resolution called on both the SAICM secretariat and SAICM stakeholders to participate in the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development. The resolution also invited the Commission to provide information at ICCM3 on its work on the sound management of chemicals.[77]

81. Resolution ll/8 called on the health sector to participate actively in actions to implement the decisions of ICCM2 in respect of emerging policy issues. It also invited the WHO to intensify its activities in the sound management of chemicals, specifically at regional and country levels, and to strengthen existing information networks and to establish additional ones.[78]

[74] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 p. 41
[75] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 paragraph 146
[76] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 paragraph 112
[77] SACIM/ICCM.2/15 p. 42
[78] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 p. 43

82. Resolution ll/9 formalised the decision of ICCM2 not to integrate the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety into ICCM because of the establishment of the Open-Ended Working Group as a subsidiary of ICCM.[79]

83. Resolution ll/10 approved the indicative budget and staffing structure of the Secretariat for the period 2010-2012 and the secretariat's work proposed programme. However, the resolution did reiterate that funding for the secretariat was provided on a voluntary basis and that only a limited number of donors had made financial contributions to SAICM. The resolution therefore called on governments and organizations to contribute resources so that the secretariat was able to perform its mandated functions as set out in paragraph 28 of the Overarching Policy Strategy. The resolution further called for the creation of additional posts within the secretariat to support the establishment of the information clearing house, which had been delayed because of resource constraints,[80] and the QSP.[81]

84. In addition to the ten resolutions ICCM2 agreed procedures for the inclusion of new activities in the Global Plan of Action, and modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation.

85. The indicators of progress made and the modalities for reporting these indicators were presented. Data for these indicators were to be collected nationally and monitored at the regional and global levels. The indicators were aligned to each SAICM objective and are presented in Table 2. These indicators were designed to monitor progress made at the national level in achieving the SAICM objectives over time.

Table 2: Indicators of Progress[82]

Objective	Indicator of progress
Risk reduction	1. Number of countries (and organizations) implementing agreed chemicals management tools 2. Number of countries (and organizations) with mechanisms to address key categories of chemicals 3. Number of countries (and organizations) with hazardous waste management arrangements 4. Number of countries (and organizations) engaged in activities that result in monitoring data on selected environmental and human health priority substances 5. Number of countries (and organizations) having mechanisms in place for setting priorities for risk reduction

[79] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 p. 44
[80] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 paragraph 152
[81] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 p. 44
[82] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 pp.55-57

Knowledge & information sharing	6. Number of countries (and organizations) providing information according to internationally harmonized standards 7. Number of countries (and organizations) that have specific strategies in place for communicating information on the risks associated with chemicals to vulnerable groups 8. Number of countries (and organizations) with research programmes 9. Number of countries (and organizations) with websites that provide information to stakeholders
Governance	10. Number of countries (and organizations) that have committed themselves to implementation of the Strategic Approach 11. Number of countries (and organizations) with multi-stakeholder coordinating mechanism 12. Number of countries (and organizations) with mechanisms to implement key international chemicals priorities
Capacity-building & technical cooperation	13. Number of countries (and organizations) providing resources (financial and in kind) to assist capacity-building and technical cooperation with other countries 14. Number of countries (and organizations) that have identified and prioritized their capacity-building needs for the sound management of chemicals 15. Number of countries (and organizations) engaged in regional cooperation on issues relating to the sound management of chemicals 16. Number of countries where development assistance programmes include the sound management of chemicals 17. Number of countries (and organizations) with projects supported by the Strategic Approach's Quick Start Programme Trust Fund 18. Number of countries (and organizations) with sound management of chemicals projects supported by other sources of funding (not Quick Start Programme funding)
Illegal international traffic	19. Number of countries having mechanisms to prevent illegal traffic in toxic, hazardous and severely restricted chemicals individually 20. Number of countries having mechanisms to prevent illegal traffic in hazardous waste

86. Annex lV of the ICCM2 report presented a proposal from the Africa region as to the functions of the National Focal Points.[83] Whilst this proposal was never formally accepted, no subsequent proposal at ICCM3 or ICCM4 was presented or approved. The proposed functions were:

- Establish a national desk for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management with the provision of an annual budgetary allocation;
- Act as an effective conduit for communications on the Strategic Approach at the national and regional levels, and ensure synergies with the focal points of chemicals and wastes-related multilateral environment agreements;
- Establish an inter-ministerial and inter-institutional committee for implementation of the Strategic Approach, including representatives of non-governmental organizations;
- Facilitate Strategic Approach implementation efforts at the national and local levels;
- Solicit and organize input from sectors and actors relevant to the Strategic Approach;
- Establish communication with subregional and regional focal points to facilitate coordination and cooperation in implementation of the Strategic Approach;
- Support the development of regional positions for presentation at sessions of the Conference;
- Facilitate the submission of progress reports to the regional focal point and the Conference on implementation of the Strategic Approach.

ICCM3

87. One hundred and seventeen Government representatives registered for ICCM3 together with representatives from 18 intergovernmental organizations and 72 representatives of non-government organizations.[84]

88. Resolution lll/1 – financial and technical resources for implementation of the Strategic Approach – built on Section V of the OPS and Resolution ll/3 (ICCM2). This resolution extended the timeframe for contributions to the QSP trust fund until ICCM4 (2015) and that all funds committed before the closure of the programme could be disbursed until all approved projects were completed. This was important as it had become apparent by ICCM3 that many approved QSP projects were facing lengthy delays in their completion (see paragraph 191, below).

89. Resolution lll/1 also invited the Executive Director of UNEP to finalise his proposal on an integrated approach to the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste, and called upon SAICM stakeholders to provide their views on his proposal. The resolution also called upon the GEF to consider priorities and activities identified in SAICM in the sixth replenishment of its trust fund.[85] The proposal by the Executive Director envisaged three components of an integrated approach:[86]

[83] SAICM/ICCM.2/15 p.59
[84] SAICM/ICCM.3/24 pp. 5-6
[85] SACIM/ICCM.3/24 pp. 32-33
[86] See SAICM/ICCM.3/12

- Mainstreaming sound management of chemicals and waste into national development plans
- Industry involvement
- External financing

90. Mainstreaming involves Governments integrating the sound management of chemicals and waste into their development plans and priorities. Specifically, the proposal called for Governments to: become parties to the related conventions and participate in SAICM; regularly update national chemicals and wastes plans; monitor and enforce national environmental health standards and regulations required to meet their international obligations; monitor and enforce compliance by industry with national laws and regulations.

91. Industry involvement was envisaged as meaning that industry internalizes the costs of complying with chemicals and waste regulations, with economic instruments (e.g. taxes and subsidies) used to shift the external costs of production, use and disposal of chemicals away from the public sector to the private sector. Industry involvement was also conceived to involve industry transferring cleaner technology and taking innovative steps to 'green' chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycles.

92. External financing was envisaged to involve two components. Firstly, the establishment of national chemicals waste units in all recipient countries, and secondly the creation of an integrated chemicals and wastes focal area under the GEF.

93. The proposal asserted that national chemicals and waste units would enhance capacity in recipient countries, serve as a focal point for the BRS conventions, promote and enhance the mainstreaming of chemicals and wastes into national development plans and priorities, regional development plans, and international development assistance plans. The units would also be responsible for and reporting on industry compliance with legislative, regulatory and administrative requirements.

94. The creation of an integrated chemicals and waste focal area under the GEF, would depend on sustainable, predicable and adequate financing. Such funding would support recipient countries to: prepare for and become a party to existing and future chemicals and waste related conventions; achieve compliance with legal obligations for such conventions; obtain capacity-building support to facilitate mainstreaming and industry involvement at the national level; develop their national chemicals and waste agendas and develop, monitor and enforce the environmental standards and regulations required to effectively implement those agendas.

95. As was the case at ICCM1 (see paragraphs 54-58, above), discussion at ICCM3 about how to finance SAICM was a contentious issue. Whilst some representatives expressed support from the mainstreaming and industry component of the Executive Director's proposal others expressed their opposition. There was, however, general support for the external financing component of the proposal. The contact group on financial matters, established at ICCM3, reported that there was agreement on the need for long-term financing for SAICM and a shared sense of urgency in this regard. There was a common concern as to how to allocate funding to legally binding obligations as opposed to voluntary commitments (i.e. SAICM) so as to ensure SAICM received sufficient funding. Many recipient countries highlighted the advantages of the QSP model in relation to GEF practices – GEF required co-funding, the QSP did not; GEF funding depended less on recipient priorities, and

rather more on GEF Council decisions and donor priorities. Many representatives highlighted the need to revise areas of the proposal that implied conditionality of funds on mainstreaming. Many also indicated that the roles and responsibilities of industry involvement needed to be expanded and raised in terms of ambition that went beyond the status quo.[87]

96. Resolution lll/2 – Emerging policy issues – built upon resolution ll/4.[88] In regard to 'lead in paint' the resolution called for Governments to: raise awareness of lead toxicity to human health, ensuring effective assessment of the presence of lead in the consumer paint market and establishing lead exposure pathways for children under six years old, paint users and workers in paint production facilities; provide guidance to identify potential lead exposure, build capacity to conduct blood lead testing and surveillance programmes; promote international certification of new paint products; introduce prevention programmes to reduce exposure, particularly in housing, childcare facilities and schools; promote national regulatory frameworks; encourage companies to substitute lead compounds added to paint with safer alternatives. The resolution supported the Global Alliance's proposal to establish an international lead poisoning prevention day of action.

97. The resolution called for a 'chemicals in products' (CiP) proposal to be developed for a voluntary international programme for information on chemicals in products along the supply chain and throughout their life cycle. The resolution further called for a workshop to discuss the completed proposal.

98. The resolution called for all stakeholders to consider the recommendations made at the international workshop hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products held in Vienna in March 2011. The resolution also resolved to work to create a set of best practice resources that could include:

- Tools that lead to progress in the development of designs that reduce and eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals in production;
- Business standards and practices for tracking and disclosing the presence of hazardous chemicals in the manufacturing, use and end-of-life stages;
- Tools and information on potential safer substitutes for chemicals of concern in product applications;
- Green purchasing strategies of businesses and governments;
- Extended producer responsibility policies of businesses and Governments;
- Provisional strategies and actions in design and manufacturing that should be implemented until elimination is possible or safer substitutes are available.

99. In regard to the EPI – nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials – Resolution lll/2 encouraged all stakeholders to facilitate the exchange of information on nanotechnologies and nanomaterials, and recommended the development of international technical and regulatory guidance and training materials. The resolution called for industry to enhance their stewardship role and responsibility as manufacturers of nanotechnologies and nanomaterials and to participate in information exchange. The resolution invited the UN committee of experts on the GHS to review the applicability of the GHS criteria to manufactured nanomaterials and, if necessary to prepare a workplan for adapting those criteria.

[87] SACIM/ICCM.3/24 pp. 59-60
[88] SAICM/ICCM.3/24 pp. 33-39

100. ICCM3 agreed that international cooperation to build awareness and understanding and promote actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals was an emerging policy issue. Resolution lll/2 called for IOMC to lead the work on this EPI by building on stakeholders' existing activities to: provide information and expert advice; raise awareness and facilitate scientific information-exchange; provide international support for capacity-building; facilitate mutual research, development of case studies and guidance on translating research into action.

101. Resolution lll/3 called for the Global Perfluorinated Chemicals (PFC) Group established by the OECD to broaden its participation beyond the member countries of OECD as a means to further progress work in this area. The resolution also invited the Global PFC Group to collaborate closely with the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.[89]

102. Resolution lll/4 agreed to adopt the strategy on strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of SAICM. This strategy was developed in response to resolution ll/8 at ICCM2.[90]

Resolution lll/5 agreed the indicative budget and staffing of the secretariat together with its work programme for the period 2013-2015.[91]

103. ICCM3 agreed the inclusion of new activities relating to the environmentally sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and hazardous substances with the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products in the GPA. Thirteen new activities were added to the GPA for nanotechnologies and nanomaterials, and 13 activities for hazardous substances with the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products.[92] These additions bought the total number of activities within the GPA to 289 activities.

104. A paper setting out a draft resolution calling for wider action on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP) was presented.[93] This draft resolution called for 'a progressive ban on HHPs and their substitution with safer alternatives'.[94] This draft resolution was in keeping with the Dubai Declaration call for concerted action on addressing dependency on pesticides in agriculture and the Global Plan of Action (GPA) global priority to promote alternatives in order to reduce and phase out highly toxic chemicals. Addressing the issue of the environmental and health impacts of highly toxic pesticides was reflected in several activities of the GPA.[95] Whilst there was general agreement that this was an important issue and many representatives expressed support for adoption of the resolution. However, others suggested more work should be done on this issue in preparation for ICCM4. The proposed resolution was rejected. The FAO representative urged all countries not to wait until ICCM4 to act.[96]

[89] SAICM/ICCM.3/24 pp. 39-40
[90] SAICM/ICCM.3/24 p. 40 and Annex V
[91] SAICM/ICCM.3/24 pp. 40-41
[92] SAICM/ICCM.3/24 Annex ll
[93] The term Highly Hazardous Pesticides was first introduced by the FAO
[94] SAICM/ICCM.3/CRP.16
[95] Dubai Declaration paragraph 6; Global Plan of Action, paragraph 8h; GPA activities 25, 26, 27,29 &114
[96] SAICM/ICCM.3/24 paragraphs 194-195

ICCM4

105. One hundred and fifty-eight Government representatives registered for ICCM4 together with representatives from 20 intergovernmental organizations and 93 representatives of non-government organizations.[97] This participation represented the greatest number of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to date.

106. Resolution lV/1 – implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal - was a wide reaching resolution that amounted to a call for action across several fronts that would contribute to achieving the 2020 goal. The resolution endorsed the overall orientation and guidance (OOG) for achieving the 2020 goal as a voluntary tool that will assist in prioritizing efforts for the sound management of chemicals. The 11 basic elements that comprised the OOG, listed in Table 3, have been deemed critical at the national and regional levels to attainment of the 2020 goal. The 11 basic elements were envisaged as a monitoring tool to assess progress towards measurable steps at the national level as well a guide to set national priorities and to align activities to the SDGs.[98]

107. The OOG identified six core activity areas required for achieving the five OPS objectives. Namely, to:

- Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders;
- Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste;
- Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda;
- Increase risk reduction and information sharing on emerging policy issues
- Promote information access; and,
- Assess progress towards the 2020 goal.[99]

Table 3: Eleven basic elements of the OOG

(a) Legal frameworks that address the life cycle of chemicals and waste.

(b) Relevant enforcement and compliance mechanisms.

(c) Implementation of chemicals and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements, as well as health, labour and other relevant conventions and voluntary mechanisms.

(d) Strong institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms among relevant stakeholders.

(e) Collection and systems for the transparent sharing of relevant data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach, such as the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

(f) Industry participation and defined responsibility across the life cycle, including cost recovery policies and systems as well as the incorporation of

[97] SAICM/ICCM.4/15 pp. 5-6
[98] SAICM/ICCM.4/6 paragraph 19 & 20 p. 8
[99] SAICM/ICCM.4/6 p. 9

sound chemicals management into corporate policies and practices.

(g) Inclusion of the sound management of chemicals and waste in national health, labour, social, environment and economic budgeting processes and development plans.

(h) Chemicals risk assessment and risk reduction through the use of best practices.

(i) Strengthened capacity to deal with chemicals accidents, including institutional-strengthening for poison centres.

(j) Monitoring and assessing the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment.

(k) Development and promotion of environmentally sound and safer alternatives.

A representative from the IOMC drew attention to IOMC's proposal for 10 simple quantitative indicators for assessing progress in achieving sound chemicals management at the national level. They were:[100]

- Number of countries with National Profiles (UNITAR)
- Number of countries implementing GHS (UNITAR)
- Number of countries with a PRTR (UNITAR)
- Number of countries with Poisons centres (WHO)
- Countries with controls for lead in decorative paint (WHO and UNEP)
- Number of countries that have achieved core capacities for chemicals under the International Health Regulations (WHO)
- Number of countries with pesticide legislation referencing or based on the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management
- Number of countries with an effective pesticide evaluation and registration system and/or participating in a regional scheme
- Number of countries taking action to reduce risks from pesticides (e.g. a policy, action to ban problematic pesticides, actively promoting ecological and biological control options, food safety programmes in place etc.)
- Number of parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions (BRS Secretariat and Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention/UNEP)

108. Resolution lV/1 raised several concerns about the progress made towards achieving the 2020 goal, given the limited time remaining, noting that in most countries more progress had to be made. The resolution also noted that the sound management of chemicals was a resource intensive task and a particular challenge for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. These concerns were compounded by the acknowledgement that the scale of resources available was insufficient to achieve the 2020 goal. The resolution called for SAICM stakeholders and UNEP in particular to pursue additional fundraising initiatives to fund the six core activity areas of the OOG as well as risk reduction activities necessary to achieve the 2020 goal. The resolution also recognized the need for the SAICM secretariat and

[100] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/7 p. 5

regional focal points to provide additional support to national focal points in undertaking the proposed actions within the OOG.

109. The resolution urged all stakeholders to take concerted steps to implement the OOG, encouraged them to achieve concrete risk reduction objectives and to use SAICM as a framework for national action and international cooperation. The resolution reiterated the importance of the inclusion of the sound management of chemicals and waste within national development planning process and poverty reduction strategies.

110. The resolution also recognised the need to deepen and broaden UN system-wide engagement and invited those organizations of the UN Environment Management Group that had not already done so, to issue a declaration signaling their commitment to promote the importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste and to reflect this commitment within the actions planned with their own mandates to meet the 202 goal.[101]

111. In the discussion at ICCM4 over the text of this resolution the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, whilst acknowledging that positive steps had been taken since the Dubai Declaration in 2006, stated that in all countries more work was needed. He highlighted the rights being violated by toxic chemicals included the right to life, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to nutritious food, the right to safe water, the right to information and the right to effective remedies. More strategic actions were needed to narrow critical gaps in the attainment of human rights, particularly among vulnerable groups, including workers, women, children and low-income, minority and marginalised communities and indigenous peoples. Resolving related injustices, he asserted, was integral to achieving the 2020 goal.[102]

112. Resolution lV/2 – emerging policy issues – welcomed the efforts of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and encouraged Governments, civil society and the private sector to participate in the work of the Global Alliance, and to promote effective measures including regulations to phase out the use of paint.[103]

113. The resolution acknowledged progress made in the development of a proposal for a voluntary international and multi-stakeholder program for information on the chemicals in products EPI. The resolution renewed the mandate of the Steering Group and suggested that representation from the recycling sector be included. UNEP was invited, resources permitting, to maintain the website of the chemicals in products programme.[104]

114. During the discussions on the chemicals in products programme at ICCM4, several representatives highlighted the question of information disclosure as a key concern, with some calling for companies to be compelled to identify and disclose information on chemicals of concern in their products based on hazard characteristics, and one adding that disclosure requirements in developing countries should be no different than in developed countries.[105]

115. The resolution encouraged stakeholders to implement the activities added to the GPA at ICCM3 in regard to the EPI hazardous substances in electrical and

[101] SACIM/ICCM.4/15 pp. 39-41
[102] SAICM/ICCM.4/15 paragraph 69
[103] SAICM/ICCM.4/15 p. 42
[104] SACIM/ICCM.4/15 p.43
[105] SAICM/ICCM.4/15 paragraph 111

electronic products. The resolution further invited UNIDO to develop and finalise the workplan 2016-2020 set out in the secretariat's report 'Emerging policy issue update on hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products'.[106] The resolution also called for stakeholders to implement the workplan, in a particular the ILO in addressing worker safety. The resolution further encouraged stakeholders to promote advocacy, awareness, information, education and communication about hazardous chemicals in electronic and electrical products for vulnerable groups. It also called for original equipment manufacturers to implement product-take-back programmes as well as to collect and provide health and safety information to workers on chemicals they are handling or exposed to in electronic and electrical products manufacturing.[107]

116. With regard to the EPI – nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials – Resolution lV/2 emphasised the need to continue to facilitate the exchange of information, and for UNIDO and the OECD to continue to develop international guidance and training materials. The resolution invited all stakeholders to continue to raise awareness and enhance capacity paying particular attention to the situation and needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.[108]

117. For the EPI – endocrine disrupting chemicals – the resolution invited UNEP and WHO to address needs identified by developing countries as part of the workplan set out in the progress report submitted to ICCM4. Specifically, to: provide up-to-date information; raise awareness; provide international support for activities to build capacity, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition.[109] The resolution also welcomed the 'State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals – 2012' report by UNEP and WHO that identified concerns that exposure to EDC during early stages of life can result in adult-onset disease, concluding that an important focus of action should be on reducing exposure. However, this part of the resolution raised concerns for some stakeholders who wished it to be noted that the methodology and conclusions of the report remain contentious among certain scientific groups.[110]

118. Resolution lV/2 introduced a new EPI - environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. The resolution invited the IOMC to lead and facilitate cooperation action and to develop a plan of work, and invited Governments and other stakeholders to generate and share information to fill identified knowledge gaps. It requested these stakeholders provide support – expertise and financial – on a voluntary basis.[111]

119. Resolution lV/3 – Highly hazardous pesticides (HHP) – welcomed the FAO, UNEP and WHO strategy to address HHPs.[112] This strategy drew on the experience of FAO, UNEP and WHO over 2009-2012 – developing HHPs Guidelines, work on identifying and phasing out HHPs in Botswana and Mozambique, developing a regional strategy of phasing out HHPs in the countries of the Southern African

[106] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF18
[107] SAICM/ICCM.4/15 pp. 44-45
[108] SAICM/ICCM.4/15 p. 45
[109] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/20 Annex lll
[110] SAICM.ICCM.4/15 p. 46 and footnote 10
[111] SAICM.ICCM.4/15 pp. 46-47
[112] Although a proposed 'Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides' gained broad support at OEWG2 (SAICM/OEWG.2/13 paragraphs 113-114), such an alliance was not included in Resolution lV/3.

Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) and Pacific. The resolution encouraged stakeholders to implement the strategy with an emphasis on promoting agroecological-based alternatives and strengthening national regulatory capacity to conduct risk assessment and risk management.[113]

120. The strategy to address HHPs identified a number of gaps in addressing the sustainable management of HHPs. These were presented in alignment with the 11 basic elements of the OOG. They were:

- Some countries still lack an effective legal framework and institutional capacity to address pesticides through their life cycles;
- Limited enforcement mechanisms and capacity means that highly hazardous pesticides continue to be legally or illegally available, widely used and often inappropriately used;
- Incomplete implementation of international instruments relevant to highly hazardous pesticides, including the Rotterdam Convention, the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management of FAO and WHO and the environmentally sound management and disposal of pesticide wastes under the Basel Convention;
- Limited coordination mechanisms among relevant stakeholders and between the agriculture, health and environment sectors in many countries;
- Poor systems for collection and sharing of highly hazardous pesticide data among all relevant stakeholders as well as limited research on the impacts of highly hazardous pesticides and alternatives thereto;
- Inconsistent industry engagement in addressing risks from highly hazardous pesticides across their life cycles;
- Poorly addressed or neglected socioeconomic factors and development planning can encourage the use of highly hazardous pesticides, particularly if they are lower cost;
- Insufficient capacity for highly hazardous pesticide risk assessment and risk reduction in many developing countries;
- Absence of, or very limited, capacity to deal with poisoning and chemical accidents involving highly hazardous pesticides;
- Inadequate national monitoring and assessment of the impacts of highly hazardous pesticides on health and the environment, and lack of global data;
- Low awareness of environmentally sound and safer alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides, especially at the local level (e.g., in farms), where awareness of such alternatives may be absent.[114]

121. The guidelines for taking action to address these gaps included: identification of HHPs; conducting needs and risk assessments; establishing and implementing appropriate risk mitigation measures of a regulatory and administrative nature, ranging from prohibition to training in their proper use. The main focus for concerted

[113] SAICM/ICCM.4/15 p. 47
[114] SAICM/ICCM.4/8 paragraph 26

action centred on awareness-raising, facilitating identification of HHPs, capacity-building in regulatory control and piloting and the mainstreaming of alternatives.[115]

122. Resolution lV/4 – the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 – requested the secretariat to commission an independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the Annex of the resolution.[116]

123. Resolution lV/5 – Activities of the secretariat and budget – approved the indicative budget and work programme of the secretariat for the period 2016-2020.[117]

Outcomes: EPIs, QSP projects, monitoring progress

Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern

124. The EPIs and other issues of concern are summarised in Table 4. Their outcomes are discussed below. The EPI Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants and the issue of concern – Highly Hazardous Pesticides are not discussed in this section as the resolutions were agreed at ICCM4 and the first progress and update reports will be presented at ICCM5. However, HHPs are discussed in the section 'Intermediate State ll'.

Table 4: Chairs/ co-chairs of EPIs and other issues of concern

Issue	Chair/ Co-Chair	Conference Resolution
Lead in Paint	UNEP/ WHO	ICCM2, ICCM3 & ICCM4
Chemicals in Products	UNEP	ICCM2, ICCM3 & ICCM4
Hazardous substance within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)	UNIDO	ICCM2, ICCM3 & ICCM4
Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials	UNITAR/ OECD	ICCM2, ICCM3 & ICCM4
Endocrine-disrupting chemicals	OECD/ UNEP/ WHO	ICCM3 & ICCM4
Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants	UNEP/ WHO	ICCM4
Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives	OECD/ UNEP	ICCM2 & ICCM3
Highly hazardous pesticides	FAO/ UNEP/ WHO	ICCM4

[115] SAICM/ICCM.4/8 paragraphs 33-37
[116] SAICM/ICCM.4/15 pp. 48-50
[117] SAICM/ICCM.4/15 pp. 50-59

EPI – Lead in Paint

125. In the six years since ICCM2 (2009-2015) that lead in paint had been an emerging policy issue, the Global Alliance grew to a partnership of 38 – nine governments, three intergovernmental organizations and 26 non-governmental organizations. This fell short of the target (50 partners) set in the business plan. As of September 2018, the Alliance had grown to 92 partners.[118] By June 2015, 57 Governments had put in place legally binding regulations relating to lead in paint, with another 14 declaring that they were in the process of putting such measures in place. Again, these figures fell short of the target (70 or more by 2015) set in the business plan. As of March 2019, the 2015 target had been reached; 72 countries were reported to have confirmed that they had enacted legally binding controls on lead in paint.[119]

126. During the early years of the Alliance's work, activities centred on information gathering and identifying gaps in knowledge. These activities included baseline surveys with SAICM national focal points and networks associated with UNEP and WHO, aimed at eliciting information about the use of lead paint and prevention and control actions.

127. Reported at ICCM3, the Alliance's partners undertook paint sampling and testing in a number of countries including: Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Lebanon, Peru and the Russian Federation. IPEN – a partner of the Global Alliance – received funding from the European Union SWITCH-Asia Programme to conduct paint sampling in seven Asian countries – Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.[120] In 2013, and reported at ICCM4, partners of the Global Alliance – UNEP and IPEN – undertook sampling and testing of lead content in decorative paints in the market in nine developing countries and countries with economies in transition – Argentina, Azerbaijan, Chile, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia and Uruguay. Results from both these surveys indicated that paints tested contained high levels of lead, although lead free paint was available in these countries.[121]

128. The Global Alliance launched international awareness campaigns in 2013, 2014 and 2015 providing multi-lingual materials in support of those campaigns, accessible from the Alliance's website.[122] The 2013 and 2014 campaigns resulted in at least 50 countries organizing activities.[123] For the 2015 campaign, events took place in 87 cities in 39 countries. WHO and other Alliance partners continue to produce publications aimed at raising awareness and advocacy.[124]

129. The Alliance was successful in securing funding from the governments of the United States, Germany, Norway and Sweden that were used to convene meetings and the operational costs of the Alliances start-up phase.[125]

130. Future work of the Alliance will focus on increasing the number of (1) countries that had adopted legally binding laws and regulations, standards or

[118] SAICM/OEWG.3/6, p.3
[119] SAICM/ICCM.4/9 p. 4; SAICM/OEWG.3/9, paragraph 95, p. 16
[120] SAICM/ICCM.3/14 p. 8
[121] SAICM/ICCM.4/9 p. 4
[122] www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/en
[123] SAICM/ICCM.4/9 p. 4
[124] WHO/FWC/PHE/ILPPW 2015
[125] SAICM/ICCM.3/14, paragraph 23

procedures to control the production, import and sale and use of lead paints, (2) companies that have eliminated the use of added lead compounds in paints that they produce, (3) countries with national awareness days for prevention of lead poisoning, (4) contributors/ partners participate in the work of the Alliance.[126] One component of the US$ 8.19 million GEF project, reported at OEWG3, will be used to sitmulate national regulatory action, engage the private sector and provide information on best practice, resulting in 40 more countries legislating and implementing legislation on lead in paint.[127]

131. The on-line survey of SAICM stakeholders, for this evaluation, revealed that over half of respondents considered that they had had success in addressing this EPI in their activities. Representatives from the CEE Region were the most positive in their response with those from the Africa Region the least positive. However, as recently as October 2018, an article on the UNEP website highlighted that, despite legislation banning lead in paint, most countries still have lead in paint.[128]

EPI – Chemicals in Products

132. Immediately after ICCM2, where chemicals in products was identified as an EPI, an initial scoping exercise was conducted involving a survey sent to national focal points to assess their views on focus and priority product sectors. This initial work resulted in the selection of four product sectors for further study – children's products/ toys, electronics, clothing and construction materials. The case studies that followed highlighted the interruption of information exchange in the production chain between chemical manufacturers providing information further down the production chain on the one hand, and the producers/ brand owners who attempt to pull down information on chemical content in materials and components from higher up the chain, on the other.

133. The key outcomes of the project reported at ICCM3 summarised the gaps, obstacles and commonalities identified in the four sectors. They were: the need for information on the part of product designers in making decisions, actors within the production chain concerning the chemicals they use, Governments and distributors in overseeing the safe composition/content of products, consumers in making informed purchases, recyclers in properly directing materials back into production processes and waste-handlers in following proper disposal practices.[129]

134. The proposal for a voluntary international programme for information on chemicals in products along their supply chain, called for in Resolution lll/2, was developed and presented at ICCM4, together with a guidance document for stakeholders in exchanging chemicals in products information.[130] In addition to this outcome, UNEP (the lead agency on this EPI) succeeded in engaging representatives from the four product sectors on the chemical in products policy issue. [131]

135. The proposed programme presented to ICCM4 had the following objectives:

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[126] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/14, Table 1 p. 5
[127] SAICM/OEWG.3/6 pp. 3-4
[128] https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/despite-bans-most-countries-still-have-lead-paint
[129] SAICM/ICCM.3/15 p. 4
[130] SAICM/ICCM.4/10 and SAICM/ICCM.4/11
[131] SAICM/ICCM.4/9 p. 5

- Within supply chains, to know and exchange information on chemicals in products, associated hazards and sound management practices;
- To disclose information of relevance to stakeholders outside the supply chain to enable informed decision-making and actions about chemicals in products; and,
- To ensure that, through due diligence, information is accurate, current and accessible.[132]

136. The emphasis on voluntary sharing of information with Governments, in the proposed programme[133] caused concerns for civil society stakeholders at ICCM4.

> According to the CiP Programme, governments are responsible for CBI [confidential business information] protection, but the Programme encourages only *"voluntary sharing of relevant information with governments."* In other words, industry does not need to provide governments with full access to information on chemicals in products but requires CBI protection instead.[134]

137. The on-line survey with SAICM stakeholders revealed that half of respondents considered that they had had at least some success in addressing this EPI in their activities. Developing country stakeholders highlighted the lack of capacity and resources to address this issue observing that most products are imported and authorities are not able to monitor for chemical composition.

EPI – Hazardous Substances within the Life Cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products

138. The workshop called for in Resolution ll/4 had originally been scheduled for May 2010, but due to the lack of financial support it had to be postponed until March 2011. The workshop was convened by the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and UNIDO (on behalf of IOMC). Funding from the ministries of environment of Japan, Sweden and the United States Environmental Protection Agency together with UNIDO enabled the workshop to finally take place. The workshop resulted in three sets of recommendations – upstream, midstream and downstream recommendations.

139. Upstream recommendations included: identification of chemicals of concern; best practice in information flows, elimination and reduction in hazardous chemicals and business procedures; policy instruments; identification of stakeholders that should engage in upstream issues.

140. Midstream recommendations included: environmental sound manufacturing and capacity-building; information on health and safety in manufacturing; health surveillance, disease prevention, exposure and monitoring.

141. Downstream recommendations included: integrating policies; legislation and enforcement of ILO conventions and MEAs; voluntary approaches and CSR; information and awareness-raising; international and regional cooperation.[135]

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[132] SAICM.ICCM.4/10 p. 5
[133] SAICM/ICCM.4/10 p. 17
[134] IPEN (2015) Citizens' Report 2012-2015: implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) by IPEN participating organizations. p. 19
[135] SAICM/ICCM.3/16 pp. 2-4

142. During the period 2012 to 2015, progress on this EPI centred on downstream activities providing support to developing countries for the design of sustainable e-waste management schemes; development of private-public partnerships; establishment of an informal network for work on e-waste, including a pilot study looking at heavy metals in children living and studying near an e-waste site in Thailand; organization of side events by UN entities to highlight the importance of tackling HSLEEP; a survey of HSLEEP to map existing tools for management of HSLEEP; adoption of technical guidelines by the Basel Convention; development and endorsement by 200 public interest NGOs of "A challenge to the global electronics industry to adopt safer and more sustainable products and practices, and eliminate hazardous chemicals, exposures and discharges".[136]

143. At ICCM4, a representative speaking on behalf of African States called for action to minimise the use of hazardous materials in the production processes, i.e. calling for a shift in focus from downstream to upstream processes. This was of critical importance to Africa, due to the large inflow of e-waste to the continent and the crude recycling methods employed, which posed risks to human health and the environment.[137]

144. The main gaps regarding the implementation of the GPA activities highlighted in the progress report presented to ICCM4 reiterated the Africa region's concerns for a greater focus on the upstream level. More efforts were required to streamline discussions with manufacturers on the provision of information regarding the use of hazardous substances and ways to enhance green design. Other gaps identified included development and implementation of green purchasing standards at Government level as well as in the private sector. A proposed work plan for the period 2016-2020 was produced for ICCM4 (based on the 13 GPAs endorsed at ICCM3).[138]

145. The on-line survey with SAICM stakeholders revealed that less than a third of respondents considered that they had had at least some success in addressing this EPI in their activities.

EPI – Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials

146. Over the course of 2009-2012, three areas of work were conducted under the Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials EPI: UNITAR held a series of awareness-raising workshops in association with SAICM regional meetings; pilot activities with support from the Government of Switzerland, were undertaken in Uruguay, Nigeria and Thailand to explore the development of national nanotechnology-related policies; a report on nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, including issues of relevance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, has been coordinated by the SAICM secretariat.[139]

147. At ICCM3 several representatives expressed concern over the lack of available information on the benefits and risks posed by manufactured nanomaterials and the ethical and social issues they raised. They supported technical, institutional and legal information sharing, technology transfer and capacity-building activities,

[136] SAICM/ICCM.4/9 paragraph 29-37
[137] SAICM/ICCM.4/15 paragraph 117
[138] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/18, pp. 5-6 and Section V
[139] SAICM//ICCM.3/13, paragraph 22

especially in relation to health and environmental protection. The Conference endorsed the addition of 13 GPAs specific to this EPI.[140]

148. Reporting on progress made on the 13 GPAs at ICCM4 (agreed at ICCM3), outcomes included: UNITAR, with funding from the Government of Switzerland, embarked on a second phase of pilot projects at the national level, in Armenia, Jordan and Viet Nam, building on the first pilot projects; UNITAR produced a guidance document and e-learning course 'An introduction to nanomaterial safety' that was delivered twice in 2014 and once in 2015; UNITAR and OECD hosted regional meetings on capacity-building on nanosafety in the LAC, AFR and AP regions. OECD continued to develop freely available on-line tools for assessing nanotechnologies and nanomaterials for regulatory purposes; WHO convened an expert meeting in 2015 to begin the preparation of a new WHO International Programme on Chemical Safety environmental health criteria document on principles and methods for assessing the risk of immunotoxicity associated with exposure to nanomaterials; the GHS Sub-Committee has begun a process for a review of applicability of GHS to nanomaterials.[141]

149. Following on from the pilot project in Thailand, the Thai Government approved a National Nanotechnology Policy Framework and a five-year "National Nanosafety and Nanoethics Strategic Plan" to ensure sustainable development of nanotechnology.[142]

150. The 2015 regional workshops on nanosafety highlighted significant gaps in addressing this EPI.[143] The Africa regional workshop identified the following priority areas: the need for improvements in human resources and expertise, in policy and legal frameworks, and in nano-focused infrastructure. Participants proposed a number of actions to address these: develop and establish a regional network on nanosafety; carry out a survey of the current status of nanomaterials; develop national working groups and coordination mechanisms; implement and sustain awareness raising activities; develop legal frameworks; carry out capacity building exercises; develop guidelines for workplace safety; and monitor nanomaterials' usage in industry.

151. The LAC regional workshop highlighted the need to: establish a network of experts and policy workers; build capacity in terms of infrastructure and human resources, and access to financial assistance; create national requirements for a registry of nanomaterials; implement product identification, regulation and standards' setting; establish and promote an accreditation scheme for relevant centres and agencies; to enhance communications and share expertise (starting with occupational health guidelines); share good practice in occupational handling of nanomaterials; to develop procedures for impact reduction from the use of nanomaterials.

152. Other gaps in delivering on this EPI presented at ICCM4 included the need for a central hub to share and disseminate information. Whilst UNITAR and OECD endeavoured to use their websites, the lack of SAICM information clearing house was recognised. The need to increase work and engagement with industry in order to

[140] SAICM//ICCM.3/24 paragraphs 124 & 129
[141] SAICM/ICCM.4/9 paragraphs 40-49
[142] SAICM//ICCM.4/INF/19, Section lll
[143] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/19 pp. 7-8

enhance industry's stewardship role and the provision of information on nano was also recognised.[144]

153. The on-line survey with SAICM stakeholders revealed that about a third of respondents considered that they had had at least some success in addressing this EPI in their activities.

EPI – Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals[145]

154. The main progress made under this EPI from ICCM3 to ICCM4 was the publication of the UNEP/WHO report *State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals – 2012*. This report was not without controversy; there is an on-going debate between stakeholders as to the testing regime that is most appropriate for EDCs. Those that advocate a (linear) dose-response function approach for each chemical in isolation, are at odds with those that advocate a non-linear approach to risk assessment that also addresses timing of exposure and the issue of synergistic effects of combinations of more than one EDC. Furthermore, these advocates also argue for risk assessment that distinguishes between the different effects for different ages – from fetuses, to children, to reproductive adults, to older people. [146]

155. Regional workshops were held in the Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Latin America and Caribbean regions, where it became clear that most developing countries and countries with economies in transition have limited or no control over substances with endocrine-disrupting potential. The need for increased awareness on the issue was widely recognised, including the need for gathering information on levels of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the environment.

156. In response to the challenges facing developing countries UNEP established an Advisory Group on environmental exposure and impact. UNEP also began to develop an EDC project aimed at improving intergovernmental and intersectoral coordination as well as raising awareness about EDCs. In 2015 the project proposal was being finalised.

157. OECD has developed and updated existing Test Guidelines for both hazards to the aquatic environment and to human health. WHO has established a global network of chemical risk assessment institutions (Chemical Risk Assessment Network) in order to provide a forum for scientific exchange and collaborative actions, including on endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

158. Post ICCM4, the following actions were planned: WHO preparation of articles for the academic literature and continuation of the Chemical Risk Assessment Network; OECD to continue development of Test Guidelines; UNEP to compile and develop overview reports to be disseminated on UNEP website. All three institutions plan to facilitate international meetings to address EDC issue.

159. The on-line survey with SAICM stakeholders revealed that just under half of respondents considered that they had had at least some success in addressing this EPI in their activities.

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[144] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/19 p. 8
[145] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/20
[146] See for example, WHO/UNEP (2012) State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012: summary for decision makers, p. 19

Issue of concern – Perfluorinated Chemicals

160. During the period 2009-2012, the following activities under the 'Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives' issue were conducted:

- Establishment of a web-based portal on perfluorinated chemicals (www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc);
- Release of a 2009 OECD survey on perfluorinated chemicals;
- Web-based seminars;
- Workshop on perfluorinated chemicals held on 5 September 2011, immediately preceding the third Strategic Approach regional meeting for Asia and the Pacific;
- Establishment of a global perfluorinated chemicals group that developed a draft programme of work.[147]

161. Resolution lll/3 at ICCM3 noted that a significant need remained for additional work to support the implementation of resolution ll/5, and invited the Global PFC Group to broaden participation in the work on perfluorinated chemicals beyond the member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as an important mechanism for achieving further progress in this area and to report on progress to the Conference at its fourth session.[148] Consequently, the PFC Group agreed to postpone the development of a survey on PFCs production, use and release until enhanced participation by non-OECD countries was in place.[149]

162. Over the period 2012-2015, the activities carried out under this issue were:

- Production of two reports: a *Synthesis paper on per- and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFCs);* A report on risk reduction approaches for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs);
- Implementation of a revised structure to the web portal; and
- Efforts made to engage a wider group of stakeholders to participate in the work of the Global PFC Group.

163. The proposed work plan (2016-2020), resources permitting, focused on the need to gather scientific data and enhance understanding on the alternatives that are available and to widen the debate regarding the replacement of certain fluorinated compounds, where possible, by non-fluorinated alternatives and different technologies.[150]

164. The on-line survey with SAICM stakeholders revealed that just under two fifths of respondents considered that they were very successful or had had some success in addressing this issue. Much of this success was attributed to the regulatory regimes in WEOG countries. Within developing countries, stakeholders lacked the resources and capacity to monitor this group of chemicals. IOMC POs - OECD and UNEP – have made progress in raising awareness of these compounds but the actual

[147] SAICM//ICCM.3/13, paragraph 23
[148] SAICM/ICCM.3/24, p.40
[149] SAICM/ICCM.4/9 paragraph 66
[150] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/21 paragraph 22

transition to safer alternatives is very slow. Transitioning to safer alternatives will not take place in the short term.

Quick Start Programme projects

165. The QSP project portfolio comprised 184 approved projects. Since its establishment there have been 14 application rounds.[151] A total of 70 projects (out of the 184) had been completed by June 2015. A further 45 projects had completed their activities and were in the process of submitting and revising their final reports at that time. Most of the 115 projects that had completed all their activities, were aimed at:[152]

(a) Developing national chemicals profiles;

(b) Developing national capacity assessments;

(c) Setting priorities for activities for the implementation of the Strategic Approach;

(d) Developing risk assessment methodologies;

(e) Mainstreaming issues pertaining to the sound management of chemicals into the national development plans of the participating countries;

(f) Improving cohesion and implementation of existing international agreements;

(g) Developing national awareness-raising campaigns on sound chemicals management;

(h) Developing SAICM implementation plans; and,

(i) Building capacity on non-chemicals alternatives.

166. Table 5 provides details on the number of QSP projects with activities completed within each region and their executing agencies

[151] http://www.saicm.org/QuickStartProgramme/Projects/tabid/5470/language/en-US/Default.aspx
[152] SAICM/EB.10/4 p. 4

Table 5 Completed Projects by Region and IOMC Executing Agency (June 2015)[153] [154]

	Africa	Asia Pacific	Central & Eastern Europe	Latin America & Caribbean	Total
UNITAR	24	10	4	8	46
UNDP/UNEP	3	1		3	7
UNIDO	2			4	6
WHO	2	3			5
UNEP/ WHO	1				1
UNEP	1	2		2	5
UNDP	2	1	2		5
Basel Convention Secretariat/ Regional Centre	3	1		2	6
PAHO/WHO				1	1
No IOMC/ BRS executing agency[155]	8	9	5	7	29
Total	46	27	11	27	111

167. 101 (of the 115 projects) were channeled through Government ministries/ departments, with the remaining 14 projects channeled through non-governmental organizations.

168. A comprehensive evaluation of the QSP outcomes was conducted in 2015. This evaluation reached a number of conclusions:[156]

- A key success of the QSP was the creation of enabling environments for the sound management of chemicals at the national level. All three of the Strategic Priorities identified in Resolution l/4 (see paragraph 63 above) were addressed.
- In many cases the QSP projects succeeded in 'mainstreaming chemicals management' into national legislation, policies and institutions. However, not all countries were able to succeed in this due to a range of factors including the lack of priority of chemical management in national agendas, a lack of technical capacity as well as the lack of capacity for inter-departmental collaboration and coordination required for effective chemicals management.

[153] Data compiled from SAICM/EB.10/4 Table A.1 and Table A.2
[154] Four projects not accounted for in Table 5 were multiregional projects.
[155] These figures included one project in AFR region with PAN as executing agency; two in AP region with SAEDA and the Blacksmith Institute as executing agencies; two in the LAC region with CEHI and SPREP as executing agencies.
[156] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF5 pp. 8-9

- A large number of publications were produced through the QSP projects. However, these documents and data were not readily available in part because, at the SAICM secretariat level, there was no centralised system of content management and retrieval, which would have allowed for outputs to be made accessible to a wide audience.
- Major gains were documented in political and technical service-level awareness and understanding of the risks of chemicals, the importance of SMC, and the tools available to manage risks; and in stakeholder coordination with enhanced coordination and active participation by diverse stakeholders. However, quantitative data on the health and environmental impacts of chemicals remained scarce and systems for regularly collecting and updating such information were largely absent.
- Gender was addressed in a minority of QSP projects. Those projects that adequately assessed gender tended to be those that were channelled through non-governmental organizations.
- Relatively few civil society projects were funded but their impact was high. Partnerships between NGOs and government were found to be very effective in ensuring good outcomes as well as the sustainability of projects.
- Many projects developed externally-funded projects which effectively continued QSP projects (e.g. with funds from the GEF, UN agencies, NGOs and donors); however, few countries were able to follow up with resources allocated from national budgets; and even fewer were able to give examples of economic instruments to promote industry participation in financing for chemical management.
- For many governments, chemicals were still not a priority issue, and there was a lack of evidence of internalisation and delivery of chemicals management into national plans and budgets. Chemical management initiatives relied on external sources of funding; and on individual commitment. Even where chemical management was reflected in Government mandates and policies, an 'implementation gap' still existed.

Monitoring progress including Global Plan of Action, Indicators of Progress and the Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG)

169. The Global Plan of Action was a comprehensive document, agreed at ICCM1, which lists 273 activities aimed at addressing all five Overarching Policy Objectives. Each had its own target/ timeline, together with its indicator of progress.[157]

170. IPEN has been the most prominent stakeholder in reporting regularly on the progress of its members in contributing to the delivery of GPA activities, providing regular monitoring reports at ICCM2, ICCM3 and ICCM4.[158]

171. An assessment of progress made by IOMC organizations in contributing to the delivery of the activities within the GPA was produced by IOMC in June 2014, providing reflections on progress made for each activity over the period 2006-2014.[159]

[157] SAICM (2006) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. UNEP, WHO, pp. 38-105
[158] See IPEN (2009); IPEN (2012); IPEN (2015) Citizen's Report: Global Outreach Campaign on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

172. In regard to Governments reporting on progress made in delivering on the GPAs there was no systematic reporting to ICCM. However, governments were invited to participate in the systematic collection of data relating to the 20 indicators of progress designed to monitor the progress in implementing SAICM.

173. A baseline report covering the period 2006-2008, and two progress reports (2009-2010; 2011-2013) have been produced, reviewing countries' performance in making progress towards the five overarching policy objectives, as reflected by the 20 indicators (see Table 2 above).[160]

174. Whilst the baseline data collected in 2006-2008 was voluminous, it did not lend itself to translation of the data into a form that could be used to populate the 20 indicators. Consequently, the data collection exercise did not allow for the development of a comprehensive baseline for all 20 indicators. In the end, baseline estimates were only possible for seven of the indicators, as a result of issues described in this section.[161]

175. An online questionnaire was developed to generate relevant data for the first progress report. This questionnaire was also used to collect data for the second progress report, resulting in comparable data to assess progress made for each of the 20 indicators over the two reporting periods (2009-2010 and 2011-2013).

176. The response rate for government representatives was 40% in the first round of data collection[162], and for the second round a similar response rate of 43% (that included all stakeholders).[163]

177. The common approach to data collection across the two reporting periods had the potential to allow for a comparative analysis to be conducted. However, a number of weaknesses in the data collection limited that potential. Firstly, the relatively low response rate highlighted in the previous paragraph. Secondly, and more significantly, the regional variations in response rates, particularly for the second reporting period (2011-2013); an Africa region response rate of 19% (10 out of 54, including three partially completed submissions), in contrast to the WEOG region with a 97% response rate (28 out of 29, including one partially completed submission).[164] Thirdly, the lack of consistency in country submissions between the two reporting periods – those countries reporting in period 2 were not necessarily the same countries that had reported in reporting period 1. Of the 83 governments that made submissions for reporting period 2, only 47 of these had made a submission for period 1 (out of a total of 78 submissions made in reporting period 1).[165] These limitations call into question the effectiveness of the reporting mechanisms.

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[159] See IOMC (2014) IOMC Review of IOMC Organizations' Implementation of the SAICM Global Plan of Action. Updated for the 2nd meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group, Dec 2014. Table B, pp. 3-78

[160] See SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/5 for the baseline report; SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/6 for the first progress report; SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4 for the second baseline report. An on-line survey was open from June to December 2017 to seek feedback on progress for the period 2014-2016.

[161] SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/5, paragraphs 107-109

[162] SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/6, paragraph 22

[163] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4, paragraph 103

[164] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4, Table 1, p. 8 and paragraph 11

[165] Contrast SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4 paragraphs 10 and 11 with SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/6 paragraph 25, p. 10

178. The second progress report and summary report presented to ICCM4 provided reflections on the efficacy of the 20 indicators:[166]

> ***Methodological:*** Firstly, it was not certain whether respondents were reporting on activities that had taken place in the relevant reporting period. This uncertainty was particularly acute for those governments that did not report in both reporting periods. Secondly, there were challenges in integrating the contributions of non-government stakeholders due to stakeholders' own surveys and reports that were not fully reflected in the online submissions. Thirdly, the activity-based indicators and questions asked are open to variability in responses depending upon who is completing the questionnaire and their interpretation of the questions and their level of knowledge.
>
> ***Scope:*** Firstly, activities on compliance and enforcement of policy are not explicitly addressed in the indicators. For example, indicators 19 and 20 address illegal international traffic of chemicals and waste but do not address illegal international trade, such as through informal markets, which may pose significant challenges to meeting the 2020 goal. Secondly, the extent of national funding for chemicals management through government budgets and ODA is not included in Indicator 18. Thirdly, Indicator 1 focuses on alternative chemicals to support risk reduction, with no monitoring of policy or implementation relating to non-chemical alternatives and agroecological approaches.
>
> ***Results-based indicators:*** The 20 indicators are outputs based and, whilst being a necessary condition for meeting the 2020 goal, may not be sufficient. There is a need for outcome and impact focused indicators to complement the existing indicators of progress, i.e. results-based indicators that measure tangible reductions in health and environmental impacts of chemicals use. The probable inclusion of chemicals management targets within many of the SDGs will also require more quantitative results-based evidence.

179. Notwithstanding the limitations of the indicators of progress as an effective monitoring system to track performance of SAICM over time, 59% of respondents (of the online survey) considered that the indicators of progress had been very effective (8%) or had had some effect (51%) in assessing progress towards the sound management of chemicals and waste. Disaggregating the data by stakeholder group revealed that 'IOMC POs' and 'industry' were less optimistic than government and civil society stakeholders with 46% of industry respondents considering that the indicators had had 'little effect' in monitoring progress towards the 2020 goal. For IOMC POs the figures were 30% 'little effect' and 20% 'ineffective'.

180. Reasons for stakeholder skepticism included the subjective nature of self-reporting, under-reporting, the lack of a results-based framework and the lack of applicability to non-government stakeholders. Respondents also cautioned that further application of the indicators to the emerging policy issues could cause further challenges.

181. At ICCM4 a further framework for implementing the Strategic Approach was introduced and agreed – the Overall Orientation and Guidance or OOG (see paragraphs 105-107, above).

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[166] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4, paragraphs 114-119 and SAICM/ICCM.4/3 paragraphs 26-30

182. With the introduction of the 11 basic elements towards the sound management of chemicals and waste in the OOG, it was agreed to consider the 20 indicators of progress in line with the eleven basic elements.Whilst this alignment fits up to a point, the challenge of integrating the basic elements with the existing 20 indicators of progress has been acknowledged:

> While there is some coherence in this relationship, stakeholders may wish to further examine the indicators with a view to improving their coverage of the basic elements for future reporting.[167]

183. The indicators and milestones listed for each activity within the GPA offer the potential for monitoring progress in delivery of these activities and with it progress towards achieving the five objectives of the OPS, which the activities within the GPA are aligned.

Drivers

184. The drivers highlighted in Figure 3, were those factors that influenced the degree to which the outcomes were realised as a result of the output delivery of SAICM. These drivers were within the purview of SAICM stakeholders. Each are discussed below.

Capacity of Secretariat to fulfill functions

185. Over the ten year period 2006-2015, the secretariat was hampered by capacity constraints to deliver on its mandated functions. These functions were defined in paragraph 28 of the OPS and the secretariat original project document (see paragraphs 20-22, above). There were two inter-related capacity constraints: resources and staff.

186. An indicative budget was approved at each conference to cover the costs of the staff of the secretariat and expenses incurred by the secretariat in order to fulfil its functions. These expenses covered items such as: conference and inter-sessional meeting costs; staff travel; office running costs.[168] However, over the period 2006-2015, there was an annual shortfall in the amount of funds donated (voluntarily) such that the agreed budget was never achieved, ranging from a 4% shortfall in 2013 to a 56% shortfall in 2009. The annual shortfall was at least 43% for six of the ten years (2006-2015).[169]

187. Related to the shortfall in funds available to the secretariat was the understaffing of the secretariat over the 10 year period. The project experienced a chronic shortfall in professional staff capacity throughout the period 2006-2015; the full complement of professional staff (five full time equivalent- FTE) for the period 2006-2009 was only achieved for the last 10 months of 2009; for 2010-2012 (seven FTE staff) the actual staff complement was 2.6 FTE; for the period 2013-2015 the

[167] SAICM (2015) Summary report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2011–2013. SAICM/ICCM.4/3 p.15

[168] See SAICM/ICCM.1/7 Table 2, p.98; SAICM/ICCM.2/15, Table 1, p.46; SAICM/ICCM.3/24 Table 2, p. 43.

[169] See Evaluation of the UNEP project Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Secretariat SAICM (2019) Table 5, p.23

complement was 3.86 FTE.[170] The project addressed this shortfall to some extent through the contracting of short-term consultants.[171]

188. Despite the shortfall in funding and subsequent staffing capacity issues, the functions of the secretariat were extended at ICCM2 and ICCM3. At ICCM2, the servicing of the Open-ended Working Group and the administration of 'emerging policy issues' were added to the secretariat's responsibilities.[172, 173] At ICCM3 Conference mandated the secretariat to develop 'overall orientation and guidance' to achieve the SAICM 2020 goal.[174]

189. The shortfalls in staff and resources affected the secretariat's ability to deliver on number of functions. The most significant of which were the operation of the QSP and the information clearing house function.

190. There were significant gaps in the filling of the QSP Programme Officer post within the secretariat over the 2006-2015 period, and the additional staff post to support the QSP Programme Officer, recommended and endorsed by Conference at ICCM2, from 2010 onwards, was not in post until February 2015.[175]

191. By August 2015, some 64 QSP projects were running on average two years late. Eighteen projects were three or more years late. Of the 64 projects running late, most had completed their activities but had failed to submit final narrative reports, M&E reports and/ or financial reports.[176]

192. The delays in completion of the QSP projects were partly attributed to the staff capacity issues within the secretariat. However, other institutional factors also contributed to the delays in QSP project completion. These were: structure of QSP trust fund supervision and management; mechanisms for disbursing funds to projects; delays in drawing up the legal agreements for projects.[177]

193. The secretariat was unable to realise its full potential for sharing the knowledge generated from the QSP project portfolio between developing countries because of the under-funding of the Secretariat in general, and the inability to establish an effective forum for such knowledge exchange (the information clearinghouse).

194. The consequences of the lack of a centralised SAICM information clearinghouse also affected the outcomes of the EPIs. These depended on a functioning clearing house mechanism to collate and disseminate knowledge and information. In the event, many of the IOMC chairs and co-chairs facilitated this knowledge exchange through their own websites.

195. Despite the challenges that faced the secretariat, the evaluation of its performance concluded that the secretariat was effective in providing support to the

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[170] Source: SAICM/ICCM.2/9* paragraph 8; SAICM/ICCM.3/21/Rev.1, Table 1; SAICM/ICCM.4/14, Table 2.
[171] See Evaluation of the UNEP project Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Secretariat SAICM (2019) paragraphs 25-26
[172] Resolution ll/6
[173] Resolution ll/4 of ICCM2
[174] SAICM/ICCM.3/24, paragraph 27, p. 58
[175] SAICM/ICCM.4/14, Table 2
[176] SAICM/EB.10/4 Annex 1
[177] Evaluation of the UNEP project Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Secretariat SAICM (2019) paragraphs 79-84

ICCM and its subsidiary bodies. The role of the Secretariat in organising these meetings, preparing documents, being responsible for the logistics and sharing outputs with participants post-conference, was central to their success. The Secretariat was effective in ensuring that all outcomes and recommendations from ICCM were communicated to SAICM stakeholders as well as uploading all documents related to ICCM onto the SAICM website.[178]

Information sharing and collaboration

196. Success in realizing SAICM outcomes was highly dependent on SAICM stakeholders sharing information and collaborating with each other. The Dubai Declaration emphasized active engagement in partnerships between Governments, the private sector and civil society, as well as stressing the responsibility of industry to make available data and information on health and environmental effects of chemicals.[179]

197. There has been much collaboration between SAICM stakeholders. The IOMC organisations have led on the emerging policy issues: UNEP/WHO for lead in paint; UNEP for chemicals in products; UNIDO for hazardous substances in the lifecycle of electronics; UNITAR/OECD for nanotechnologies; OECD/UNEP/WHO for EDCs; OECD/UNEP for Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives (see Table 4, above).

198. In addition, IOMC organisations were also executing agencies for 76 of the QSP projects with the BRS secretariat or regional centers executing agency for six QSP projects (see Table 5, above). Their support to the recipient organisations included technical support and training. The IOMC have also produced a wide range of training and technical manuals, freely available on IOMC member websites.[180]

199. The governing bodies of several IOMC organisations have passed resolutions in support of SAICM, thereby providing the political will within those organisations to take the SAICM agenda forward. For example, the World Health Assembly Resolution 69.4 (2016) 'The role of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond', requested the preparation of a roadmap to enhance health sector engagement in SAICM. The roadmap, approved by the Seventieth WHA in 2017, recognized the need for cooperation and collaboration between stakeholders for its success, and called on Member States to define and implement plans for delivering on the actions.[181]

200. Nevertheless, at ICCM4, the degree of concern over the lack of commitment at the highest levels of some UN agencies, led delegates to pass Resolution lV/1 in 2015 that called on those (organisations of the UN Management Group) that had not done so to declare their commitment to SAICM (see paragraph 110, above).

201. The WHO was envisaged to take a co-lead role with UNEP in the SAICM secretariat.[182] Over the period 2007 to 30 September 2012, WHO seconded a staff

[178] Evaluation of the UNEP project Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Secretariat SAICM (2019) Executive Summary, paragraphs 1 & 4
[179] Dubai Declaration, paragraphs 19 and 20.
[180] See IOMC (2014) IOMC Analysis of Work Done to Implement the SAICM Global Plan of Action.
[181] See https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/273137/WHO-FWC-PHE-EPE-17.03-eng.pdf?ua=1
[182] See Overarching Policy Strategy, paragraph 29

member to the secretariat. WHO withdrew this support owing to financial constraints.[183]

202. Developing formal structures for collaboration with the BRS has progressed since ICCM3. At ICCM3, delegates "…expressed support for the 2011 synergies decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination between the BRS conventions, which would assist in making progress towards achieving the 2020 goal," and called for SAICM efforts to be integrated into the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, and assigned a mandate to carry out SAICM activities.[184]

203. In 2013, the conference of the parties to the BRS conventions requested the BRS secretariat to enhance cooperation and coordination with SAICM. Consequently, in early 2014, a taskforce assessed possible areas of cooperation and collaboration with the UNEP Chemicals Branch and the SAICM secretariat.

204. At ICCM4, the BRS secretariat provided an update of its involvement with SAICM over the period 2013-2015. This included: providing input into EPI discussions, participating in meetings provision of information, hosting an event on EDCs; providing inputs into development of the OOG; making efforts to ensure SAICM was integrated into the post-2015 development agenda. The BRS secretariat also reported that other operational or administrative areas of cooperation were being explored post ICCM4.[185]

205. At ICCM2, the IFCS, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry offered to become scientific advisory bodies to SAICM as well as offering to host annual meetings leading up to ICCM3. However, these offers were declined (see paragraphs 62, 78 and 79, above).

206. It was envisaged that the SAICM secretariat would play an instrumental role in facilitating information sharing between SAICM stakeholders – through the provision of information clearinghouse services, the promotion of the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information.[186] The absence of the information clearinghouse has been recognized as a factor limiting information sharing among SAICM stakeholders (see paragraph 152, above).

207. Maintaining the balance between the confidentiality of business information and industry provision of information on chemicals was a challenge for SAICM stakeholders. Paragraph 22 of the Dubai Declaration declared that "In making information available, information on chemicals relating to the health and safety of humans and the environment should not be regarded as confidential".[187] Nevertheless, a number of SAICM stakeholders flagged this issue. The lack of information sharing by business was of concern in relation to the Chemicals in products EPI (see paragraph 136, above), the Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products EPI (see paragraph, 144 above), Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials EPI (see paragraphs 147 and 152, above).

[183] SAICM/ICCM.3/24 paragraphs 186-188
[184] SAICM/ICCM.3/24 paragraph 50.
[185] SACIM/ICCM.4/INF/24 paragraphs 5 to 18
[186] Overarching Policy Strategy, paragraphs 28f, 28h, 28i
[187] See Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, paragraph 22

Secure, sustainable and adequate financing

208. The success of the SAICM mission depended on secure and sustainable financing. With the notable exception of the QSP trust fund, the SAICM process has been hampered by both uncertainty and shortfalls in planned financing.

209. Whilst, donors contributed US$ 41 million over the period 2006-2015 to the QSP Trust Fund, with four donors (EU, Sweden, Norway and the USA) contributing 73% of the funds,[188] funding for the SAICM secretariat was less forthcoming. For six of the 10 year period the annual budget shortfall was at least 43% (see paragraph 186, above).

210. In addition, to the donor contributions for the QSP and for the functions of the secretariat, delegates at ICCM2, reported that they had spent US$ 698,693 over the period 2006-2009.[189] This finance was used to cover expenses '*associated with the current session of the Conference, the meeting of the Open-ended Legal and Technical Working Group held in Rome from 21 to 24 October 2008, regional meetings and publication of the Strategic Approach texts*'.[190] (No such financial contributions were reported for the period 2010-2015.)

211. SAICM stakeholders (see Figure 1) also contributed resources – financial and in-kind – to support the SAICM agenda. IOMC organisations chaired or co-chaired EPIs and other issues of concern; SAICM stakeholders provided funding for EPI activities including lead in paint (see paragraph 129), hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products (see paragraph 138, above), nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials (see paragraph 146, above).

212. The issue of secure, sustainable and adequate financing for SAICM has been a recurring theme over the period 2006-2015. At ICCM1 no agreement was reached about how to make provision for adequate and sustainable funding (see paragraphs 54 to 58, above). At ICCM2, Resolution ll/3 invited stakeholders to provide funds (see paragraph 67, above), and to report to secretariat in preparation for a review of financial arrangements to be presented at ICCM3 (see paragraph 69, above). There were differing views to the proposal presented at ICCM3, Resolution lll/1, relating to the mainstreaming and industry involvement components of the integrated approach. There was a common concern raised on the challenges in raising funds for a voluntary approach as compared with legally binding instruments (see paragraphs 89 to 95, above). At ICCM4, there was acknowledgement that the scale of resources available was insufficient to achieve the 2020 goal (see paragraph 108, above). The invitation to the GEF in resolution lV/2 to provide financial support for implementation of ICCM resolutions on all emerging policy issues resulted in the GEF approval of an US$ 8.19 million project "Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management" in 2018.[191]

[188] Evaluation of the UNEP project Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Secretariat SAICM (2019) Table 7
[189] Evaluation of the UNEP project Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Secretariat SAICM (2019), paragraph 38
[190] SAICM/ICCM.2/9*, paragraph 11
[191] SAICM/OEWG.3/6, p.3

Intermediate State 1: Strengthened capacity, commitment, technical knowledge, political will to implement and mainstream SAICM

Africa Region

213. This section is drawn from the responses of the Government NFPs of 18 countries in the region. They were:

Burkina Faso	Ghana	Niger
Comoros	Lesotho	Nigeria
Cote D'Ivoire	Madagascar	Senegal
The Republic of Congo	Malawi	Sierra Leone
Egypt	Mali	South Africa
Gambia	Mauritania	Tanzania

Coordination within Government and stakeholder engagement and collaboration

214. Many NFP respondents reported that their country had national coordination committees, often through the ministry of environment, established specifically to address SAICM. Some of these committees comprised government ministries, multi-sectoral in nature including a range of sectors, for example: health, agriculture, industry, transport, trade, fisheries, agriculture, customs and energy.

215. Other examples of national coordination committees, as well as comprising government agencies, also included stakeholders such as regional and local municipalities and authorities, civil society and non-governmental organisations, universities, private business and labour unions.

216. Countries that had established national coordination committees included: Burkina Faso, Egypt, Gambia, Cote D'Ivoire, Lesotho, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Tanzania.

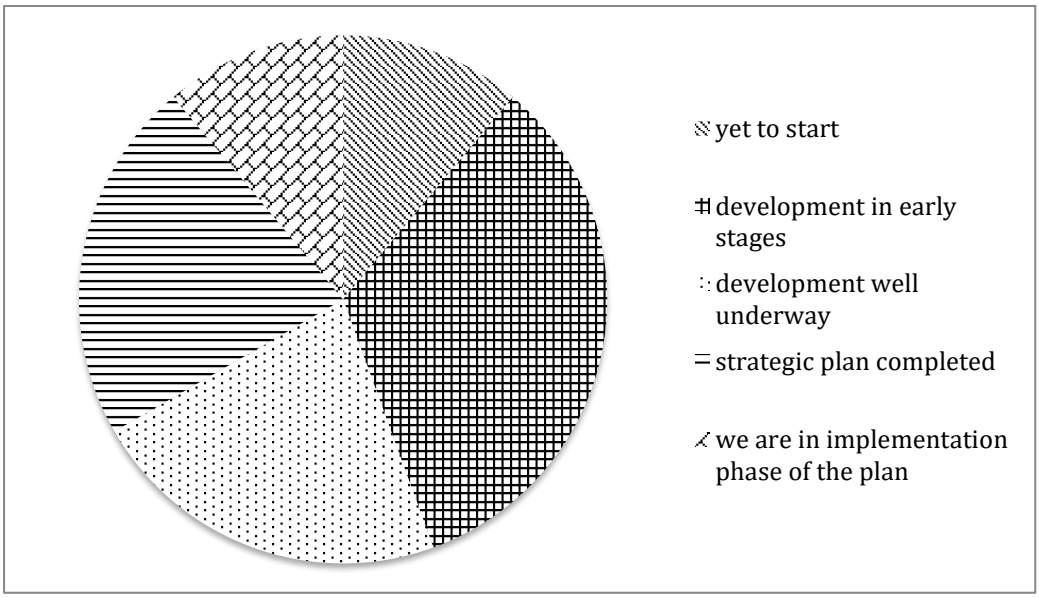
217. These committees have brought together agencies, hitherto fragmented, sometimes working at cross-purposes and to their own agendas, into a common platform for cooperation and collaboration. This has resulted in strengthened capacity of national actors and the creation of regulatory frameworks dedicated to chemicals and waste management.

218. Examples of the results of the increased coordination and collaboration resulting from SAICM included: in Egypt, establishing information exchange networks focused on capacity building for chemicals management through the preparation of guidelines for proper handling of hazardous chemicals, and facilitating the exchange of information through a central information system; in Cote d'Ivoire, creating a database on chemicals and their effects on health and environment; in Nigeria, raising awareness and promoting stakeholder ownership, thereby mobilizing support and catalysing partnerships for chemicals management; in Malawi, government departments seeking guidance on appropriate disposal methods for waste, such as the Ministry of Health seeking guidance on appropriate disposal methods for expired drugs and medical supplies.

Strategic Plan to Address Chemicals and Waste

219. Of the 18 NFPs (from the Africa Region) who provided information, two responded that the process of developing a strategic plan for chemicals and waste management was yet to start; six responded that the development was in its early stages; four considered that the development of the plan was well underway with broad engagement of stakeholders, with a further four indicating that the strategic plan had been completed and approved by government. The remaining two respondents reported that their governments were in the implementation phase of the plan (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Status of Strategic Plan for SAICM in Africa Region



220. In Burkina Faso, the SAICM national implementation strategy with associated action plan was developed and approved through a forum that brought together around 70 participants from ministries, international organisations, embassies, the private sector, civil society, NGOs and union associations.

221. In Comoros, the National Implementation Plan focused on three priority areas: strengthening the regulatory and institutional framework; strengthening the technical and scientific capacities of the structures responsible for the chemicals management; raising awareness of all stakeholders involved in the chemicals management.

222. In Cote D'Ivoire the adoption of SAICM has resulted in raised awareness of the actors in the public and private sectors that in turn has generated a climate of trust, thereby encouraging decision-makers to integrate chemicals and waste management into national policies on health and environment protection. Through the Ministry of Environment the government has created two national programmes – one on chemicals management, the other on waste management – together with associated action plans.

223. In Guyana, policies to prevent and address stockpiles of obsolete pesticides through a polluter pays approach are being considered; a public-private partnership

has been established to monitor restricted use pesticides and to encourage sound chemical storage facilities.

224. In Madagascar a SAICM action plan was developed by the ministries of industry, agriculture, health, customs, labour and environment, with the focal points for the Minamata Convention and the BRS conventions. Fifty activities were identified in the action plan, aligned to the activities in the GPA. Progress has been made on two of these: Activity #163: Conduct awareness raising and prevention campaigns to promote chemicals without risk in the regions of Madagascar; Activity #199: Establish mechanisms to implement and monitor importation of chemicals.

225. Niger has developed a strategy and action plan on chemicals management as well as communications and chemical governance strategies.

226. Nigeria has developed a SAICM national implementation plan for the sound management of chemicals and waste that addresses national priority areas. This plan was developed and validated in close consultation with stakeholders.

227. In Senegal, a roadmap has been developed to address the risks associated with poorly controlled chemicals management. The country has also developed a national action plan for the reduction of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks and threats, of which a significant component addressed waste and hazardous chemicals management.

228. In Sierra Leone a chemical and waste national strategic plan was developed as part of the Environment Protection Agency five year strategy. The national strategic plan was informed by the SAICM objectives and the GPA.

229. In South Africa, the Multi-Stakeholder Chemicals Committee has a work plan that is updated annually and monitored every quarter. Academics and NGO representatives attend the quarterly monitoring meetings.

230. In Tanzania, the strategic plan for chemicals management (2017-2022) is implemented through the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority. The annual budget to implement this plan is approved by parliament.

Regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management

231. Several NFPs from West Africa highlighted the role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in facilitating regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management. This regional body has been proactive, hosting a technical meeting of experts to validate the regional strategy and action plan for integrating chemicals and hazardous waste management.[192] The environmental policy of this regional cooperation aims to combat pollution and control the movement of dangerous goods, as well as to promote information, education and communication for effective and ecologically sound chemicals management. It was reported that the influence of SAICM has been to put chemicals and waste management high on the political agenda.

232. It was reported that the SAICM regional meetings (see Figure 2) provided good opportunities for countries to share experiences and learn from each other. These meetings also enabled participants to develop common positions on chemicals

[192] This meeting took place October/ November 2017.

and waste issues within the region, and address these issues in a more coordinated and coherent manner. For some NFPs, the regional meetings have increased their capacity to raise and discuss chemicals issues at the national level.

233. It was reported that countries benefit from the regional centers of the BRS conventions that facilitate the implementation of SAICM and provide a platform for sharing experiences.

234. The QSP funded several regional projects over the 10 year period building capacity and facilitating regional networking.[193] These projects included: Supporting the updating national chemicals management profiles in Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Madagascar, Rwanda and Sao Tome & Principe, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti and The Republic of Congo, facilitated by UNITAR; Implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa in Kenya and Gabon, facilitated by UNEP and WHO; Chemical Accident Prevention Programmes in Mali and Senegal; Strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations and communities to monitor the pesticides health impacts in Mali and Senegal, facilitated by Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa; Institutional capacity building for implementing of the Stockholm Convention on POPs in Burundi and Rwanda.

Asia Pacific Region

235. This section is drawn from the responses of the Government NFPs of eight countries in the region. They were:

Cambodia	Iraq	Tuvalu
India	Lao PDR	Yemen
Iran	Maldives	

Coordination within Government and stakeholder engagement and collaboration

236. As was the case in the Africa region, Government NFPs of the Asia Pacific region reported that committees have been established to coordinate and lead on the SAICM agenda at the national level.

237. The Islamic Republic of Iran has established a national coordination mechanism within each related ministry and agency tasked with specific areas of work and activities aligned to the GPA. The Department of Environment is the competent national authority for the BRS conventions, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the national focal point for SAICM and the chemical conventions. These two agencies have joint responsibility for managing coordination between different stakeholders on issues related to chemicals and waste management.

238. In Iraq, the Supreme Committee for the implementation of chemicals policies has been established.

239. In the Maldives, it was reported that the establishment of the Chemicals Management Coordination Committee and the development of a chemicals profile has resulted in improved coordination among agencies.

[193] SAICM/EB.10/4, Tables A, pp. 5-20

240. In India, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, coordinated and engaged with all relevant stakeholders (including government, civil society, academia and industry) when formulating legislation for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Strategic Plan to Address Chemicals and Waste

241. Of the six NFPs (from the Asia-Pacific Region) who provided information, three responded that the process of developing a strategic plan for chemicals and waste management was yet to start; two considered that the development of the plan was well underway with broad engagement of stakeholders. One respondent reported that their government was in the implementation phase of the plan.

242. The Government of India has several rules relating to chemicals and waste, including: Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016; Regulation on Lead contents in Household and Decorative Paints Rules, 2016; Regulation of Polychlorinated Biphenyls Order, 2016; Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016; E-Waste Management Rules, 2016; Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. In addition, the Government has identified specific targets with respect to chemical and waste management aligned to the SDGs, specifically SDG 3, 6, 12 and 14.

243. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, the lead ministry developing the national chemical profile has concentrated its activities on enhancing risk assessment capacity, implementing GHS and safe disposal of waste and obsolete chemicals. The Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade is assigned to develop available knowledge and information for the industry sector regarding the SAICM related activities. The National Customs Organization has been entrusted the responsibility of regulating and preventing illegal trafficking of toxic chemicals. The Department of Environment is responsible for air, water and soil pollution monitoring in the context of chemical environment agreements. The Department of Environment has promoted and strengthened chemical legislation, laws and regulations and access to chemical inventory records within government plans.

244. In Iraq the following activities were reported: preparation of the chemical security strategy; preparation of the National Register of Chemicals; formation of a committee of synergies between chemical conventions; data collection and preparation of hazardous waste databases.

245. In the Maldives, a National SAICM Implementation Plan (2016-2020) has been developed. Funding has been secured to develop and disseminate guidelines for safe handling and disposal of chemicals. There has been a Minamata Initial Assessment, as well as activities to facilitate early action on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

Regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management

246. The regional SAICM meetings together with regional meetings of the BRS conventions promoted knowledge exchange between countries that helped to guide formulation of national legislation. Strengthening regional cooperation in this region will enhance the management of chemicals and waste.

247. The QSP funded several regional projects over the 10 year period building capacity and facilitating regional networking.[194] These projects included: Protecting human health and the environment from mercury in artisanal and small scale gold mining in Cambodia and the Philippines, facilitated by UNEP; Poisons information network for the Pacific in Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga, facilitated by WHO; Capacity Strengthening and Information Exchange on PCBs Management in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, facilitated by BCRC China; Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening of Pacific Islands' Management and Disposal of E-Waste in Cook Islands, Kiribati and Samoa, facilitated by Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); Technical Support to Strengthening National Capacities for Sound Management of Priority Industrial Carcinogens in Indonesia and Thailand, facilitated by WHO.

Central and Eastern Europe Region

248. This section is drawn from the responses of the Government NFPs of six countries in the region. They were:

Republic of Belarus	Montenegro	Russia
Republic of North Macedonia	Poland	Serbia

Coordination within Government and stakeholder engagement and collaboration

249. The NFPs of two countries in this region – Republic of Belarus and Serbia – provided information for this section. In the case of Republic of Belarus, the management of chemicals was delivered through the creation of interdepartmental working groups and interdepartmental coordination councils. For example, implementation of the provisions of the technical regulations on the safety of chemical products required the involvement of many government bodies, committees and organizations. For example, the Commission for Emergency Situations was under the Council of Ministers, the Council for Pesticides and Fertilizers under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Coordinating Council for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. An interdepartmental coordinating council is responsible for work under the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.

250. Serbia benefitted from a QSP project 'Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships for Chemicals Safety in the Republic of Serbia' which aimed at strengthening capacities and collaboration of competent authorities in charge of chemicals management, human health and consumer protection.

251. The final draft of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention, the establishment of the Coordinating Body for the management of POPs was planned, with responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the NIP. This body will be made up of representatives from state institutions, industry associations, the scientific and research sector, and non-governmental organizations. It is

[194] SAICM/EB.10/4, Tables A and B, pp. 5-20

anticipated that this coordinating mechanism will facilitate the collection and exchange of information reported to the Secretariat of the BRS conventions and the European Environment Agency, thereby strengthening integrated chemicals and waste management in the country.

Strategic Plan to Address Chemicals and Waste

252. Of the six NFPs (from the CEE Region) who provided information, two responded that the development was in its early stages; four considered that the development of the plan was well underway with broad engagement of stakeholders.

253. In Republic of Belarus, the plans for addressing chemicals and waste include: the Action Plan for technical regulation 'On the Safety of Chemical Products'; the National Environmental Protection Plan designed to monitor the quality and safety of food products; NIP for the Stockholm Convention; National Action Plan for Environmental Health. Under the State programme 'Environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources for 2016-2020', approval was given for implementation of activities for safe handling of POPs – handling of unsuitable pesticides, handling of equipment and monitoring impacts of exposure to POPs.

254. In Macedonia, over the period 2008-2010, a National Action Plan and Roadmap for Mainstreaming Actions for the Sound Management of Chemicals was developed under the guidance of the SAICM NFP in coordination with the SAICM Secretariat.

255. Montenegro adopted the Chemicals Management Strategy (2015-2018) aimed at identifying activities to address chemicals management within the context of the existing legal and institutional framework and administrative capacity. An action plan comprising 37 activities was developed.

Regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management

256. Regional activities included projects aimed at developing national systems of chemicals management in order to facilitate economic integration with the EU.

257. The QSP funded several regional projects over the 10 year period building capacity and facilitating regional networking.[195] These projects included: Supporting the updating national chemicals management profiles in Armenia, Georgia and Serbia, facilitated by UNITAR; Enhancing Capacity Building for the Development of the National Registers of Pollutant Release and Transfer, in Republic of Belarus and Tajikistan.

[195] SAICM/EB.10/4, Tables A and B, pp. 5-20

Latin America and the Caribbean Region (LAC)

258. This section is drawn from the responses of the Government NFPs of 13 countries in the region. They were:

Argentina	Guyana	Peru
Colombia	Mexico	St Kitts and Nevis
Costa Rica	Panama	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominica	Paraguay	Uruguay
Ecuador		

Coordination within Government and stakeholder engagement and collaboration

259. The Government NFPs from this region provided many examples of national coordinating bodies established to lead on the management of chemicals and wastes.

260. In Costa Rica, the Secretary for Chemicals Substances Management was established, comprising representatives from Government, the public sector, the private sector and academia. The structure of the Secretariat followed the integrated approach of SAICM, based on realizing the synergies that come from a whole systems approach. Through this structure support is provided to the focal points of the chemical conventions.

261. In Guyana, an inter-ministerial, inter-agency stakeholder network was established in 2010. This network comprised stakeholders that included: government agencies (including agriculture and mining), pesticides and chemicals importers, distributors, manufacturers, vendors, chemicals users – pest control operators, farmers and farm workers – education and research institutions, civil society and NGOs.

262. In Mexico, the National Advisory Committee for the Integrated Management of Chemical Substances, Persistent Organic Pollutants and Hazardous Waste subject to International Agreements, in Environmental Matters (CCNSG) is the advisory body to the Secretariat of Environmental and Natural Resources. The CCNSG comprises experts from agencies of the Federal Public Administration, academic institutions, social and business organisations. Its purpose is to provide information, recommendations and facilitate inter-sectoral coordination in chemicals and waste management. It was reported that the CCNSQ strengthens the coordination and communication on chemical substances, generating a democratic space for citizen participation.

263. In Peru, SAICM resulted in the strengthening of the Technical Group on Chemical Substances comprising representatives from public organisations, civil society and academia. SAICM elevated the chemicals agenda as well as generating greater interest in chemicals and waste management issues at the subnational level.

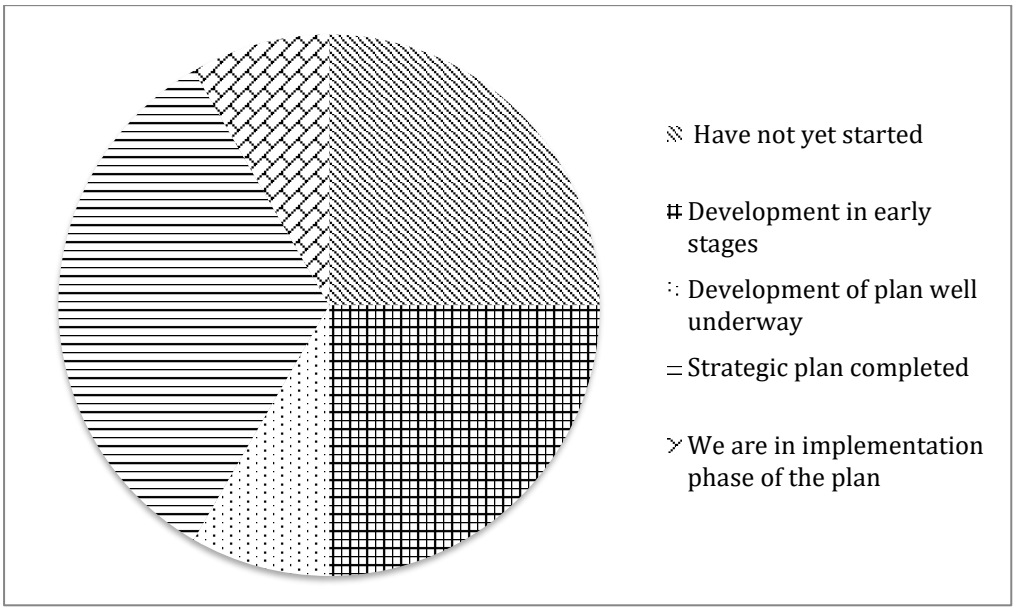
264. Trinidad and Tobago benefited from a QSP project that involved examining coordination within government aimed at strengthening the legislative, regulatory and institutional gaps and needs for Trinidad and Tobago in relation to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board, advises the Minister of Health on regulations relating to pesticides and toxic chemicals.

265. In Uruguay, the Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection of the Environment was established as a space for participation and coordination among ministries, the office of Planning and Budget, Congress of Mayors, academia, business chambers and workers, and environmental NGOs.

Strategic Plan to Address Chemicals and Waste

266. Of the 12 NFPs (from the LAC Region) who provided information, three responded that the process of developing a strategic plan for chemicals and waste management was yet to start; three responded that the development was in its early stages; one considered that the development of the plan was well underway with broad engagement of stakeholders, with a further four indicating that the strategic plan had been completed (with two yet to be approved). One respondent reported that their government was in the implementation phase of the plan (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Status of Strategic Plan for SAICM in LAC Region



267. Argentina has established the Directorate of Chemical Substances and Products whose function is to coordinate with Government ministries and agencies to develop the national strategy for the integrated management of chemicals, supporting each authority to strengthen its compliance within its competencies.

268. In Costa Rica, action plans for chemicals and waste management are aligned with the principles of SAICM and the chemicals conventions. The political will and commitment for chemicals and waste management was reflected in the decree on chemical safety.

269. In Dominica, a National Chemical Management Programme has been developed and the situational analysis component of the plan was underway in 2018.

270. In Ecuador, the national plan for implementation of SAICM was developed in 2011. Current work (2018) focuses on developing strategic plans related to the international chemicals conventions.

271. In Mexico an initial review of the 273 activities within the GPA was carried out to assist in setting of national priorities in chemicals and waste management.

Regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management

272. The establishment of the regional chemicals and waste network of the intergovernmental forum of ministers of environment has strengthened the exchange of information and cooperation between countries. The creation and implementation of a regional plan by this forum will contribute to the management of chemicals and waste in the region.

273. Support from the Basel Convention Regional Centers has enabled countries in the region to: advance activities for the early implementation of the Minamata Convention; to implement projects for the best practices for the management of PCBs in the mining sector; build capacity for managing POPs.

274. The regional institution – Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR) – composed of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, has developed an action plan aligned to the GPA that included the following priority areas: mercury, GHS, pesticides and contaminated sites.

275. The QSP funded several regional projects over the 10 year period building capacity and facilitating regional networking.[196] These projects included: Supporting the updating national chemicals management profiles in Chile and Costa Rica, facilitated by UNITAR; Integrated regional campaign on minimization of mercury domestic sources with actions of intervention to protect women and children in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, facilitated by the Argentine Society of Doctors for the Environment; Enabling workers and workplaces for SAICM implementation in Brazil, Chile and Uruguay, facilitated by Sustainlabour; Promoting sound chemical management through strengthening workers capacities in Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Nicaragua, facilitated by Sustainlabour.

Western Europe and Others Group

276. This section is drawn from the responses of the Government NFPs of eight countries in the region. They were:

Austria	Germany	Switzerland
Canada	Monaco	United States of America
Denmark	Sweden	

367. In Canada, SAICM and the 2020 goal has provided additional political impetus to Canada's domestic chemicals management programme as well as funding renewal requests over the 10 year period.

[196] SAICM/EB.10/4, Tables A and B, pp. 5-20

278. For the EU, the REACH Regulation of 2006 states that: This Regulation should contribute to fulfillment of the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM) adopted on 6 February 2006 in Dubai.[197]

279. The EU and its Member States were reported to have a number of legal instruments in place that enhanced the responsibility and involvement of stakeholders. It was reported that the EU and its Member States fully implement the MEAs through respective EU legislation and have a number of legal instruments in place that aim at ensuring the sound management of chemicals and waste across sectors. It was further reported that the EU chemicals and waste regulations were directly applicable in the Member States. National legislation in the Member States complemented the European instruments.

280. The EU Action Plan for a Circular Economy (2015) sought to implement the full life-cycle approach to chemicals management, with the objective of achieving non-toxic material cycles.

281. The 7th Environmental Action Programme for the European Union (2013) included a number of actions on chemicals, including the development of a non-toxic environment strategy by 2018 (postponed until 2019). It is expected that the strategy will address: (1) the safety of manufactured nanomaterials and materials with similar properties; (2) the minimisation of exposure to endocrine disruptors; (3) appropriate regulatory approaches to address synergistic effects of chemicals and (4) the minimisation of exposure to chemicals in products.

282. The EU established two bodies involved in chemicals management, the European Chemicals Agency and the European Food Safety Authority. It was reported that the main task of both is to carry out the risk and/or hazard assessment for the chemicals covered by their mandate and to publish all results of their scientific work on their websites.

Driver: Role of National Focal Points[198]

283. At the national level, the Overarching Policy Strategy called for Governments to designate a national focal point to facilitate communication nationally and internationally, and for national focal points to be representatives of inter-ministerial or inter-institutional arrangements. In the event over 80% of national focal points were based in the Ministry of Environment.

284. The role of the government NFP is central to the delivery of the 2020 goal. Paragraph 23 of the Overarching Policy Strategy states that "…each government should designate a Strategic Approach national focal point to act as an effective conduit for communicating on Strategic Approach matters…" [199] No detailed description of the functions of the NFP role were agreed. At ICCM2, the Africa Region NFPs proposed guidelines for NFPs although they were never formally agreed (see paragraph 86 above).

[197] REGULATION (EC) No 1907/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 18 December 20006, paragraph 6

[198] This section is drawn from findings from focus group discussions with NFPs at IP1 in Brasilia February 207 and interviews April-June 2018

[199] SAICM (2006) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. UNEP, WHO, pp 24-25

285. NFPs from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and Caribbean regions identified their role as one of raising awareness and promoting the introduction of ideas generated at the international SAICM forum into national policies, legislation and regulations. They saw their role as one of coordinating and promoting the integration of chemicals and waste management among ministries and building capacity, sharing information and being champions for change. [200]

286. In order to fulfill this role national focal points were required to play the role of facilitators, enablers, motivators and advocates, bringing together all stakeholders through the creation of collaborative mechanisms, encouraging buy-in and mobilizing resources, both domestically and from international funding bodies, and translating the international SAICM mandate at the national level.

287. National focal points were expected to support the preparation of national strategic plans for taking forward SAICM in their countries, aligned to the SDGs, WHO Roadmap and BRS and Minamata conventions. These plans included: actions for further chemical legislation; mainstreaming chemicals and waste management into development plans and national strategic plans; strengthening capacity of stakeholders.

288. The production of such plans required extensive networking with stakeholders at the national and local levels. A wide range of stakeholders were part of the network – government, civil society, business and industry, labour, health and agriculture sectors. For some NFPs this involved engaging with local communities and indigenous people.

289. National focal points had a role in promoting synergies between the BRS and Minamata Conventions and SAICM and working with other national focal points from the region to develop regional agendas for chemicals and waste management. Some SAICM NFPs also had the role of NFP for the BRS and Minamata conventions.

290. National Focal Points supported Regional Focal Points to integrate the sustainable management of chemicals and waste within programmes at regional and sub-regional levels.

291. The role of the NFP was to mediate between the different national sector actors and SAICM for the exchange of information, and between the different NFPs of the region to coordinate projects and joint initiatives to be implemented by the competent national authorities.

Factors influencing NFP role

292. The most significant factor that influenced the ability of NFPs to fulfill their role was the institutional arrangements in which they worked. Most NFPs were located within the Ministry of Environment (see paragraph 22 above) and found it a challenge to generate the synergies and collaboration between the ministries needed for SAICM. This was in part because their agency lacked power and influence to shape national agendas.

[200] For three countries, the role of the NFP as described was shared among different national contact points responsible for implementation of international conventions and agreements on chemicals and waste management.

293. Further, the functions of Government were organised along sectoral lines. SAICM is inherently multi-sectoral. Many NFPs highlighted the inadequate institutional coordination and inter-agency cooperation as a major factor influencing their ability to deliver on their role.

294. For many, SAICM objectives were not high on national political agendas. This low priority was reflected within the NFP agencies – some NFPs had relatively junior positions, had multiple responsibilities, and consequently had insufficient time to devote to the SAICM agenda. Moreover, where the NFP occupied a senior position within the ministry, a similar challenge was reported – not enough time to allocate to SAICM role. For some, their role as NFP for SAICM was 'invisible' within their agency. The low political priority accorded to SAICM objectives was further reflected in the low budget, or no budget, allocated to SAICM related activities.

295. The degree of capacity influencing the NFP role was a broader issue than that of time allocated to multiple responsibilities. Capacity constraints included the lack of experienced personnel to conduct surveys (e.g. of contaminated sites), to assess health impacts as a result of exposure, monitoring and testing, as well as a lack of, and poor coordination between, accredited laboratories. Insufficient administrative capacity and numbers of qualified staff compounded by high staff turnover added to the challenges faced by NFPs in fulfilling their role.

296. Several NFPs reported that the short-term nature of chemicals management affected their ability to perform their role. Specifically, the capacity constraints, limited resources and political context led to agencies structured to address short-term problems, critical incidents and emergencies. This resulted in limited scope for planning and development for the long-term that would ensure safe and rational use of the entire spectrum of chemicals throughout their lifecycle.

297. Reflecting the sectoral structure, existing national chemical regulations were reported dispersed among numerous agencies – hard therefore to build an integrated regulatory framework. Weak legislation, the lack of technology and the technical capacity to maintain control on existing regulations, resulted in low levels of enforcement, thereby undermining NFPs' role.

298. The relationship between the private sector and the regulatory authorities that govern chemicals and waste have a significant influence on NFPs fulfilling their role. The type of regulation, the level of enforcement and the nature of sanctions for the breach of regulations all have a bearing on the ability of NFPs to deliver on their mandate.

299. Some NFPs reported difficulties in engaging with the private sector, a reluctance to share information and data, including health related data on exposure of employees to chemicals.

300. The low level of awareness within Government and among end-users of chemicals posed serious risks to public health and the environment. The degree of commitment and political will to protect vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, from the health impacts of chemicals and waste impacted on NFPs' ability to deliver on their mandate. Concern was raised as to the extent of these health impacts and the lack of engagement with vulnerable groups. This limited engagement created uncertainty on the magnitude of impacts and therefore the appropriate actions required.

301. The capacity of workers and farmers, unions, civil society organisations and NGOs, and the degree of freedom they had to engage with the chemical and waste agenda also impacted on the ability of NFPs to deliver on their role.

302. The degree of coordination and collaboration with SAICM stakeholders (listed in Figure 2) influenced the success of the NFP role. Turnover of NFPs highlighted the need for effective orientation programmes for newly appointed NFPs. Greater support and communication between NFPs, SAICM regional focal points, BRS focal points, IOMC organisations and the SAICM Secretariat, were seen as ways to enhance the NFP role.

Intermediate State ll: Overarching Policy Strategy Objectives

Risk reduction

303. The findings of the survey conducted with SAICM stakeholders for this report found that over 70% of stakeholders considered SAICM as successful in achieving this objective.

304. Survey respondents from WEOG countries cited much progress in risk reduction strategies (e.g. EU REACH and Canada's Chemicals Management Plan). Complex regulatory frameworks have evolved in these countries such that all aspects of chemicals management were covered, from their use in production of goods, exposure levels, and disposal. EU stakeholders pointed to European legislation as the cause of risk reduction and the influence that SAICM had had as a driver of REACH regulations (see paragraph 368, above). For some CEE respondents, the main driver for reducing risk arose from the requirements to meet the obligations of EU regulations and their obligations under the BRS conventions.

305. Just under 20% of survey respondents indicated that little or no success had been achieved in addressing the risk reduction objective. The factors accounting for this included: the lack of effective management systems, including institutional structures, for chemicals at the national level and gaps in legislation; poor collaboration between different agencies with responsibility for chemical safety; insufficient training and capacity building of end-users of chemicals.

306. The survey conducted by the secretariat designed to assess progress made against the 20 Indicators of Progress listed in Table 2, above (over the period 2011-2013), revealed that over 50% of all respondents were utilising IOMC tools and guidance in their management of chemicals and waste. In particular the FAO Pesticides Code of Conduct, WHO Drinking Water Quality Guidelines and WHO Classification of Pesticides. The survey found that there was a marked increase in the use of the OECD's e-ChemPortal[201] and OECD Test Guidelines over the period 2011-2013 in the LAC region. In the 2013 round 40% of respondents reported utilising UNITAR's National (chemical) Profile guidance.[202] These findings were supported by IOMC in its assessment of progress made in the provision of information on chemicals and harmonized risk assessment methodologies, citing significant work via

[201] https://www.echemportal.org/echemportal/index.action
[202] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4 pp. 17-18

the eChemPortal and OECD's Risk Assessment Toolkit.[203]

307. Despite the progress reported above, the Africa Region, at its fifth regional meeting, identified the lack of guidelines and methodologies to undertake assessment as a gap limiting the sustainable management of chemicals in the region.[204] Similarly, the LAC Regional Coordinating Committee reported limited progress in risk assessment and management at the LAC region's fifth regional meeting in 2013, citing a lack of understanding of risk assessment methodologies, applications and evaluations.[205]

308. The SAICM secretariat survey revealed a high rate of risk management activity related to pesticides reported by respondents.[206] Nevertheless, IOMC reported that a high proportion of pesticides used have high acute toxicity, have known chronic toxic effects even at very low exposure levels, or are very persistent in the environment or in organisms. Furthermore, there are pesticides that can cause severe or irreversible harm because of the conditions in which they were used because risk reduction measures – such as the use of personal protective equipment or maintenance and calibration of pesticide application equipment - are not easily implemented or are not effective.[207] The IOMC report concluded that: "In most developing country situations HHPs cannot be used without risk due to local conditions of use and unavailability of appropriate protective and application equipment, or lack of information/access to alternatives".[208]

309. A recent survey (2015-2017) by PAN Asia-Pacific identified 14 pesticides (classified as HHPs by PAN) that were used by farmers in the region.[209] Of these 14 pesticides, one – ethoprop – was classified by WHO as extremely hazardous (Class la), 10 as moderately hazardous (Class ll) and four as slightly hazardous (Class lll).[210]

310. The same PAN Asia-Pacific survey found that hazardous conditions of use of these pesticides in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines and India were similar. For example, pesticide packets and containers were stored in the house; empty pesticide packets were found in cooking areas; women sprayed chemicals without protective personal equipment; herbicide containers were used for water collection; communities were exposed to aerial spraying; pesticides were purchased in unmarked plastic bags.[211] These practices put children at particular risk; a study in Thailand found that 94% of children in an agricultural community had metabolites of

[203] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/7, p. 3
[204] SAICM/RM/Afr.5/7, p.14
[205] SAICM/RM/LAC.4/12, p. 5
[206] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4 p. 21
[207] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/7 p. 24
[208] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/7 p. 4
[209] PANAP 2018. Corporate Accountability For Pesticide Use in the Asia Pacific Region. A Summary. Available at: http://files.panap.net/resources/Corporate-Accountability-For-Pesticides-Use-Summary.pdf (Accessed 23 November 2018)
[210] WHO (2009) The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification 2009. International Programme on Chemical Safety. Available at: https://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard/en/
[211] PANAP 2018. Corporate Accountability For Pesticide Use in the Asia Pacific Region. A Summary. Available at: http://files.panap.net/resources/Corporate-Accountability-For-Pesticides-Use-Summary.pdf

organophosphate insecticides in their urine.[212]

311. Two recent academic studies (2016, 2017) found similar practices in the Africa region highlighting that very few pesticide containers are actually returned to suppliers; most were either dumped on farms, throw on garbage sites, or re-used for domestic purposes (e.g. storage of food and kerosene).[213]

312. In the Africa region, it has been estimated that the costs of injury to pesticide users in 37 sub-Saharan countries (conservatively defined as lost work days, outpatient medical treatment and inpatient hospitalisation) was USD 4.4 billion in 2005, exceeding the total annual overseas development aid given to the region for basic health services, excluding HIV/AIDS in 2013. A conservative estimate (assuming 2013 (inadequate) capacity levels) puts the predicted cost at USD 97 billion by 2020 – a twenty-twofold increase.[214]

313. The Africa region reported the creation of a regional association of pesticide regulators that provides a forum for discussing new developments, challenges and lessons learnt. The SADC and SAHEL groups of African countries had established a harmonised pesticide registration system. However, these were not consistently implemented or operational.[215]

314. CropLife International, in a paper presented to the OEWG2, asserted its promotion of strict adherence to safe handling instructions with all crop production products including HHPs, as well as its commitment to providing training on risk and use assessment best practices in developing countries.[216] CropLife International reported its training of 120 field officers on good agricultural practices in Honduras in 2013, and its two year partnership (2013-2015) with the World Cocoa Foundation to train professional Spray Service Providers in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon.[217]

315. Three recent cases highlight the continuing risk management issues and contested nature of pesticide use in the WEOG region. Whilst courts have awarded damages for exposure to glyphosphate based herbicides,[218] the scientific evidence is ambiguous. Literature reviews in 2013 and 2016 found no evidence of a causal link between glyphosate exposure and Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, whereas a 2019 analysis

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[212] Panuwet P, Siriwong W, Prapamontol T, Ryan B, Fiedler N, Robson MG, Barr DB. 2012. Agricultural pesticide management in Thailand: status and population health risk. *Environ Sci Pol* 17:72-81, quoted in SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/24 p. 2

[213] Pouokam, GB; Album,WL; Ndikontar AS, Sidatt MEH. 2017. A pilot study in Cameroon to understand safe uses of pesticides in agriculture, risk factors for farmers' exposure and management of accidental cases. *Toxics* 5(4). pii: E30. doi: 10.3390/toxics5040030. Available at: https://www.mdpi.com/2305-6304/5/4/30 ; Gesesew HA, Woldemichael K, Massa D, Mwanri L. 2016. Farmers' knowledge, attitudes, practices and health problems associated with pesticide use in rural irrigation villages, Southwest Ethiopia. PLoS One. 2016 Sep 13;11(9):e0162527. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0162527. eCollection 2016. Available at: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5021266/

[214] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/1, paragraph 4

[215] SAICM/RM/Afr.5/7, p. 12

[216] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/21, pp. 3-4

[217] SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.1/3, pp. 3-4

[218] See: https://www.ft.com/content/9afdb4a6-af71-11e9-8030-530adfa879c2; https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/aug/10/monsanto-trial-cancer-dewayne-johnson-ruling; https://usrtk.org/monsanto-roundup-trial-tacker/monsanto-comes-out-swinging-in-appeal-of-johnson-verdict/ and

of epidemiological studies suggested a compelling link between exposure and increased risk.[219]

316. Exposure to chemicals in the workplace was found to be widespread. The report of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights to the Human Rights Council 39th Session in September 2018 highlighted an array of challenges to the rights of workers affected by toxic exposures. These included[220]:

- Inadequate standards of protection with risk assessments often based on incomplete knowledge resulting in misplaced assurances of worker safety, with processes for improving standards of protection being delayed;
- Decline in funding for institutions responsible for monitoring working conditions and exposure levels. Most States, especially those with a large informal sector, have poor and underreported levels of recording and notification of occupational accidents and disease;
- Specific vulnerability of low income workers, female workers, child workers, migrant and temporary workers, workers with disabilities and older workers. Low income workers are found in occupations with low economic security that expose them to toxic chemicals, limit their access to information and ability to defend their rights. Relatively high numbers of female workers are found in manufacturing, agriculture, services and the informal sector. Research has highlighted gender specific impacts: association between breast cancer and pesticides, industrial chemicals and metals; increased risk of miscarriages in the manufacture of electronics. An estimated 73 million children work in mines, agriculture and factories, exposed to pesticides, mercury and other toxic substances. In electronics children mine cobalt for batteries production and are exposed to toxic substances in the electronic waste sector. Migrant workers lack training, experience language barriers, face discrimination and restrictions on changing employers. Many migrants work in jobs that are characterised by dirty, dangerous and demeaning work. Undocumented migrants are especially vulnerable to these issues.
- Delays in protecting workers from exposure. Evidence that some business enterprises make efforts to delay the introduction of occupational health and safety legislation through campaigns aimed at undermining science and exploiting the financial insecurity of workers through threatened job losses.
- Opaque supply chains and transfer of hazardous work. The transfer of toxic work to lower income countries continues to be an issue, leaving vulnerable communities at risk.

317. The accessibility of poison centres for those exposed to toxic chemicals is an important component of strategies for realizing the Overarching Policy Objectives, including that of risk reduction. An assessment of the degree to which poison centres are accessible within countries and regions is discussed below in ‘Capacity building and Technical Cooperation’.

318. IOMC organisations have produced a series of guidance documents to support Governments in managing the risk of chemical accidents. OECD has produced:

[219] UNEP (2019) Global Chemicals Outlook ll: from legacies to innovative solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi. p. 324

[220] See UNGA (2018) report of the Special rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. Human Rights Council, 39th Session, 10-28 September, A/HRC/39/48, pp. 9-14

'Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response'; Guidance on Developing Safety Performance Indicators; Guidance for senior leaders in high hazard industries. UNEP has produced guidance on Flexible Framework for Addressing Chemicals Accident Prevention and Preparedness. WHO has produced manuals for the public health prevention and management of chemical emergencies, as well as International Health Regulations (IHR) that address chemical events. However, the IOMC reported that no systematic evaluation of the gaps in capacities for prevention, preparedness and response has taken place in many countries, citing a lack of inter-sectoral coordination and communication and a lack of capacities for chemical event surveillance and response.[221]

319. The Africa Region reported that although countries had established national frameworks on prevention and response to chemical emergencies and ECOWAS had established draft guidelines for handling industrial accidents, very few countries had mechanisms in place to deal with industrial accidents and transport incidences involving chemicals. The report also noted the lack of industry engagement in preventing, preparing and responding to chemical accidents and emergencies. The report called for the development of integrated national and regional systems to prevent major industrial accidents and for emergency preparedness and response systems, and the need to link these efforts to the work of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights.[222]

Knowledge and information

320. SAICM stakeholders who took part in the on-line survey considered that the Strategic Approach has had the most success in delivering on the Knowledge and Information sharing objective, largely as a result of the efforts of the Strategic Approach secretariat in disseminating information on chemicals through publications in multiple languages, its website, the regional meetings, ICCM, support and guidance to country focal points, and the Quick Start Programme (QSP). The QSP was attributed by many across the stakeholder groups to have enabled multi-sectoral exchange of information through the establishment of inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination committees.

321. However, while there has been success at the global, regional and national levels in sharing knowledge and information, gaps in achieving this objective remain. While stakeholders recognized the progress made in disseminating information at the national level, within some countries information and knowledge flows between national and local levels remained weak.

322. For WEOG stakeholders, domestic mechanisms for research and acquiring and analyzing information on chemicals management were good. Nevertheless, the 2020 goal provided a strong policy rationale for continued resources for research and assessment for WEOG stakeholders. The widespread implementation of the GHS was reported to have influenced Canada's decision to revise its existing legislation on chemicals and labeling to better align the domestic regime with the GHS.

323. For national government focal points in the LAC and AP regions, there still remained insufficient knowledge and information sharing – data collection,

[221] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/7 p. 3
[222] SAICM/RM/Afr.5/7, p. 10

dissemination and analysis – together with insufficient cooperation between authorities responsible for different sectors. For LAC stakeholders the production of information in English represented a challenge for sharing information with technicians, workers and the general public.

324. Whilst the flow of information and knowledge from SAICM to national focal points was good, the flow of information to end-users who directly handle chemicals is limited, particularly to those in the informal sectors. However, the constraints that NFPs experienced in fulfilling their role was presented (see paragraphs 392-392, above). This issue is discussed further in 'Conclusions and Lessons Learnt', below.

325. For civil society, SAICM has provided well-needed funds to attend and participate in meetings and workshops enabling civil society to share experience and knowledge with other stakeholders. The information provided through the SAICM website was highlighted as very useful for NGO organisational focal points. Participating in SAICM has also raised awareness within this stakeholder group of the importance of open data.

326. Industry stakeholders recognize the unique role played by SAICM as a forum for knowledge and information exchange and highlighted the extensive work being done under the EPIs in collaboration with IOMC members. This stakeholder group reported valuing the exchange of views and experience with other SAICM stakeholders despite a lack of consensus among them on some issues.

327. The large challenge that remains in knowledge and information sharing was highlighted in the UN General Assembly Human Rights Council, thirtieth session Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes – an important part of the management of chemicals throughout the lifecycle – which highlighted the significant information gaps that exist:

> Furthermore, there is no global system to generate or share missing information among all countries. This major shortcoming has resulted in a lack of available information; inability to access information; and not-so-useful information, particularly with respect to the dangers confronting those who are most at risk of harm from hazardous substances and wastes. There remain grave information gaps on numerous substances that are used, produced, released and disposed as waste by industrial and governmental activities.[223]

328. In the 2018 report, the UN Rapporteur highlighted the claims of confidentiality or trade secrecy that businesses made in order to limit the flow of information on chemicals. Such restrictions, the report argued, deprived workers of their rights to safe and healthy working conditions and access to remedies.[224] Such concerns were also raised by civil society stakeholders (see paragraph 136, above) and NFPs (see paragraph 389, above).

329. IOMC POs stakeholders highlighted steps made in several countries for implementing the GHS, as well as significant numbers of awareness raising and

[223] UN General Assembly Human Rights Council Thirtieth Session (2015), Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, p. 5

[224] UNGA (2018) report of the Special rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. Human Rights Council, 39th Session, 10-28 September, A/HRC/39/48, p. 14

capacity building activities taking place. QSP funded projects were attributed to the success in building regulatory capacity. However, the IOMC identified several gaps in GHS implementation, stating that 'comprehensive sectoral and global GHS implementation at the national level remains at a relatively early stage'.[225] By August 2014, 67 UN Member States had fully or partially implemented GHS, whereas 126 States had not yet implemented GHS.[226]

330. For the Africa region, the role of QSP in supporting the development and updating of national chemical profiles was recognized, resulting in raised awareness and guided priority setting. However, for some countries in the region, national chemical profiles do not exist, and for those that have them, they are not updated. One barrier flagged at the African regional meeting in 2013 was the lack of an adequate platform for exchanging information.[227]

331. The QSP was identified at the fifth African regional meeting as having supported five projects, supported by UNITAR, strengthening capacities for GHS implementation. A further seven UNITAR executed QSP projects included GHS components. Nevertheless, the region remains at different levels of implementation capacity, with gaps in knowledge and understanding.[228]

332. The Africa fifth regional meeting highlighted the absence of national chemicals databases in the region. However, it was noted that a local chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry had been established.[229]

333. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, delegates at the fifth regional meeting in 2013, considered that some progress had been made in assessing national profile and conducting gap analyses but progress was constrained due to limited information sharing and a lack of mechanisms to share information.[230]

334. At the fifth LAC regional meeting delegates considered limited progress had been made in implementing the GHS, citing a lack of awareness and use of GHS by customs and border control agencies and trade ministries. More generally, delegates highlighted the limited progress made in the availability of information on the dangers of chemicals. Specifically, there were gaps in relevant and useful, freely available and multilingual, up-to-date information on the dangers of chemicals in an appropriate form for non-technical stakeholder groups. For those databases that were available, there was limited knowledge on how to access these.[231]

335. Delegates also flagged the lack of effective management systems for collection and dissemination of information across the life cycles of chemicals in the region, especially for small island developing states. They cited a general lack of involvement of industry, communities and NGOs in sharing information on chemicals across their lifecycles.[232]

336. Underlying the lack of information on chemical in the LAC region was the

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[225] IOMC (2014) IOMC Analysis of Work Done to Implement the SAICM Global Plan of Action. Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, p. 2
[226] IOMC (2014) IOMC Key Issue Paper #2. Implementing the SAICM GPA: the GHS. Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, p. 2
[227] SAICM/RM/Afr.5/7, p.15
[228] SAICM/RM/Afr.5/7, p.15
[229] SAICM/RM/Afr.5/7, p.16
[230] SAICM/RM/LAC.4/12, p.7
[231] SAICM/RM/LAC.4/12, p. 7
[232] SAICM/RM/LAC.4/12, p. 8

lack of capacity at national level for monitoring and research into the use of chemicals and the impacts on health and the environment. Delegates flagged the limited development of the basic necessary infrastructure, human capacity and financial resources to support development and implementation of an effective monitoring programme. Furthermore, the regional level lacked a well-developed and collaborative network to support effective monitoring and research.[233]

337. Within the CEE region, delegates at the fifth regional meeting reported that some progress had been made in the use of the GHS within the region. This was particularly the case for those countries joining the EU and working towards adherence to the Classification, Labeling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation, aligned to the UN's GHS. For such States, safety data sheets were prepared by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) and REACH and CLP help desks were accessible. Those countries were reported to have included the establishment of national systems on classification and labeling of chemicals into policies and to have developed draft legislation. Countries within the region had different levels of capacity for implementing the GHS.[234]

338. Some progress was reported in the CEE region on assessing the risks from chemicals. Again, this was attributed to those countries of the region that either were members of the EU or in the process of joining. However, delegates highlighted the lack of trained personnel and limited infrastructure such as laboratories experienced by some countries.[235]

339. Some countries of the CEE region reported limited progress, and other reported some progress, in the collection, management, monitoring and sharing of information needed for the sound management of chemicals using throughout the life cycles.

Governance

340. Over 60% of SAICM stakeholders who responded to the online survey rated achieving this objective as either 'some success' or 'very successful'.

341. WEOG stakeholders considered that regulations were already in line with the Strategic Approach, and that inter-agency and inter-departmental coordination and collaboration was strong. Within the WEOG region there was recognition that governance of chemicals management had been strengthened due to the Strategic Approach, particularly in being influential in supporting broader and more integrated engagement on chemicals management.

342. IOMC respondents flagged the QSP as the conduit whereby progress had been made, in establishing and strengthening national chemicals management governance, although it was pointed out that many countries still needed to put in place basic legislation that would enable them to manage the risks of chemicals. According to these stakeholders, the absence of (SAICM) binding mechanisms, together with the lack of commitment and political will accounted for limitations in achieving this objective.

[233] SAICM/RM/LAC.4/12, p. 8
[234] SAICM/RM/CEE.5/9, p. 17
[235] SAICM/RM/CEE.5/9, p. 17

343. The survey conducted by the secretariat designed to assess progress made against the 20 indicators listed in Table 2, above (over the period 2011-2013) revealed that for assessment of Indicator 10, only 24% of respondents had published a SAICM Implementation Plan.[236] The findings of this evaluation concurred with that of the secretariat's 2014 survey, finding that for around 50% of countries in the Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean regions, the creation of a strategic plan to address chemicals and waste was in the early stages of development or, in a few cases was yet to begin (see paragraphs 309, 331, 342 and 356, above).

344. For developing countries, evidence of the success in achieving the governance objective was the creation of multi-stakeholder national coordination committees comprising both public and private sector representatives. The SAICM secretariat survey of 2014 found that over 78% of respondents reported that such national committees were in place. Committees comprised representatives from health, environment and agricultural sectors, with growing representation of the education sector. However, the survey also found that a disproportionate number of SAICM NFPs – two thirds – were located within ministries of environment, with 9% from health and 5% from foreign affairs.[237]

345. In 2014, the number of countries reporting that they had implemented the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, reflected through domestic legislation, was high (over 80% for the Basel and Stockholm conventions, and around 70% for the Rotterdam convention). However, the number of countries reporting implementing ILO conventions remained at under 50%. Around 45% of countries had implemented ILO Convention 170 – concerning safety in the use of chemicals at work, with less than 40% reporting that they had implemented ILO Convention No 139 – concerning prevention and control of occupational hazards caused by carcinogenic substances and agents.[238]

346. The report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and waste highlighted the limited implementation of ILO instruments and attributed this to both the organisational challenges within the ILO as well as the low levels of ratification of the conventions.[239]

347. The findings of this evaluation highlighted that challenges remained in relation the governance objective, as many countries did not have laws governing chemicals management, and for those that did, enforcement mechanisms for implementation remained weak. Furthermore, some respondents of the online survey noted that the process of law making and establishment of regulations for chemicals management was not considered a national priority by some, and resisted by others (see Intermediate State l, section above).

348. Over 80% of respondents to the online survey from the Africa region were of the view that there had been success in achieving the governance objective. This success was reflected in the commitments made by governments to ratify the

[236] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4 p. 40
[237] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4 pp. 42-43
[238] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4 p. 44
[239] UNGA (2018) report of the Special rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. Human Rights Council, 39th Session, 10-28 September, A/HRC/39/48, p. 14

chemicals conventions, although tempered with the recognition that further efforts were needed to fully integrate and implement chemicals management at the national level.

349. By 2015, 49 of the 54 countries within the Africa region had nominated SAICM National Focal Points, with 51 countries having ratified the Basel Convention, 45 the Rotterdam Convention and 52 the Stockholm Convention, reflecting the high level of commitment across the region to the major international chemicals conventions. This commitment was further demonstrated by the Libreville Declaration – a call for action to address health and environment issues among the 52 signatories, with the establishment of a Health and Environment Strategic Alliance.[240] Success in achieving this objective within the Africa region was also reflected in the widespread ratification of the Bamako Convention.[241]

350. Success was further reflected through examples of multi-sectoral coordination operating through national coordinating committees and submission of draft laws on chemicals and waste. Other examples of success included establishment of health and safety committees, workplace policies and codes of conduct, together with workplace audits.

351. Zambia was reported to have been particularly successful in mainstreaming chemicals and wastes into national financing, through the QSP mainstreaming project. The Zambian Environment Management Authority (EMA) retains fees raised through licensing of chemicals manufacture and registration, importation and export, and uses them for monitoring and enforcement.[242]

352. For the CEE region, GPA activities that address the governance objective included: creation of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder mechanisms to develop national profiles and action plans; development of comprehensive national profiles; development of national chemicals safety information exchange systems; establishment of SAICM inter-ministerial working group to advise on proposed legislation; enhancing coordination at the national level.

353. However, gaps existed for many CEE States with fragmented legislation for pesticides, a lack of data on chemicals in products, the absence of an integrated legal framework for managing chemicals together with insufficient capacity of Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs).[243]

354. For LAC respondents of the online survey, the assessment of progress towards this objective was mixed. For one, governance has been significantly strengthened through maintaining and involving communities affected by pollution in decision-making. Whilst there was recognition that progress towards enhancing governance would not have been so deep without SAICM, for others governance was limited primarily due to a lack of capacity to participate in multi-sector national, regional and international mechanisms. Fragmented regulatory structures were attributed to the low priority assigned to enforcement, codes of conduct, policy development and illegal traffic.

355. For some countries in the LAC region, activities included ratification of the chemicals related conventions – Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam. While legal

[240] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/1, paragraphs 24-27
[241] SAICM/RM/Afr.5/7, p.19
[242] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/1, paragraph 29
[243] SAICM/RM/CEE.5/9, p 18

frameworks were limited for some countries, they were reported to be in the process of developing national chemical management programmes and creating coordination committees to implement these programmes. Other activities included establishing forums for national and local government, non-government organisations, and community associations to coordinate actions on chemicals and waste management.

356. At its fifth regional meeting, delegates from the LAC region, reported that limited progress had been made in the use of economic instruments (i.e. taxes) for industry to pay the external public health and environmental costs associated with chemicals throughout their life cycle.[244]

357. For WEOG respondents to the online survey, comprehensive regulations were reported to be in place. The EU legislative requirements for the designation of nationally competent authorities with clearly defined roles, accountable to ministers, resulted in an effective enforcement regime.[245]

Capacity building and technical cooperation

358. The SAICM secretariat's survey of progress made on the indicators presented in Table 2, above, found that the number of countries providing bilateral financial assistance to improve capacity for the sound management of chemicals doubled over the period 2009 to 2013. Over the same period, an increase in the number of countries engaging in regional cooperation in capacity building for chemicals management was reported (mainly within the WEOG and ASP regions). The number of recipient countries of OECD DAC aid reporting the inclusion of the sound management of chemicals in their development assistance programmes also increased.[246]

359. The majority of respondents in the stakeholder survey considered that SAICM had been successful in achieving this objective. Much of this success was attributed to the Quick Start Programme. [247] IOMC POs, NGOs and the chemical industry had delivered capacity-building programmes in chemicals management. Those efforts were also recognised as having contributed to strengthened capacity at the national level.

360. Success was reflected in the exchange and information sharing workshops that have taken place. Technical expertise was provided during QSP funded projects for the preliminary work on setting up the GHS. Other training workshops included those for workplace supervisors on sound management of chemicals; training workshops for those national actors responsible for implementation of chemicals and waste related conventions.

361. A QSP project in Mali aimed at reducing use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (in cooperation with UNIDO) laid the ground-work for the coordination and collaboration required for project formulation to establish a broader

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[244] SAICM/RM/LAC.4/12 p. 10

[245] For further information on Canada's governance regime, the role of stakeholders within this, the socio-economic impact assessment regulations, and risk management measures see: http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/plan/council-conseil/index-eng.php http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/plan/sc-cs/index-eng.php http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/hgw-cgf/priorities-priorites/rtrap-parfa/about-ausujet-eng.asp https://www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=En&n=C3039403-1

[246] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4, pp. 46-50

[247] For a detailed review and evaluation of the QSP see SAICM/ICCM.4/INF5

regional project in this area in Francophone West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal), securing approximately 2.2 million USD in financing (from the GEF and the French Global Environment Facility) as well as additional in-kind contributions from other partners.[248]

362. Despite the successes of the range of different capacity-building programmes, respondents considered that the extent and reach of these programmes was not sufficient to address the capacity constraints within developing countries. This was attributed to a number of factors including the lack of priority given to capacity building, as well as the ad hoc nature of the approach rather than a more strategic multi-stakeholder approach that included government, NGOs and industry and organizations of the IOMC.

363. Although the QSP was cited across all stakeholder groups as accounting for the success in achieving this objective, national focal points from Africa, CEE, AP and LAC all commented that the level of technical capability to manage chemicals remained too low. Some respondents attributed these shortcomings to a lack of training and information available in languages other than English. These observations resonated with civil society respondents who highlighted the low level of technical knowledge of some government technicians compounded with a lack of capacity to act to deal with the complexity of chemical safety. The paucity of accredited laboratories to identify and monitor toxic substances, particularly of vulnerable populations including women and children illustrated this lack of capacity.[249]

364. The absence of poison centres in the Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean regions represented an institutional capacity and resource gap.[250] As of September 2017, the Africa region had a total of 16 poisons centres in 11 countries – three in South Africa, two in Algeria, Egypt and Kenya, one in Angola, Morocco, Tunisia, Ghana, Sénégal, United Republic of Tanzania and one in Zimbabwe.[251] 65% of the continent's 1.3 billion people had no access to a poisons control centre.

365. For those poisons centres that did exist in the Africa region, it was reported that they were not always fully functional; cooperation and information sharing was lacking and there was limited harmonization of reporting; limited capacity to effectively mange accidents.

366. In 2017 there were a total of 77 poison control centres in 23 countries of the Asia Pacific region, with the Islamic Republic of Iran having 41 centres. In this region people living in the remaining 30 countries had no access to a centre.

367. In the LAC region, the number of centres (as of September 2017) was 72, with 38 centres in Brazil. The population of just over half of the countries in the LAC region had no access to a centre. Progress in establishing poison centers in the LAC region was assessed as limited.[252]

368. In contrast to the other three regions, the CEE and WEOG regions were well-

[248] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/1, paragraph 33
[249] SAICM/RM/Afr.5/7, p. 20
[250] SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/7, p.4
[251] See WHO world directory of poison control centres available at: https://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/poisons_centres/en/
[252] SAICM/RM/LAC.4/12, p. 5

serviced with poison control centres. For the CEE region 16 of the 23 (70 per cent) countries in the region have a poison control centre, and for the WEOG region, 79% (23 out of 29 countries) countries have at least one poison control centre.[253] However, in the CEE region, gaps remained in the provision of poisons information to the public, and in poison centres' data management systems.[254]

369. At the Africa region fifth regional meeting, delegates pointed to the many online programmes provided by the conventions secretariat, UNIDO, UNITAR and WHO, as well as the university programme and curricula available in some countries, as evidence of achievements towards this objective. However, several gaps were also identified, including: a lack of training programmes in most countries; procedures and training programmes that did exist were not in national languages.[255] A similar picture emerged at the fifth CEE regional meeting, where progress in the provision of training programmes and activities was assessed as limited.[256]

370. In contrast, delegates at the LAC forth regional meeting considered that significant progress had been made in the provision and access to programmes to train specialists, in particular the establishment of customs controls under the auspices of the Montreal Protocol and the Rotterdam Convention. Nevertheless, gaps remained in the levels of technical training in the region generally, and specifically the lack of toxicologists in the health sector.[257]

Illegal international traffic

371. Assessment of the two indicators presented in Table 2, above, showed that limited progress had been made in realizing this objective across the regions. The SAICM secretariat's survey revealed that, in 2013, less than 20% of countries in the Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean regions were cooperating with neighbouring countries to address illegal international traffic in chemicals, with no more than 30% of respondents stating that countries were training border control agents. A similar although slightly improved picture emerged for percentage of respondents with mechanisms to prevent the illegal traffic in hazardous waste, although this was possibly driven by the Basel Convention's legally binding obligations.[258]

372. The findings of the SAICM survey conducted for this evaluation found that progress to achieving this objective was the least successful in the eyes of the stakeholders surveyed. Some countries with comprehensive regimes for addressing illegal traffic had taken steps to share information with developing countries. There were examples in developing countries of training for customs officers and greater regular monitoring of borders.

373. Nevertheless, illegal international traffic remained a serious threat to developing countries. Counterfeit pesticides, trade in mercury (for artisanal and small-scale gold mining), e-waste dumping, smuggling of prohibited chemicals and a lack

[253] See WHO world directory of poison control centres available at: https://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/poisons_centres/en/
[254] SAICM/RM/CEE.5/9, p. 13
[255] SAICM/RM/Afr.5/7, p. 20
[256] SAICM/RM/CEE.5/9, p. 20
[257] SAICM/RM/LAC.4/12, p. 12
[258] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4, pp. 54-55

of public awareness and a lack of capacity of customs service were cited as some of the challenges faced in dealing with this issue.

374. Activities within the Africa region to address this objective included: capacity building and training for customs officers and magistrates; inclusion of actors responsible for the control of illicit traffic in meetings on the management of chemicals and waste; surveys identifying illegal products at the community level.

375. Delegates at the fifth Africa regional meeting identified the following gaps limiting progress towards this objective. They included: a lack of verification and information of imported or exported chemicals, products and waste; lack of ability to regulate illegal traffic and lack of enforcement of anti-corruption laws.[259]

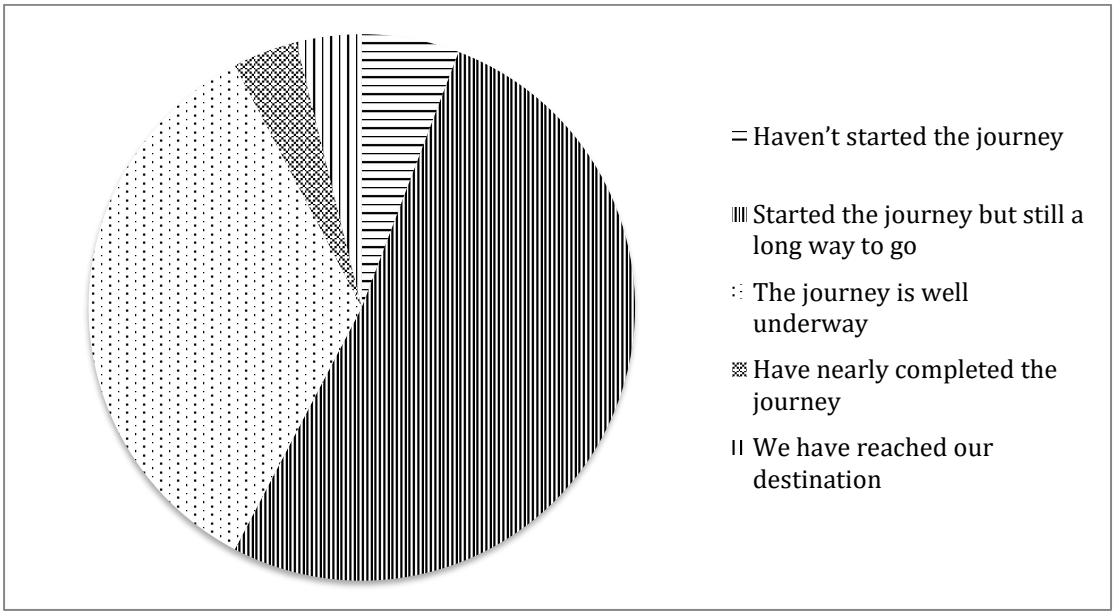
376. For delegates at the fourth LAC regional meeting, limited progress had been made in developing laboratory capacity for customs control systems, with the absence of regional instruments for customs intercommunication. This, together with a limited exchange of experiences and development of a regional strategy for the control of illegal traffic, accounted for the limited progress in achieving this objective.[260]

377. In the Asia-Pacific region, the enforcement network of Ozone and Customs Officers in South Asia and South East Asia and the Pacific has been in operation since 2002. The results of the network have included: improved coordination of national customs with national Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) units; customs giving environmental issues a higher priority; increased bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation among countries in curbing illegal ODS trade; greater control of ODS trade through increased efficiency and effectiveness of customs agencies.[261]

[259] SAICM/RM/Afr.5/7, p. 18
[260] SAICM/RM/LAC.4/12, p. 11
[261] UNEP (2007) Networking Counts: combating illegal trade in ozone depleting substances. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, p. 16

Overall Impact: By 2020 Chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment

Figure 6: NFP assessment of progress made in achieving the 2020 goal



378. Over 55% (30) of the 52 NFP respondents from all five regions, assessed progress in meeting the 2020 goal, as either 'haven't started the journey' (6%) or 'started the journey but still along way to go' (52%) (see Figure 6). Several expressed the view that whilst a national SAICM strategy has been developed with its action plan, the lack of financial resources meant that it was yet to be implemented.

379. Furthermore, the issue of chemicals and waste was not dealt with in an integrated manner in all sectors and ministries. There was an identified need to enhance cooperation between different sectors and to exchange information and data between them. The issue of industrial waste and weak plans for waste management was of particular concern for one NFP.

380. For other respondents the lack of appropriate and effective policies and legislation governing chemicals management accounted for the lack of progress made. This lack was attributed to low priority for chemicals management in national development plans. For some, with limited resources, prioritizing chemicals management competed with other priorities such as eradicating poverty, provision of access to services such as potable water and sanitation services. Consequently, the visibility of the SAICM agenda at the national level was low, with one NFP conceding that not much had been achieved at the national level.

381. For many the technical expertise and infrastructure for monitoring and enforcing quality control of chemicals was lacking. This was seen to be more of challenge than limited financial resources for one NFP. The absence of capacity to diagnose poisoning because of the lack of toxicology laboratories and specialized doctors was a concern for another. Limited staff capacity was a recurring theme in accounting for the limited progress in achieving the 2020 goal.

382. For some respondents the process of developing plans and legislation had only just started (2018). Progress had been made in harmonizing regulations, however, implementation of SAICM was reported to be at an early stage. Strengthening administrative capacity was seen as an important factor in taking the SAICM agenda forward. For others, chemicals have begun to be recognized as an important issue and gaining attention.

383. One NFP reported that stakeholders had been encouraged to take part in the conversation and to think and make plans that would foster the sound management of chemicals and waste. The journey had started but not much had been done in implementing the action plan. Nevertheless, participation in SAICM had inspired action plans and the engagement of stakeholders at the national level. In the words of one respondent, SAICM has acted as a catalyst for discussion, collaboration and action.

384. 35% (or 18 NFPs) considered that the journey was well underway to achieving the 2020 goal, with a further four NFPs (8%) of the view that the journey to achieving the 2020 goal was nearing completion, or had been completed. They cited strong and effective legislation governing the management of chemicals and hazardous wastes as a significant factor accounting for success. Extensive cooperation and coordination between government agencies and non-governmental stakeholders was another significant factor accounting for progress. Good networks between NFPs and coordination at the regional level had allowed for sharing of experiences, cooperation and collaboration on chemicals management between countries.

385. Development and implementation of the BRS conventions, together with ratification of the Minamata Convention accounted for the significant progress made in achieving the 2020 goal. The process of accession to the EU that required candidate countries to harmonize chemicals management legislation with that of the EU also accounted for progress made. The REACH regulation together with other EU legislation directives were attributed to the progress made in achieving the 2020 goal.

386. Capacity to identify, assess and categorise chemicals in use in a country was identified by respondents. For one, this amounted to 23,000 substances registered in commercial use. The presence of associated infrastructure to assess any new substances prior to introduction and the development of regulation to manage any potential risks to health and the environment, were factors accounting for progress. A dynamic and agile regulatory regime with the ability to respond to new information on chemicals and act accordingly, with regulations revised accordingly, was a further factor accounting for progress made.

387. The contrasting progress made by countries in achieving the 2020 goal was highlighted in the comparative analysis of the data collected on the indicators of progress (see Table 2). This analysis concluded that the gap between countries in different development categories (according to DAC status) was widening rather than narrowing with the greatest progress made in developed and upper-middle income countries contrasting with the little or no progress in the least developed countries. The report also concluded that international chemicals management remained at a low level, such that the current rate of progress will be insufficient to have most of the 20 indicators underway in the majority of countries by 2020.[262]

[262] SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4, paragraphs 106, 107, 108f, 113

388. The views of the NFPs presented above, and the findings presented in the preceding paragraph, resonate with the findings of the Global Chemicals Outlook ll report of the Executive Director of UNEP, presented at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA): "The global goal to minimize adverse impacts of chemicals and waste will not be achieved by 2020. Solutions exist, but more ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders is urgently required".[263]

389. The failure to achieve the 2020 goal is reflected in a high burden of disease from exposure to chemicals. Conservative estimates put the burden of disease from chemical exposure at 1.6 million lives, with an estimated 44.8 million lost years of 'healthy' life (or Disability-Adjusted Life Year DALY), in 2016. This burden has been attributed to occupational exposure to carcinogens; soils contaminated with heavy metals and other chemicals; lead exposure; acute poisoning, including from pesticides, methanol, solvents and kerosene; chemicals causing congenital anomalies. There is also increasing scientific evidence that EDCs – including some pesticides, flame retardants and plastics – even at extremely low doses are associated with disease and disability.[264]

390. The burden of disease and disability attributable to chemicals exposure is not equally apportioned across countries, gender or age group. Occupational exposure puts workers at greatest risk, with those working in developing countries and in the informal sector experiencing the greatest risk. The numbers of workers dying from exposure to hazardous substances is increasing; in 2015 the figure was estimated at nearly 1 million workers, an increase of 90,000 on the 2011 figures.[265]

391. Two global environmental challenges of today – climate change and biodiversity – are closely inter-related with chemicals. The chemical sector is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for over 12% of global greenhouse emissions. Whilst major chemicals companies are developing low carbon products, recent research concludes that much greater and more rapid progress will be required if this sector is to be aligned with the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to less than 2^{o}C above pre-industrial levels.[266]

392. The Intergovernmental Platform of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has highlighted the adverse impact that fertilizer runoff has had on coastal ecosystems. By 2008, such pollution was estimated to have produced 494 hypoxic or 'deadzones' where nutrient pollution had depleted oxygen levels required to support marine life, covering an area of more than 245,000km^2. Freshwater biodiversity was also found to have been adversely impacted by the chronic effects of micro-pollutants that included pesticides, pharmaceutical residues, plastics and dissolved metals. Pesticides and agricultural insecticides were found to have reduced macroinvertebrate

[263] UNEP (2019) Global Chemicals Outlook ll: from legacies to innovative solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi. p.vi
[264] UNEP (2019) Global Chemicals Outlook ll: from legacies to innovative solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi. pp.150-153
[265] UNEP (2019) Global Chemicals Outlook ll: from legacies to innovative solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi. p. 157
[266] Ferguson, C.; Crocker, T.; Smyth, J. (2017) Catalyst for change. Executive summary. CDP. Available at: ttps://www.cdp.net/en/articles/media/major-chemical-companies-innovating-in-low-carbon-products-but-failing-to-meet-paris-agreement-goals

(e.g. crustaceans, insects, molluscs and worms) richness in rivers by as much as 40%.[267]

393. A recent review of data (mainly from countries in the WEOG region) concluded that pollution resulting from man-made chemical pesticides and fertilisers was a significant contributor to current rates of loss of insects. These rates of loss have the potential to result in the extinction of 40% of global insect species over the coming decades.[268] Such mass extinction risks undermining the essential ecosystem services that insects provide and their contribution to sustainable agricultural intensification.[269]

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

394. This section reflects on the findings of the evaluation, identifying the 'strengths' and 'weaknesses' of the Strategic Approach. The framework provided in Figure 3 – the Theory of Change – is used to present this discussion. Strengths and weaknesses will focus on the outputs and outcomes of SAICM. This is followed by 'lessons learnt' which concludes by reflecting more broadly on SAICM as an international voluntary approach to international chemicals management and the contribution that it has made to the intermediate states and overall 2020 goal presented in the Theory of Change.

Strengths

395. SAICM is an ambitious initiative, is unique in its set-up as an inclusive multi-stakeholder, multi-sector voluntary global policy framework on sound management of chemicals and waste. It has provided a space and opportunity for government and non-government actors alike, to discuss and deliberate on the management of chemicals and chemicals in products throughout their lifecycle within an atmosphere of relative trust and cooperation.

396. The multi-stakeholder approach character of SAICM has been maintained since the initial meeting in Dubai in 2006. A particular strength has been the participation of non-government actors in the SAICM process, to the extent that they are represented in the decision-making bodies, allowing for their perspectives and priorities to be heard and considered as resolutions were framed and agreed. The numbers of non-government actors attending ICCM has nearly doubled from 45 representatives at ICCM1 to 93 representatives at ICCM4. This participation has been made possible because of the voluntary nature of SAICM.

397. SAICM delivered its outputs – the conferences and intersessional meetings have resulted in a set of highly relevant agreed resolutions. The initial resolutions at ICCM1 and ICCM2 provided the organisational structure and management that

[267] IPBES (2019) Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Draft Chapter 2.1, p. 115. Intergovernmental Platform of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Paris.
[268] Sanchez-Bayo, F.; Wyckhuys, K.A.G. (2019) Worldwide decline of the entomofausna: A review of its drivers. Biological Conservation 232:8-19, p. 8
[269] FAO (2019) The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Assessment. FAO, Rome, p. 36

enabled SAICM to function, the mandate for the secretariat to carry out its work, the modalities for establishing an emerging policy issue and the management and organizational structure needed to establish the QSP.

398. The resolutions deliberated and agreed at ICCM2 and subsequent conferences established forums for discussing chemicals issues that were of significant concern – the EPIs – and agreeing action plans to address the challenges that they created. The forums established for each EPI also reflected the multistakeholder and multisector ambition of SAICM, with a number of IOMC participating organisations chairing the forums that comprised representatives from governments and non-government organisations including representatives from industry and civil society.

399. In addition to the resolutions agreed at each Conference, procedures were also agreed for inclusion of additional activities in the GPA. Modalities for reporting on a range of indicators that aimed to monitor progress of SAICM-related activities in promoting the sustainable management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle were also agreed. At ICCM4 (Resolution lV/1), the eleven basic elements of the OOG for achieving the 2020 goal were agreed. There was recognition that these elements were critical at the national and regional levels for the attainment of sound management of chemicals and waste management. The IOMC provided further contributions to the discussion on a system for monitoring progress through its proposed 10 quantitative indicators.

400. As well as having success in delivering the outputs identified in the Theory of Change (Figure 3), SAICM had notable successes in delivering on the outcomes. The adoption of resolutions creating EPIs and other issues of concern has resulted in raising their international profile.

401. Delivering on the Lead in Paint EPI is one of SAICM's greatest successes. The establishment of a Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint under the auspices of the UNEP and WHO comprising a partnership of governments, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs. By 2019, the Alliance had achieved its 2015 target of 70 or more countries having put in place regulations to control lead in paint. The Alliance has run effective annual international campaigns, raising awareness of the dangers of lead in paint, as well as conducting sampling of paints in the Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean regions.

402. There is evidence of some success in delivering outcomes from other EPIs. For the Chemicals in Products EPI, UNEP the lead agency, succeeded in engaging representatives from the toy, electronics, clothing and construction sectors around the gaps, obstacles and common areas of interest. Efforts made under this EPI culminated in a proposal submitted to ICCM4 for a voluntary international progamme for information on chemicals in products along their supply chain agreed to at ICCM4.

403. Outcomes on the nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials issue centred on awareness-raising workshops, pilot activities and production of a report, e-learning course and production of on-line assessment tools. Following on from UNITAR's awareness-raising workshops for nanotechnologies EPI, the Government of Thailand approved a five-year "National Nanosafety and Nanoethics Strategic Plan".

404. The QSP represents another notable successful outcome for SAICM. Over the 10 year period there were 184 approved projects with 70 completed by 2015. The portfolio of projects addressed all five OPS objectives.

405. There is evidence that political and technical awareness and understanding of the risk of chemicals, and the tools available to manage risks were enhanced through participation in QSP projects. Projects succeeded in creating an enabling environment for the sound management of chemicals at the national level in many developing countries. The QSP was attributed, by many across the stakeholder groups, to have enabled multi-sectoral exchange of information through the establishment of inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination committees. There were instances where the QSP project resulted in the mainstreaming of chemicals management into national legislation and leveraging of external financing for continued work.

406. SAICM has made some progress in developing monitoring and evaluation framework for assessing progress made towards the 2020 goal. This can be viewed as an evolving process, from the indicators defined within the GPA to the 20 indicators of progress presented at ICCM2, to the most recent OOG comprising the 11 basic elements presented at ICCM4.

407. SAICM stakeholders have had some success in effectively influencing the drivers affecting SAICM outcomes (see Figure 3). The SAICM secretariat (despite significant financial constraints) was effective in providing support to ICCM and its subsidiary bodies. This support was central to the success delivery of the SAICM outputs.

408. There has been much collaboration between SAICM stakeholders. The IOMC organisations have led on the EPIs and played the role of executing agencies for 76 of the QSP projects. The governing bodies of some IOMC organisations have passed resolutions in support of SAICM. Government and non-government agencies participate at conferences, the OEWG and regional meetings. The SAICM secretariat engages with all SAICM stakeholders.

409. Funding for the QSP represents an important success for SAICM. Over the 10 year period, donors contributed US$ 41 million to support QSP projects. Four donors contributed 73% of this funding – EU, Sweden, Norway and the USA.

410. Stakeholders demonstrated their commitment to SAICM more broadly through in-kind contributions and cash for a range of SAICM-related activities. Several governments provided funding for specific activities under the EPIs, for example, to convene meetings and workshops and pilot projects. In-kind contributions included hosting regional and OEWG meetings and publication of SAICM texts. The GEF approval in 2018, of a project to address ‘Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under SAICM’ represents a welcome contribution including significant co-financing from multiple partners.

Weaknesses

411. Whilst much effort has been made by stakeholders to take forward the EPIs and to deliver on this SAICM outcome, the work plans (in cases where workplans were developed) and outcomes of some of the emerging policy issues were limited in their ambition and scope. Several activities were delayed because of lack of funds and/ or capacity of the lead organisations to take the agendas forward. In the case of HSLEEP the initial workshop called for in Resolution ll/4 was delayed for a year while funding was secured. This EPI continues to be constrained by funding issues,

and currently (2019) activities to address this EPI, agreed in Resolution lV/2, remain unfunded and several have not been implemented.[270]

412. The slow progress in formal recognition of HHPs as an EPI has been a cause of frustration for several SAICM stakeholders. A resolution addressing this issue was approved by the Conference at ICCM4 – Resolution lV/3. However, whilst welcoming the FAO, UNEP and WHO strategy to address HHPs, Conference did not define HHPs as an EPI, but rather as an issue of concern.

413. The full potential of outcomes from the QSP was not realised for a number of reasons that included: many publications were produced as a result of QSP projects, these are yet to be made widely accessible through a centralized system of content management and retrieval; gender dimensions of chemical use and exposure were addressed in a small minority of the projects.

414. The third SAICM outcome – monitoring progress through the 20 indicators (see Table 2) - had a number of weaknesses. Firstly, methodological issues related to a lack of clarity as to whether respondents to the data collection survey were reporting on the relevant period, and the interpretation of the questions asked for each indicator. Secondly, the 20 indicators are outputs based, with the absence of a complementary set of indicators that assesses outcome and impact.

415. The drivers of change were constrained in their effectiveness to facilitate the SAICM outcomes. The SAICM secretariat was hampered in its capacity to deliver on its mandate, primarily because of a chronic shortage of funds throughout the 10 year period. The annual shortfall in approved funding for the secretariat was at least 43% for six of the 10 years. This shortfall resulted in an under-capacity of staff for all but 10 months of the 10 year period. This under-capacity impacted on the management of the QSP. It also resulted in the lack of a SAICM information clearing house, which itself affected the second driver 'information sharing and collaboration'.

416. The full potential of the driver of 'information sharing and collaboration' was limited in enabling the outcomes to be fully realised. By 2015, at ICCM4, SAICM stakeholders continued to raise concerns over the lack of commitment at the highest levels of some UN agencies to formally commit to SAICM, and called for this commitment in Resolution lV/1. Strengthening formal collaboration between the SAICM and BRS secretariats was slow. It was not until 2014 that a taskforce was established to assess possible areas of collaboration and cooperation.

417. Limited sharing of information between SAICM stakeholders on chemical composition of products as well as hazard and risk assessment data, was flagged by many stakeholders. These concerns were also raised in 2019, in the Global Chemicals Outlook ll –Summary for Policymakers, as was the lack of agreed methodologies for chemical hazard and alternatives assessment.[271]

418. Despite the multi-stakeholder ambition of SAICM, several important groups of stakeholders are missing from the SAICM process and structure, in particular academia. Offers were made at ICCM2 to host a scientific meeting prior to ICCM3 but these were declined. No scientific body is integrated into SAICM to support its work.

[270] SAICM/OEWG.3/6, paragraph 33
[271] UNEP/EA.4/21, p. 2

419. Industry representation at SAICM is limited to the chemical producing industry. Many organizations with an interest in the SAICM agenda are absent. These include: downstream uses of chemicals, retailers, downstream users that have created labeling schemes often driven by consumer demand.

420. Throughout the 10 year period (2006-2015) the issue of secure and sustainable financing has been discussed at each Conference. Insufficient progress had been made on taking forward the mainstreaming and industry involvement components of funding identified in the integrated approach to the sustainable financing of sound management of chemicals and waste proposal, welcomed at ICCM3. The findings from this evaluation (and the QSP evaluation of 2015) reveal that many Governments are yet to fully mainstream SAICM into national plans and budgets, and few governments have applied economic instruments to fully internalize the externalities generated by chemicals production, use and disposal.

421. The potential of SAICM to deliver its outcomes has been limited by insufficient external donor funding. With the exception of the QSP, SAICM stakeholders have been limited in their ambition to take forward the EPIs, supported by a fully funded secretariat.

Lessons Learnt

422. The previous section reflected on the strengths and weaknesses of the SAICM project to deliver on its outputs and outcomes, as articulated in the Theory of Change developed for this evaluation. In this final section, the contribution of the SAICM project to the broader goals of SAICM are discussed.

423. Strengthened capacity, commitment, technical knowledge and political will to implement and mainstream SAICM (Intermediate State l) was reflected in: progress in coordination within government and stakeholder engagement and collaboration; development of strategic plans to address chemicals and waste; progress in regional cooperation.

424. Much of the success of SAICM in contributing to this intermediate goal depended upon the NFPs. The structure of SAICM wass such that it is through the NFPs that the SAICM agenda was promoted and taken forward at the national level. Their role was to bring together all stakeholders, encouraging buy-in and mobilizing resources. Through this networking NFPs were expected to support the preparation of national strategic plans and to support the integration of the sustainable management of chemicals and waste at the regional level.

425. Evidence from this evaluation indicates that NFPs were constrained in their ability to fulfill their role by a number of factors. Firstly, over 80% were located within the environment sector. The relative lack of power and influence of this sector to shape national agendas, together with the sectoral structure of government, constrained NFPs in delivering on their mandate. Furthermore, little guidance was provided to NFPs in fulfilling their role. The Africa region presented a proposed set of guidelines (job description) at ICCM2. However, this was not formally approved and remained a proposal.

426. SAICM was conceived as a multi-stakeholder approach. Integration across sectors is a key factor to achieving the 2020 goal. Greater capacity and increased

representation of the health, agriculture, finance and industrial sectors within government national and regional focal points will support efforts to mainstream the sound management of chemicals across government departments. Within non-government stakeholders, continued efforts to communicate with and reach out to downstream businesses and industries as well as civil society.

427. A second factor constraining the functions of the NFPs was the low political priority accorded to SAICM objectives. This was reflected in many NFPs holding relatively junior positions with multiple responsibilities. The low budgets allocated to SAICM-related activities resulted in the NFP role being 'invisible' with the agencies that they were situated.

428. Ultimately, the success of SAICM rests on national governments having the political will to legislate for the sound management of chemicals and to ensure that such legislation is fully implemented. SAICM stakeholders play several roles in pushing chemicals management higher up the political agenda: governments signing up to international conventions and forums (i.e. SAICM) and developing regulatory frameworks that Government have the capacity to monitor and enforce; engaged and responsive UN agencies supporting national and regional implementation; a strong and independent civil society, enshrined in law, advocating for sound chemicals management.

429. Building capacity and skills of NFPs to engage with all stakeholders, government, civil society and business, raising the profile of the NFP role and allocating adequate resources, will enhance SAICM's effectiveness at contributing to the intermediate goals of strengthened capacity, technical knowledge and political will to implement SAICM.

430. This evaluation has found much evidence of SAICM stakeholders contributing to the five OPS objectives – Intermediate State ll in the Theory of Change. Governments have introduced legislation, have signed up to international conventions; donors have contributed significant resources, including for the QSP, that has resulted in projects that addressed all five OPS objectives; IOMC participating organisations have provided skills and capacity training, provided a wide range of manuals, guidelines and technical expertise; civil society has supported the most vulnerable members of society, collecting evidence of practices and processes that have led to damaging health and environmental impacts of chemicals, and introduced projects aimed at avoiding such impacts; industry has provided resources, training programmes and introduced its Responsible Care programme aimed at promoting safe chemicals management throughout the chemical supply chain.

431. Despite these efforts, this evaluation has found that there is broad consensus among SAICM stakeholders and others that the 2020 goal, the overall impact that SAICM seeks to support, will not be achieved. Further, the evidence suggests that the gap between countries in achieving this goal is widening with the poorest countries and communities being left behind.

432. Reducing inequality within countries in regard to chemicals management will require further efforts by SAICM stakeholders to reduce vulnerable and marginalised groups to chemicals exposure at work, in the home and in the environment.

433. There are some 168 million working children aged five to 14, 100 million of who work in agriculture.[272] A substantial body of evidence demonstrates the risks to the health of millions of women and children in developing countries from exposure to chemicals on the farm, and in the home, as well as the risks of fetal death and birth defects through mothers' exposure.[273] There are some 168 million working children aged five to 14, 100 million of who work in agriculture.[274] A substantial body of evidence demonstrates the risks to the health of millions of women and children in developing countries from exposure to chemicals on the farm, and in the home, as well as the risks of fetal death and birth defects through mothers' exposure.[275] Increased effort of SAICM stakeholders to work in partnership to take action on HHPs and promote agro-ecology, will both protect and enhance biodiversity and minimize the adverse impacts on health from exposure to chemical inputs for these vulnerable groups.

434. Reducing inequality between countries, will require strengthened adaptive management regimes in developing countries. Such regimes depend on access to knowledge, science and technology. Continuing the progress made in building national technical capacity as well as supporting the provision of technical infrastructure (such as poisons centres) will support such regimes. Effective monitoring and evaluation systems, together with sound science, will provide the information and assessments needed to shape future management regimes.

435. A particular challenge highlighted in this evaluation has been the contested nature of the risks and hazards associated with chemicals. In the early days of ICCM offers were made by institutions to host a science forum, enabling a scientific perspective to be incorporated into the Conference's structure. Discussions about such a forum have now come to the fore.[276] Such a forum has the potential to develop internationally agreed methodologies for risk and hazard assessment that SAICM stakeholders can agree to, and to adhere to the decisions made by such a forum across all regions.

436. Realising the objectives and goal of SAICM depend on sufficient levels of financing and resources. Securing sufficient funds has been a constant challenge for SAICM over the 2006-2015 period. Further success of SAICM will require secure and sustainable funding through: Governments mainstreaming SAICM objectives and activities into national development plans with associated budgets; introduction of appropriate economic instruments based on principles of polluter pays; donors continuing to deliver on external finance commitments.

437. The SAICM secretariat has been constrained in delivering on its functions over the period 2006-2015 because of a persistent shortfall in resources. Beyond 2020, a fully functioning secretariat at full capacity will be required to support any future

[272] UNEP (2019) Global Chemicals Outlook ll: from legacies to innovative solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi. p. 159
[273] For example, see Unicef (2018) Understanding the Impacts of Pesticides on Children: a discussion paper. United Nations Children's Fund.
[274] UNEP (2019) Global Chemicals Outlook ll: from legacies to innovative solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi. p. 159
[275] For example, see Unicef (2018) Understanding the Impacts of Pesticides on Children: a discussion paper. United Nations Children's Fund.
[276] UNEP (2019) Global Chemicals Outlook ll: from legacies to innovative solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi. p. 268

mission of protecting human health and the environment from harmful effects of chemicals and waste.

438. SAICM is an ambitious initiative, is unique in its set-up as an inclusive multi-stakeholder, multi-sector voluntary global policy framework on sound management of chemicals and waste. A particular strength has been the participation of non-government actors in the SAICM process, allowing for their perspectives and priorities to be heard and considered as resolutions were framed and agreed. Retaining this strength and character beyond 2020 will support the future mission.

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Progress in Strategic Approach Implementation 2017-2022

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a summary report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and on working towards Overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal for the period 2017–2022 (see annex). It is presented without formal editing.

2. In accordance with paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, the International Conference on Chemicals Management undertakes periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach. At its third meeting, the Open-Ended Working Group proposed that the secretariat should develop a simple Strategic Approach progress report that, using existing data, would provide an overview of the Strategic Approach activities and accomplishments, for consideration by the fifth session of the Conference. The secretariat was also requested to report on progress in the implementation of the Overall orientation and guidance at the fifth session of the Conference.

3. The Conference may wish:

- To welcome the work carried out by the secretariat on the report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach and Overall orientation and guidance for 2017–2022.

Annex:
PROGRESS IN STRATEGIC APPROACH IMPLEMENTATION FOR 2017 - 2022

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Executive Summary

1. The Overarching Policy Strategy, in paragraph 24, provides that the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) will undertake periodic reviews of Strategic Approach implementation.
2. The third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) requested the secretariat to develop a simple progress report for the period 2017–2019 that, using existing data, would provide an overview of the Strategic Approach activities, accomplishments, and challenges for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session (ICCM5).
3. In preparations to ICCM5, the Strategic Approach secretariat invited all the stakeholder groups to respond to a survey on Progress in Strategic Approach Implementation twice for the period 2017-2019 and for the period 2020–2022. The secretariat analyzed submissions and included summary information in the overall Strategic Approach simple progress report, which has been extended to cover the period 2017-2022 (reflecting the postponement of ICCM5).
4. At the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) the secretariat was also requested to report on progress in the implementation of the Overall orientation and guidance at the fifth session of the Conference. This information is merged into this progress report to provide one comprehensive overview.
5. Since the inception of the Strategic Approach in 2006, the secretariat has developed five reports on progress toward the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: 2006-2008 baseline report, 2009-2010 progress report (PR1), 2011-2013 progress report (PR2), 2014-2016 progress report (PR3), and 2017-2022 progress report (PR4). Due to the postponement of ICCM5 a fourth progress report, was necessary to cover progress also for the period 2020–2022. Therefore, this present progress report, PR4, is the combination of the draft 2017–2019 progress report, with inclusion of progress in the extended 2020–2022 period.
6. The report provides an analysis of regional and global progress towards the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy Objectives and 20 progress indicators based on stakeholder data that was submitted via the online questionnaire over three reporting periods (i.e. 2009-2010, 2011-2013, and 2014-2016). The data was carefully analyzed to evaluate the collective progress made toward SAICM 2020 goal. The progress report uses UN regional grouping for much of the analysis of the data collected by SAICM secretariat: Africa (AFR), Asia-Pacific (ASP), Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG).
7. The summary of the received submissions shows an alignment with the conclusions of the Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 - 2015. For instance, it highlights SAICM uniqueness in its set-up as an inclusive multi-stakeholder, multi-sector voluntary global policy framework on sound management of chemicals and waste, providing opportunity for government and non-government actors alike, to discuss, deliberate and cooperate on the matters of common interest.
8. While it confirms that SAICM has been an important tool to promote multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder exchange of information and awareness raising and technical cooperation on chemicals management, it also underlines that the full potential of SAICM may not have been achieved due to financial and capacity building limitations. Limited submissions received from beyond the chemical producing industry concur with the assessment that industry participation should be expended. It may support the discussion at the intersessional process on the importance of broadening the sectoral engagement and increasing the private sector involvement in the development and effective implementation of the new framework instrument.
9. While the overall objective of the Strategic Approach to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle by 2020 was not reached, the analysis of stakeholder progress reports demonstrated significant progress towards several areas. Attendance at SAICM related meetings and active engagement in SAICM activities both received substantial attention over the years. To understand

the gender distribution of the participants at SAICM meetings, an analysis of the registered participants is contained in the report. The distribution of registered participants has been rather equal.

10. Knowledge and information, risk reduction, capacity building and technical cooperation related activities showed overall important progress since the first reporting period, with some regional variations. Illegal international traffic showed a significant growth as well. The progress towards governance and to some extent capacity building has been inconsistent over the years.
11. The report also presents an analysis of projects funded by the QSP trust fund over its 14 rounds of applications. The outputs of the projects funded by the Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund, the Special Programme, and the GEF were not specifically tracked to the SAICM objectives and indicators. Thus, the progress made towards the sound management of chemicals and waste through the implementation of the funded projects is not systematically captured in the progress evaluation, unless the stakeholder attempts to make that reflection manually in the online questionnaire.
12. There has been limited success in reporting progress using the online questionnaire over the years. The decreasing response rates are also documented in the Independent Evaluation of SAICM[1]. To understand the underlying reasons for low reporting rates, the SAICM secretariat conducted a survey. While the overall feedback on user experience was positive, a majority of respondent cited lack of resources as the main reason for not submitting a progress report.
13. In moving beyond 2020, it is of utmost importance to encourage broader and resource efficient participation of stakeholders in meaningful periodic progress review towards the achievement of targets, towards indicators and milestones. The stakeholders made some suggestions via the secretariat survey to improve progress report submission rates, such as (i) the provision of training and guidelines for progress report submissions, (ii) acknowledging stakeholders with consistent submissions, (iii) discussing the results of the progress reports during SAICM meetings, (iv) identifying and highlighting potential benefits of progress report submissions.
14. Looking forward, any future SAICM progress reporting mechanism could consider the development of baseline data that accounts for the capacity that is already built and the measures that are put in place. As a result, stakeholders would obtain a baseline score and build up their progress from that baseline, where the data is available. It is recommended that the future reporting mechanism systematically accumulates the submitted progress data and could display them for each stakeholder individually. Thus, stakeholders can see the level of progress made in each reporting period and account for any further progress or setback.
15. Making use of supplementary sources of data that are objectively and independently verifiable and are quantitative for certain core capacities on chemical and waste management like that of IOMC indicators can provide a more reliable picture of global progress.
16. Finally, the future reporting mechanism should ensure that the progress of implementing the basic elements of chemicals and waste management and that all stakeholders in particular that of non-government organizations such as NGOs, Civil Society, and private sector is tracked and more effectively captured via quantitative, objective, and impactful targets and indicators.
17. Due to the time constraints and as the primary expected outcome to be accomplished by the end of ICCM5 is the adoption of a new framework instrument based on the consideration of recommendations from the intersessional process, this report should be considered as a summary of received feedback. Further information provided by stakeholders and received submissions, are also available on the SAICM website.

[1] SAICM/IP.3/INF/3

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The fourth SAICM progress report (PR4) reviews and presents the global and regional progress made toward SAICM 2020 goal by all stakeholders including governments, IGOs, NGOs, private sector, and civil society since the baseline report based on the existing data collected by the secretariat over three reporting periods.
2. PR4 provides an overview of all the data collected via the SAICM online questionnaire tool over three reporting periods of: 2009-2010 (PR1), 2011-2013 (PR2), and 2014-2016 (PR3). Existing data from the three previous progress reports were carefully reviewed and analyzed to attain a quantitative status of global and regional progress over the years since the baseline report in 2006.
3. The progress report on the Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG) for achieving the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management, as requested in Conference Resolution IV/1, is merged into the progress report for the period 2017-2019 and the extended period 2020–2022 in order to provide one comprehensive overview. Thus, this report provides the progress made towards the six core activities of the overall orientation and guidance based on the data received from the stakeholder groups, the IOMC organizations, the Special Programme secretariat, the GEF, and the secretariat of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

1.1 2020-2022 report

4. In preparations to ICCM5, the Strategic Approach secretariat invited all the stakeholder groups to respond to a survey on Progress in Strategic Approach Implementation in the period 2020–2022. The secretariat analyzed submissions and included summary information in the overall Strategic Approach simple progress report, which has been extended to cover the period 2017-2022 (reflecting the postponement of ICCM5).
5. At the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) the secretariat was also requested to report on progress in the implementation of the Overall orientation and guidance at the fifth session of the Conference. This information is merged into this progress report to provide one comprehensive overview.
6. All SAICM stakeholders were invited to provide inputs by 12 June 2023. Deadline was extended until 30 June 2023.
7. The survey was composed of six questions specifying activity(ies), related to the six core activities of the OOG, that a Government and/or an Organization took during the period of 2020-2022:
    a) Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement.
    b) Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation.
    c) Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes, and budgets.
    d) Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies.
    e) Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society.
    f) Assess progress toward the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation, and prioritizing actions moving forward.

8. In total, 64 submissions were received, respectively 23 from governments, 8 from international organizations, and 6 from non-governmental organizations, private sector, academia and other stakeholder. This includes the 27 member states of the European Union. All responses are posted on the SAICM website[2].
9. The following governments submitted responses to the survey: Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, European Union and its member states, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Panama, Russia, Serbia, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
10. The following intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) submitted responses to the survey: FAO, ILO, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, OECD, Ozone Secretariat, UNEP, UNITAR, UNDP and the World Bank.
11. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) submitted responses to the survey: Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement (CREPD), Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (EASD), Golan Environment and Heritage Association (GEHA), Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), IPEN and Togo Welfare.
12. The report is structured in five sections: (a) Executive summary, (b) Introduction and data collection, (c) Progress results over three reporting periods since 2009, (d) Progress towards the Overall Orientation and Guidance document, and (e) Discussion and Conclusions.
    - The policy summary provides an overview of the content of the progress report, achievements, and the considerations for monitoring progress beyond 2020.

    - The introduction and data collection provide details on the progress reports submitted by the stakeholders, and the methodology for the analysis of the data collected through the online questionnaire over three reporting periods.

    - The section on the progress results over three reporting periods is presented in three subsections: a) the global progress from previous progress reports data (i.e. PR1, PR2, and PR3); b) the regional progress towards the SAICM Strategic Objectives, and; c) the collective progress towards the 20 indicators.

    - The section on the progress of the OOG provides a summary of the activities, contributions, and progress made by SAICM stakeholders to each of the six core activities, as received from the stakeholders. It also provides lessons learnt and observations from the Independent Evaluation of SAICM under the sixth core activity on 'assessing progress towards the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation, and prioritizing actions for achievement by 2020'. This section also provides a summary of the data that was collected through a short survey, conducted by the secretariat, to evaluate the experience of the stakeholders in using the online questionnaire for report submissions.
    - The discussion and conclusions section assesses the progress towards the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying the SAICM success in several areas, the global achievements towards implementation of SAICM Strategic Objectives, and finally understanding the gaps in implementation and prioritizing actions for beyond 2020.

[2] https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx

1.2 Data collection and analysis 2006 – 2022

25. The data that the SAICM stakeholders submitted directly to the secretariat via the online questionnaire over four reporting periods of 2009-2010, 2011-2013, 2014-2016 and 2017–2019 with extension to 2020–2022 were re-analyzed collectively.
26. The scoring methodology has been identical in the three progress reports for consistency purposes. The online questionnaire consisted of two sections of general information and contact information sections and then five sections each covering one of the five Overarching Policy Strategy categories (including the five Strategic Objectives and the 20 indicators) agreed by ICCM2[3]. The online questionnaire is activity based so that each indicator is evaluated through several activities in the form of multiple-answer questions. In the previous three progress reports, the responses to each activity in the online questionnaire were scored. Two scoring methodologies are used in order to quantitatively analyze the responses provided by the stakeholders. The first metric is the per centage of total respondents who selected a certain activity. The second metric assigns a point to the answer provided to every activity selected by each respondent. A completed activity received one point, an activity in progress or under development received 0.5 point, and no reported activity received zero point (including responses such as 'Not applicable', 'Not known', etc.). The average per centage of all possible activities selected in each question is expanded by calculating individual respondents' per centage and aggregating these 'scores' per questions, indicators, and objectives. The score is presented as a per centage of the total possible activities and expressed as a number between 0 and 100 per cent. Each SAICM region obtained a score, between 0 and 100 per cent, under each of the 20 indicators and the five objectives during each reporting period. The 'Global' average is calculated from the average regional scores under each objective and each indicator; it represents the average number of activities completed by the respondents in every reporting period.
27. Furthermore, the SAICM secretariat invited all the stakeholders groups to submit progress reports for the period 2017-2019 to the International Conference on Chemical Management at its fifth session (ICCM5) by 28 February 2020. The following stakeholders submitted their progress reports: the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) on the progress made by each of its member organizations (the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)), the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), and the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA). All reports were carefully reviewed and a summary was included in the PR4. The submitted reports were also uploaded on SAICM website in the form that they were received[4].
28. An online survey consisting of 15 questions was developed by the secretariat to evaluate the stakeholders' experience with the online questionnaire for submitting reports[5]. A total of 52 responses were received. All responses were thoroughly analyzed and are presented anonymously in this progress report. The data from this survey is helpful for the considerations of ICCM5 in shaping the beyond 2020 reporting mechanism and review process.

[3] The online questionnaire for the period 2014-2016 can be found here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/18jiRzrn362oMHzxHlgU00x9z3A2HAa3J/view?usp=sharing

[4] http://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx

[5] The survey questions are presented in Annex I of this document.

29. Due to the COVID pandemic, it was decided to postpone ICCM5 and, as a consequence, the report PR4 was not submitted for consideration to ICCM5. The ICCM5 president and the Bureau members together with the SAICM secretariat decided to launch a new Questionnaire based on the core activities of the OOG and invited all stakeholders groups as well as governments, NOGs, IGOs to submit their responses for the extended period 2020–2022. All responses received and the analysis were added to the PR4 report. All submissions are also available on the SAICM website.
30. At ICCM4, (SAICM/ICCM.4/15) paragraph 39 of section IV on the progress and challenges towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management, the IOMC proposed a set of quantitative indicators from verifiable sources and for which global data are available. For this current progress report, similar to PR3, data and discussion on progress on the eight IOMC indicators have been provided under relevant core activities of OOG.
31. The eight indicators tracked by the IOMC are as follows: Indicator A on number of countries with National Profiles (UNITAR); Indicator B on number of countries with a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) (UNITAR); Indicator C on number of countries with poison centres (WHO); Indicator D on number of countries with control for lead in decorative paint (WHO and UNEP); Indicator E on countries which have implemented pesticide legislation based on the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management of FAO and WHO; Indicator F on number of countries that have achieved core capacities for chemicals under the International health Regulations (WHO); Indicator G on number of parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata conventions (UNEP); Indicator H on implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (UNECE and UNITAR). The report uses the regional groupings of IOMC organizations for the eight IOMC indicators as received from each organization.

32. PR4 provides an overview of the achievements of the Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund over 14 application rounds including the regional distribution of the projects, the strategic objectives addressed in the projects, and the regional distribution of the funds.
33. An analysis of more than 50 projects that are approved for funding in the period 2017-2019 by the GEF was conducted. The objectives of the funded projects were linked to five SAICM objectives.

2. PROGRESS RESULTS OVER THREE REPORTING PERIODS (2009-2016)

2.1 Global overview of progress submissions

34. The data from the three previous progress reports submitted by the stakeholders via the online questionnaire and the SAICM baseline report were reviewed. The data were re-analyzed to provide a global overview of progress toward SAICM Strategic Objectives and indicators in each region.
35. The SAICM baseline report for the period 2006-2008 looked at the progress under seven out of 20 progress indicators. The data collected and analyzed originates from several sources consisting of preliminary reporting questionnaire, information held by the secretariat, documentation from second session of the conference, information from the secretariat of international organizations, and baseline estimates reports prepared by specific stakeholders. Making a comparison of the three reporting periods with the baseline report proves to be complicated if not impossible. According to the Independent Evaluation;

    "Whilst the baseline data collected in 2006-2008 was voluminous, it did not lend itself to translation of the data into a form that could be used to populate the 20 indicators. Consequently, the data collection exercise did not allow for the development of a comprehensive baseline for all 20 indicators. In the end, baseline estimates were only possible for seven of the indicators"

36. Over three reporting periods, the average reporting rate was 37±8 per cent for the 193 government member States of the UN General Assembly. The response rate remained relatively stable between the first (i.e.

PR1) and the second progress report (i.e. PR2), 40 and 43 per cent respectively; however, it substantially decreased to 28 per cent in the third progress report (i.e. PR3).

37. The limited submissions over the years proved a considerable challenge in making an accurate analysis of progress toward the implementation of the 2020 goal as also highlighted in previous progress reports and the Independent Evaluation of SAICM.

38. Figure 1 provides an overview of the status of progress report submissions by governments over three reporting periods. Thirty governments submitted three progress reports, 38 governments[6] submitted two, and 50 governments submitted only one over three reporting periods. SAICM has received no data on chemicals and waste management from 75 governments (i.e. 39 per cent of UN member states) since 2006. The lack of data for many countries in the world stresses two important aspects of monitoring progress for SAICM beyond 2020. Firstly, the importance of cross-checking with other sources of data such as the eight Indicators of IOMC organizations to assess the global progress since the inception of SAICM. Secondly, identifying the underlying reasons for low reporting rates and trying to address those in the reporting mechanism of SAICM beyond 2020.

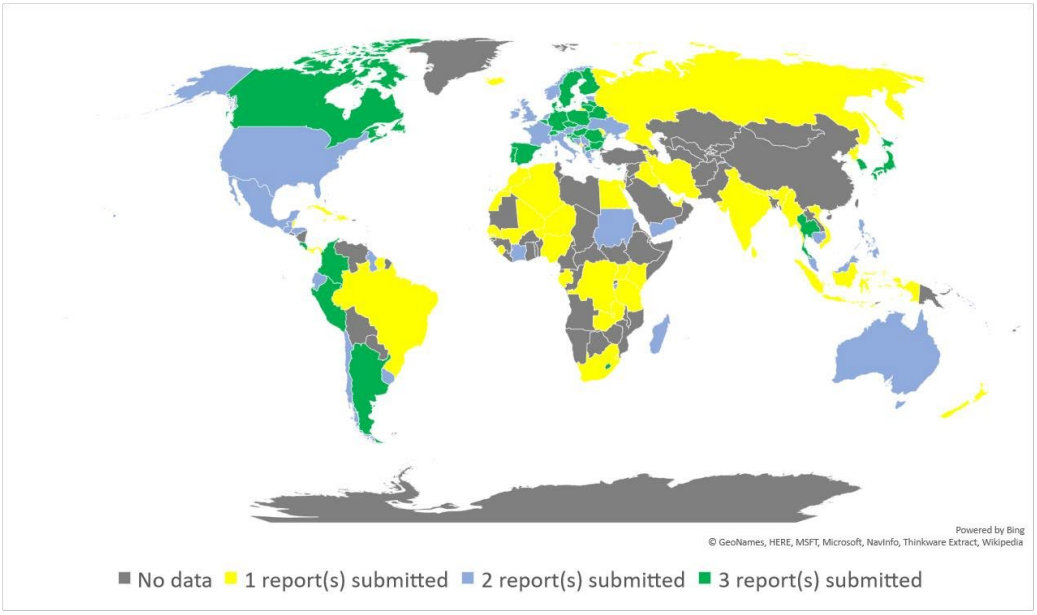


Figure 1 - Global status of progress report submissions by governments[7]

2.2 Regions and countries with consistent reporting, country profiles

39. Thirty countries consistently reported in every reporting period. These governments are as follows; Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Macedonia, Monaco, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Thailand.

40. Thirty-eight countries submitted two progress reports to the secretariat. These governments are as follows; Albania, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Madagascar,

[6] Reports have also been submitted by the European Union and its Member States for the periods 2011-2013 and 2014-2016

[7] The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, and Yemen.

41. The individual progress of countries that submitted at least two reports out of three are carefully studied. It is notable that all countries that submitted three progress reports showed consistent progress in the number of completed activities in every progress report. Certain among these countries reported smaller level of completed activities in the second progress report as compared to the first. This inconsistency is likely due to the fact that respondents are not the same in each reporting period and some submitted their first report to PR2 whereas some others submitted only to PR1.
42. The SAICM secretariat has created a Knowledge Platform. In its country profiles section that is being built[8], the platform highlights the progress of a number of countries towards achieving the SAICM objectives, chemical regulatory frameworks such as the status of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), number of progress submissions, number of poison centres, and SAICM focal point information.
43. The trend of progress for countries that submitted two progress reports was less consistent. Out of 38 countries that submitted two reports, 47 per cent submitted reports to PR1 and PR2 and 45 per cent submitted reports to PR2 and PR3. Three countries (i.e. 8 per cent) submitted their progress reports to PR1 and PR3. It is notable that these three countries (1 in each of ASP, CEE, and LAC regions) reported a significant progress between PR1 and PR3.
44. Out of 18 countries that submitted two reports to PR1 and PR2, 8 reported progress while 8 reported a decline in PR2 as compared to their previous submission to PR1. The level of activities reported by the remaining two countries, both in the LAC region, barely changed. Out of 17 countries that submitted reports to PR2 and PR3, a large proportion (i.e. 12 countries) reported a decline in the level of activities in PR3 as compared to PR2, the majority of which were in the WEOG region (41 per cent). It is likely that the level of activity in the period 2014-2016 did not change as compared to the previous period, and therefore these countries scored less (0.5 score for no changes in the level of activities instead of 1 for a growth) which contributed to the decline in their overall score.
45. This trend signifies the need for developing a baseline for future SAICM reporting mechanism that accounts for the capacity that is already built and the measures that are put in place by the end of 2019. As a result, countries (stakeholders) would obtain a baseline score and build up their progress from that baseline.
46. There is a stark contrast between regions in the frequency of reporting. As Figure 2 summarizes, more than 48 per cent of member states in the CEE and 37 per cent in the WEOG regions submitted three progress reports. Whereas only 2, 6, and 12 per cent of member states in the AFR, ASP, and LAC regions submitted 3 reports, respectively. Notably, there is no available data for 56 and 55 per cent of AFR and ASP regions, respectively. There is no data available for 9, 27, and 17 per cent of the CEE, LAC and WEOG regions respectively. Nevertheless, on the optimistic side, there is at least one report for 33 and 28 per cent of countries in AFR and ASP regions, respectively.

[8] https://saicmknowledge.org/countryprofiles

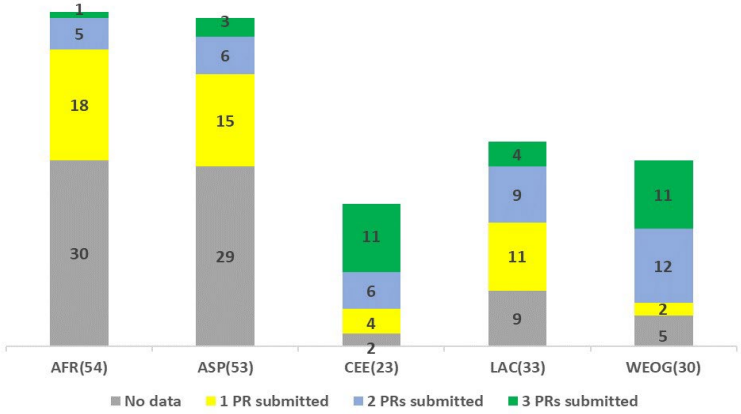


Figure 2 - Number of countries grouped by the number of report submissions over three reporting periods across regions (based on UN regional groupings, total 193 UN member states)

2.3 Progress towards the Strategic Objectives and the 20 indicators

2.3.1 Global Progress

47. Figure 3 shows the total score obtained between 20 and 100 per cent in each progress report in varying shades of green; darker for higher scores. The total score is calculated based on the number of activities completed by the stakeholders in the online questionnaire[9]. The average score is the average of the scores under each of 20 indicators, and then averaged for each of the five Strategic Objectives. The average scores of the five Strategic Objectives gives the total score, between 20 and 100 per cent, which is displayed in the map in Figure 3.
48. The transition towards darker green means a larger number of activities were completed, indicating a greater progress towards the 2020 goal. When the three maps are compared with one another, the progress over time comes to light with larger areas of darker green on the maps of PR2 and PR3. Even though, the available data is not comprehensive of all countries, we can still observe that over the years there has been clear improvement in addressing the Strategic Objectives and the sound management of chemicals and waste. The average level of completed activities globally reached 59 per cent in PR3, as compared to 47 per cent in PR2, and 41 per cent in PR1.

[9] A completed activity received one point, an activity in progress or under development received 0.5 point, and no reported activity received zero point (including responses such as 'Not applicable', 'Not known', etc.).

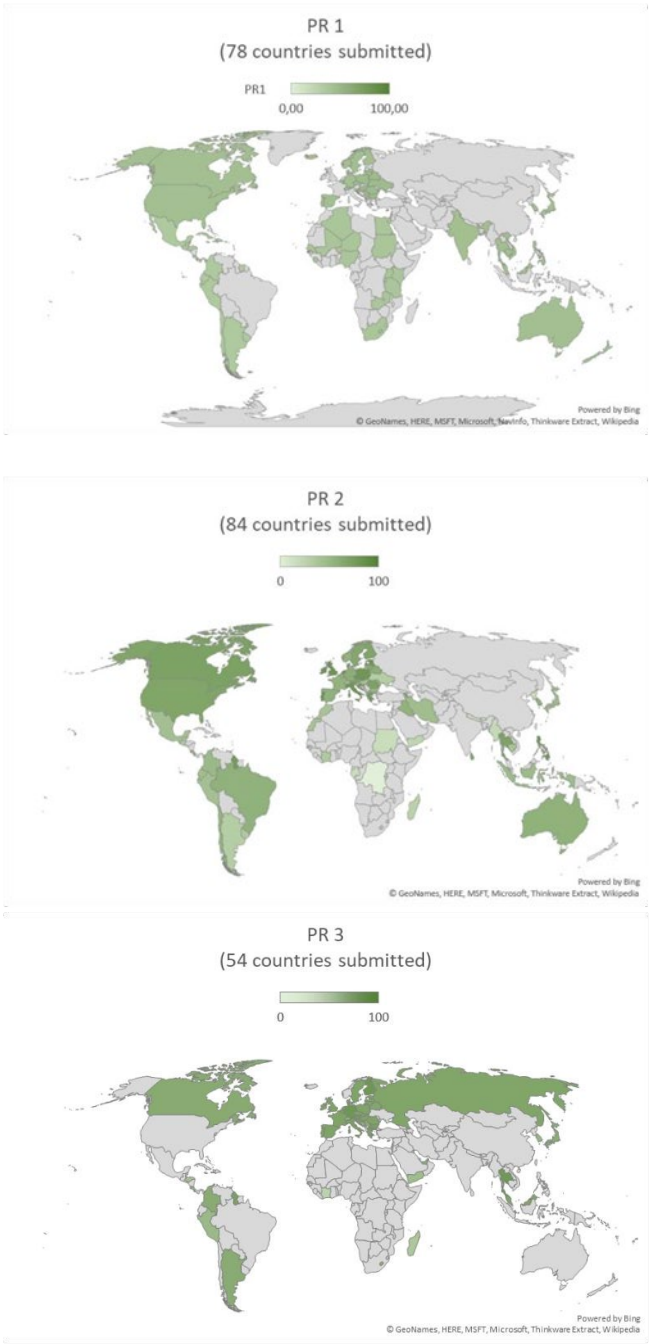


Figure 3 - Total score between 20 and 100 per cent over three reporting periods in varying shades of green; darker green for higher scores. No data is available for areas in grey.

2.3.2 Regional Progress

49. In this section, the regional progress on the Strategic Objectives over three reporting periods since 2009 is discussed.

50. As shown in Figure 4, the progress of the AFR region is uneven. The average[10] score obtained by the region in three reporting periods was 38, 27, 41 per cent in PR1, PR2, and PR3 respectively. In addition, the number of submitted reports has decreased drastically in each reporting period from 18 reports received in PR1, to 10 in PR2, and 3 in PR3. The limited number of submissions make the comparison barely possible as the respondents change from one report to the next meaning the countries that submitted to PR1 did not submit to PR2 and PR3. Only one country in the AFR region (i.e. Lesotho) submitted three progress reports. For most of the Objectives (A, B, D, and E), the average score has declined in PR2 as compared with PR1 before it increased again in PR3. Objective C (Governance) has experienced a constant decline since PR1. Objectives D and E have shown the largest progress overall with 10 and 11 per cent respectively from PR1 to PR3.

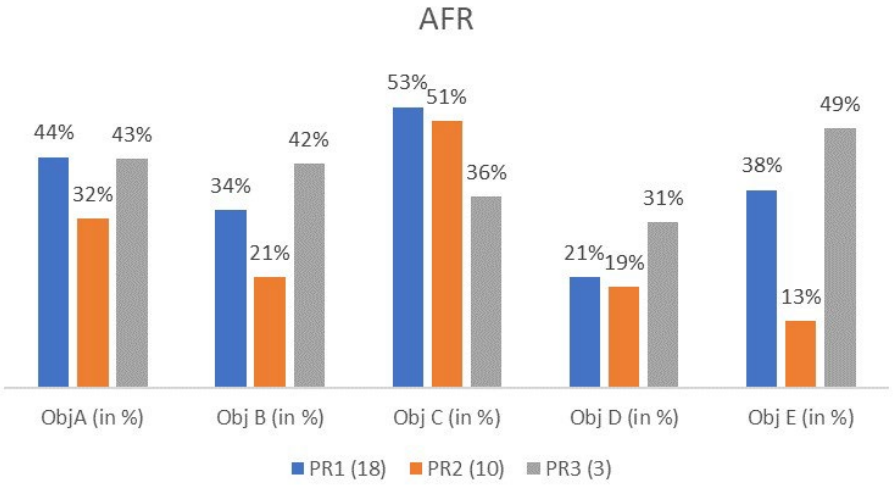


Figure 4 - Overall average score for AFR region per Strategic Objective in three reporting periods. The number of reports received from the respondents in each period is shown between brackets in the legend.

51. The overall progress of the ASP region toward the Strategic Objectives over three reporting periods is shown in Figure 5. The total average of the region in three reporting period was 44, 41, and 61 per cent in PR1, PR2 and PR3 respectively. Notably, the ASP region average score shows a slight decline from the first to the second reporting period. However, four out of five Objectives picked up the pace in PR3. Similar to region AFR, the ASP region observed a decline in the level of activities associated with Objective C (Governance). The ASP region demonstrated a significant increase in the level of activities under Objective E (Illegal international traffic), from 44 per cent in PR1 to 85 per cent in PR3.
52. The ASP region has shown a high level of activity under Objective A with an average score of 75 per cent in PR3 coming second behind Objective E (i.e. score 85 per cent). This objective is an obvious strength of the ASP region obtaining one of the largest scores among all regions and objectives since PR1. The ASP region showed the lowest level of activity under Objective D (Capacity-building and technical cooperation), as compared to the four other Objectives in this reporting period.

[10] The total average is based on the average of the scores of the member states of each region who submitted a report to PR1, PR2, and PR3.

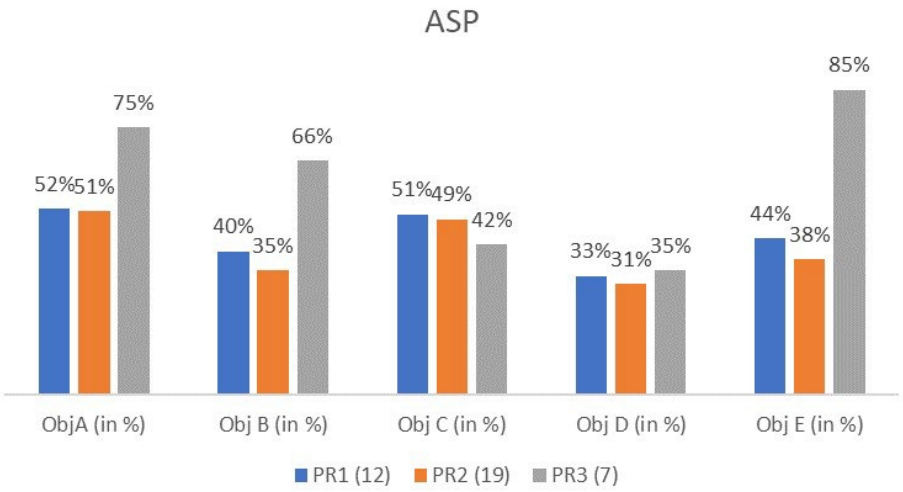


Figure 5 - Overall average score of the ASP region per Strategic Objective in three reporting periods. The number of reports received from the respondents in each period is shown between brackets in the legend.

53. The overall average score of the CEE region per Strategic Objective in each reporting period is displayed in Figure 6. The CEE region demonstrated a consistent progress overall in each reporting period with total averages reaching 47, 55, and 67 per cent in PR1, PR2, and PR3 respectively.
54. The implementation of Objectives A, B, and E made the most consistent progress with at least 25 per cent over three reporting periods in the CEE region. Consistency of progress report submission seems to go in pair with actual progress. Objective D (Capacity-building and technical cooperation) lags behind with around 30 per cent of the activities completed on average in three reporting periods. The level of completed activities under Objective C declined by 7 per cent.
55. The highest score was 86 per cent under Objective B which was also the highest score obtained under all the Objectives across all regions in the period 2014-2016. The CEE region also reported a significant advancement under Objective A with an average score of 82 per cent.

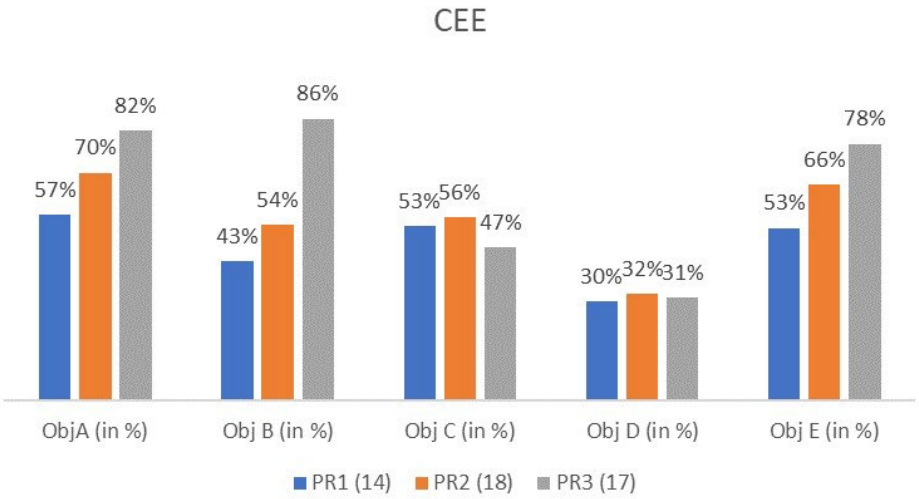


Figure 6 - Overall average score of the CEE region per Strategic Objective in three reporting periods. The number of reports received from the respondents in each period is shown between brackets in the legend.

56. The overall average score of the LAC region per Strategic Objective in each reporting period is displayed in Figure 7. The LAC region demonstrated a consistent progress in each reporting period with total averages reaching 35, 41, and 52 per cent in PR1, PR2, and PR3, respectively. The number of progress

submissions received from the LAC region considerably declined since PR1. Only a fraction of the states (i.e. 24 per cent) in the LAC region with 33 UN member states submitted a report in the period 2014-2016 and less than half of countries reported their progress in the period 2011-2013.

57. The LAC region had a growth of 10 to 31 per cent since PR1 under all Objectives except for Objective C. The LAC region also prioritized Objective A (65 per cent) and Objective B (60 per cent) over other Objectives. Nevertheless, with an average score of 52 per cent, the other Objectives are not very far from Objective A. Again, Objective C, with 11 per cent decline, was the only Objective that did not improve since PR1 in the LAC region.

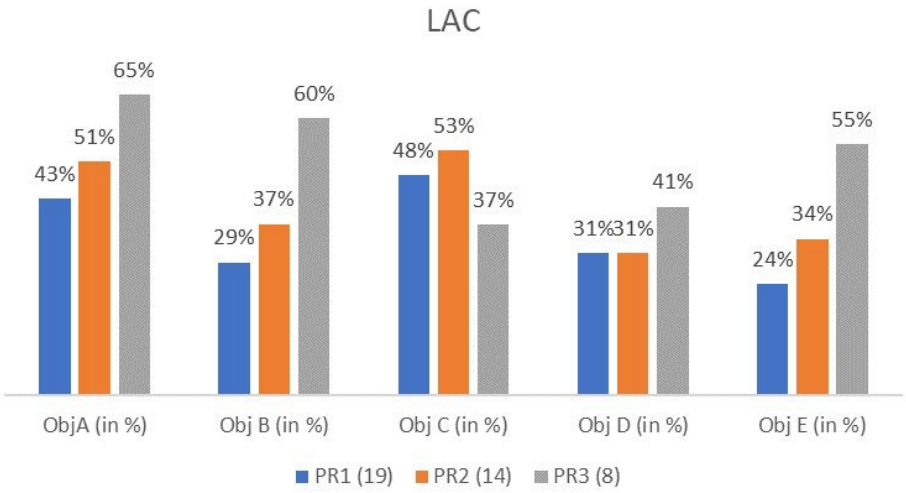


Figure 7 - Overall average score of the LAC region per Strategic Objective in three reporting periods. The number of reports received from the respondents in each period is shown between brackets in the legend.

58. The overall average score of the WEOG region per Strategic Objective in each reporting period is displayed in Figure 8. The total average of the region in three reporting periods was 43, 64, and 63 per cent in PR1, PR2, and PR3 respectively. The number of submissions from WEOG increased to 20 and 19 in the second and third progress reports, respectively from 15 reports received in PR1. The number of submissions corresponds to more than half of the member states in this region and signals that the data is likely more representative of the overall progress of the region as compared to regions with less consistent reporting patterns.

59. In PR3, the WEOG region has reported a decline in the level of activities under Objectives C and D as compared to PR2. The region also demonstrated limited growth as compared to the previous reporting period (PR2) under Objective A. The average score under Objective B increased by 14 per cent, and Objective E increased by 3 per cent. Nevertheless, there is a substantial growth of 20 to 36 per cent once looking at the level of activities since PR1 for Objectives A, B, and E. In general, the WEOG region has reported above-average level of activity under nearly all Objectives since PR2 except for Objective D.

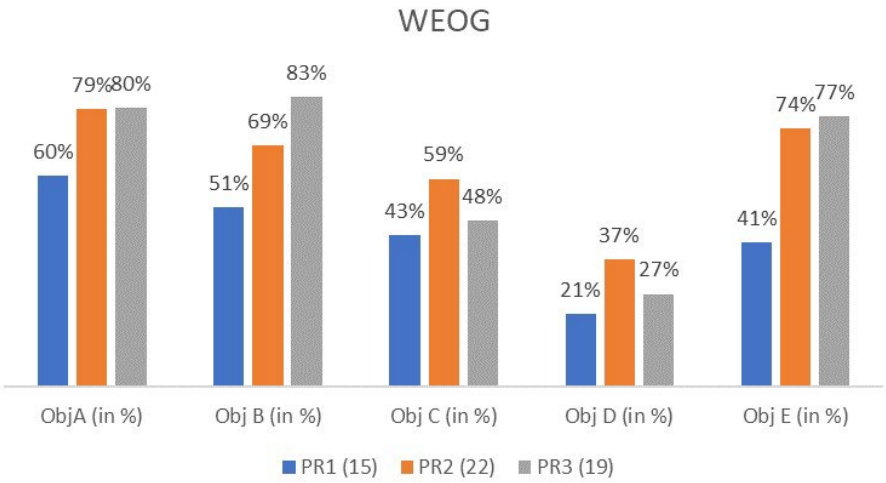


Figure 8 - Overall average score of the WEOG region per Strategic Objective in three reporting periods. The number of reports received from the respondents in each period is shown between brackets in the legend.

2.3.3 Overall Progress towards the 20 SAICM Indicators

60. Figure 9 provides a thorough overview of the average global level of completed activities under each SAICM indicator. In general, average scores have increased considerably since PR1. However, the level of activity decreased or barely changed since PR1 under indicator 11 on number of countries with multi-stakeholder coordinating mechanism, indicator 12 on significant changes to the implementation of the multilateral conventions on chemicals and waste, indicator 13 on countries that donate financial and in-kind assistance for capacity building, and indicator 15 on countries with national development plans.

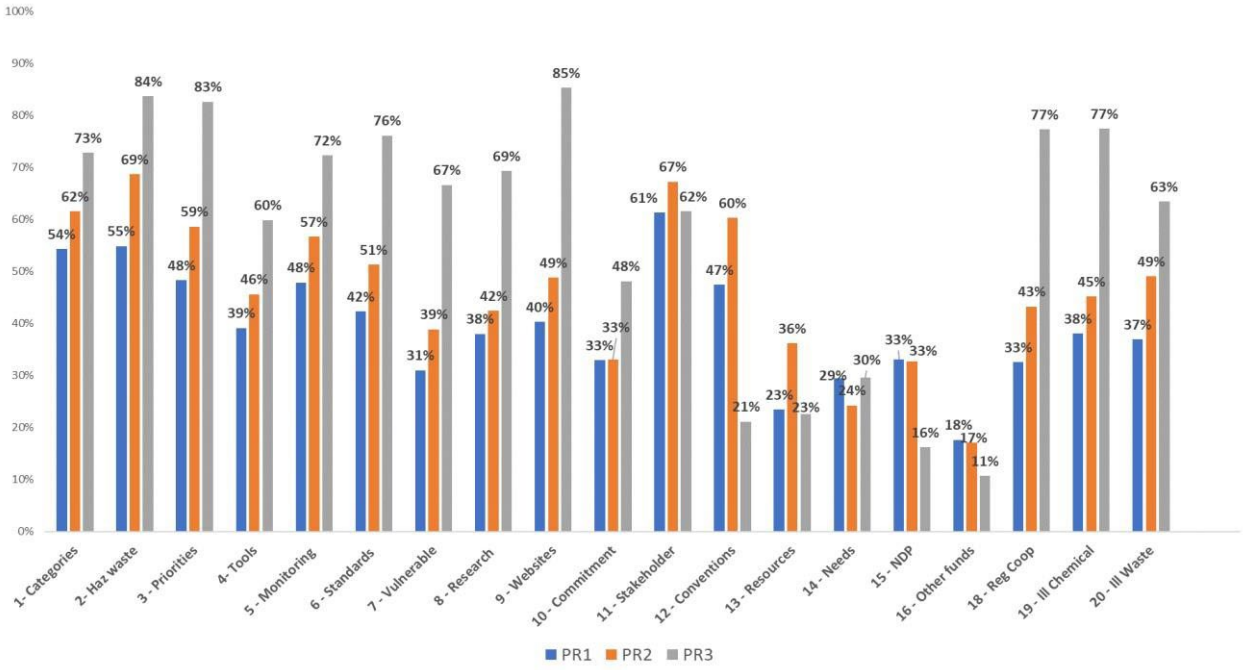


Figure 9 - Average global score in per cent of completed activities for 20 indicators of SAICM over three reporting periods.

61. The highest average score across all the regions and stakeholders was obtained for indicator 9 on the websites to provide information to stakeholders (85 per cent), indicator 2 on hazardous waste management (84 per cent), indicator 3 on priorities for risk reduction (83 per cent), indicator 19 on mechanisms to prevent illegal traffic in hazardous waste (77 per cent), and indicator 18 on regional cooperation on issues related to the sound management of chemicals (77 per cent).
62. The progress on the indicators cannot be quantitatively compared with that of the baseline report given that the baseline report only quantitatively covered seven out of 20 indicators of progress (i.e. indicators 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 17). The progress under indicator 6 on conformity with GHS since the baseline report in 2006-2008 came to light when compared with the IOMC indicator on GHS implementation. Seventy-three Governments have legislation in place to implement the GHS (full or partial implementation) according to the IOMC indicator as of June 2023, compared to the 65 countries estimated to be implementing the GHS to varying degrees in the SAICM baseline report in 2008
63. Indicator 9 in the baseline report mainly addressed the number of countries with PRTRs whereas in PR3 this indicator tracked countries with websites that provide information on variety of chemical safety topics. Nonetheless, the baseline report noted 31 countries with operational PRTRs at the beginning of 2009, whereas this value reached 52 by end of 2019, it reaches now 53 with the addition of Moldova, according to UNITAR. Taking note also that the Protocol on PRTRs, the legally binding instrument on PRTRs open for accession by any UN Member State and entering into force in 2009, today has 38 Parties increasing from having 27 Parties in 2010. Other provisions related to the establishment of PRTR systems exist under the Aarhus Convention and the recent Escazu Agreement. The OECD council act further outlines recommendations on PRTR implementation in OECD countries. The OECD currently has 38 member countries. Indicator 10 on implementation of Strategic Approach was perhaps among the indicators with largest progress since the baseline report where only 14 governments were in the process of developing National Strategic Approach Implementation Plan. In the period 2014-2016, another 15 stakeholders (23 per cent of the respondents) published a SAICM implementation plan. This number was smaller than the 24 new submissions in the period 2011-2013, yet it demonstrated a continuous improvement over the years. In 2010, there were 164 national focal points which grew to 181 focal points in 2016, and to 205 focal points by end of 2019. Attendance at SAICM related meetings and active engagement in SAICM activities both received substantial attention over the years; so much that more than 80 per cent of the respondents reported their participation.
64. Drawing a conclusion on the progress of indicator 11 on multi-stakeholder coordinating mechanism and indicator 12 on key international instruments since the baseline report was difficult, given the modifications that were made to the activities under these two indicators. Indicator 14 of the baseline report addressed the capacity-building needs of countries by focusing on publicly available plans of UNITAR National Chemicals Management Profile and of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan. According to UNITAR, 116 countries had up-to-date National Profiles as of 2023. The number was 102 according to SAICM baseline report which shows about nine per cent growth. Indicator 14 in PR3 also included the National SAICM Implementation Plan and the National Environmental Health Action Plan as well as the priority needs based on the 11 basic elements identified as progress at the national level from the OOG document.

3. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OVERALL ORIENTATION AND GUIDANCE FOR ACHIEVING THE 2020 GOAL OF SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

65. At its fourth session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), adopted resolution IV/1, in which the Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG) for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals was endorsed as a voluntary tool that will assist in the prioritization of efforts

for the sound management of chemicals and waste as a contribution to the overall implementation of the SAICM.

66. The aim of the OOG is to provide direction and to identify approaches for all Strategic Approach stakeholders toward facilitating the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management, including some concrete elements required at the national level to support the implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy.
67. The six core activity areas identified in the OOG to implement the Strategic Approach Objectives include:
    (a) Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement;
    (b) Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation;
    (c) Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes and budgets;
    (d) Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies;
    (e) Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society;
    (f) Assess progress towards the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation, and prioritizing actions for achievement by 2020.
68. The following sections provide a review of the progress made towards each of the six core activity areas identified in the OOG based on the data and reports received from the SAICM stakeholders.

3.1 Core activity (a) – Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement

Overall guidance

69. The involvement of all relevant stakeholders and sectors, at all levels, is key to achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach and the basic elements, as are transparent, inclusive, and open implementation processes as well as public participation in regulatory and other decision-making processes that relate to chemical safety.
70. Greater awareness and the involvement of various sectors – in particular health, agriculture, labour, and industry – as well as public interest groups, in policy deliberation, development, and implementation are critical in providing an informed basis for the sound management of chemicals at the national, regional, and global levels.
71. There is a need for stronger engagement and an increased assumption of responsibility by downstream entities, in particular industries, to address the distribution and use of chemicals in the manufacture of products and throughout their life cycle, as well as for a more extensive approach to stewardship.

Reflections on progress

72. Since the progress of OOG to the third session of Open-Ended Working Group, five new stakeholder groups nominated official SAICM focal points, demonstrating on-going and increasing interest in the Strategic Approach. The 5 new stakeholders are from non-governmental organizations, including: Environment and Security Center of Mongolia, TOXISPHERA, COLNODO, Environment sans frontière, and Wills Recycling. One newly identified national focal points is from Vietnam.
73. ICCM Resolution II/2 underlined the important role of regional meetings and coordination mechanisms in enabling stakeholders in each region to exchange experience and identify priority needs in relation to the implementation of SAICM and to develop regional positions on key issues. Five SAICM regional meetings took place in 2018: Asia-Pacific from 23 to 25 January 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand; Latin American and the Caribbean from 29 to 31 January 2018 in Panama City, Panama; Africa from 6 to 8 February 2018 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; EU-JUSCANNZ on 9 February 2018 in Paris, France; and Central and Eastern Europe from 19 to 21 February 2018 in Lodz, Poland. A number of informal regional meetings were also held back-to-back with the preparatory meetings for the Conference of the Parties for the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
74. ILO reported that recognizing that the protection of workers from the harmful effects of chemicals also enhances the protection of the general public and the environment. ILO (through its Labour Administration, Labour Inspection, and Occupational Safety and Health Branch - LABADMIN/OSH), focuses on assisting its 187 member States to implement the main ILO chemicals-related Conventions, namely the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) and the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174). These two Conventions provide the basis for the sound management of chemicals at the workplace, as recognised by ICCM and SAICM. In addition, in 2022, the International Labour Conference adopted "a safe and healthy working environment" as a fundamental principle and right at work, with the Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155) and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 187) being considered as fundamental Conventions, which all ILO member States, regardless of ratification status, are expected to implement. These Conventions provide for the establishment of a systems approach for managing occupational safety and health with implications for improving sound chemicals management at the national and workplace level.
75. UNDP's Strategic Plan for 2018-21 to help accelerate progress towards Agenda 2030 has three integrated objectives: eradicate all forms of poverty, accelerate structural transformations, and build resilience to shocks and crises. Building on its previous work, UNDP's Strategic Plan for 2022-25 supports change in three directions: structural transformation, particularly green, inclusive, and digital transitions; leaving no one behind, a rights-based approach centered on human agency and human development; and building resilience to respond to systemic uncertainty and risk. UNDP supported activities on chemicals and waste management contributing towards the acceleration of structural transformations through shifting to green economic pathways and actively promoting the best available techniques, environmental practices, and green chemical chemistry principles to support developing countries in transitioning to a circular economy through chemical and waste management.
76. The High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste was established in July 2018 with the aim to promote and ensure commitment to an ambitious new global agreement for the sound management of chemicals and waste for beyond 2020. It is co-chaired by the Minister for the Environment, Sweden, and Minister for Housing, Land Planning and Environment, Uruguay. It is formed to raise the political profile of the benefits of tackling hazardous chemicals and waste and make it a more ambitious programme than it currently is. Furthermore, the Alliance recognizes the vast costs of inaction that, unchecked, will have direct impact on human health, the environment, and economic development.
77. Over the past 12 years, a number of IOMC organisations have developed and tested a wide range of guidance materials, in collaboration with a diverse range of countries, and other partners.

78. In 2016, UNITAR, in close cooperation with UNEP, organized a workshop on Chemicals and Waste and the SDGs. In 2018, in collaboration with UNEP, UNITAR organized a lessons-learned workshop on the Biodiversity Aichi targets, which provided some suggestions and good practices to be considered during the Beyond 2020 process. Similarly, in February/March 2019, September 2019, and January 2020, UNITAR, in cooperation with the German, Norwegian, and Swiss governments organized workshops to discuss options for institutional arrangements and overall governance of the new framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. These workshops have provided suggestions to be considered by the intersessional process. In August 2022, UNITAR, on behalf of the IOMC, organized a workshop on integrated chemicals and waste management in advance of IP4.1. The purpose was to disseminate the IOMC INF document on the same topic. This led to further workshops in January 2023 in Paris and in June 2023 in Geneva on the second dimension of the INF document - advancing chemicals and waste management in economic and industry sectors.
79. The IOMC, with organizational support provided by UNITAR, arranged for six global IOMC webinars from 2021-2023 to disseminate information on the IOMC and work the different POs are undertaking. The topics were: Existing Indicators on chemicals and waste management; Evaluating Health Impacts from Land-based Pollution: Data Gaps & Proposed Framework and Economic considerations; Financial Considerations for Chemicals and Waste Management; Chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response; Leveraging Green and Sustainable Chemistry for Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste beyond 2020; Addressing Illegal trade and traffic of Industrial Chemicals, Pesticides and Waste for Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020.
80. During the period 2020-2023, UNITAR added a series of learning platforms and online courses. The purpose of such learning materials is to provide key information on chemicals and waste management to trainers and other stakeholders, while providing training materials in a standardized manner and accessible to anyone. New learning platforms include one dedicated to PCBs management, environmental monitoring, alignment with OECD standards for chemicals management, open waste burning, sound management of chemicals in Nigeria, and uPOPs in Côte d'Ivoire[11]. In addition, new courses have been developed on chemicals control (legislation, sustainable financing, enforcement and risk reduction), waste management and circular economy, and a revised version on nanomaterials safe[12].
81. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and UNEP continued their collaboration in hosting joint events on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and the Circular Economy. These joint efforts enhanced multistakeholder collaboration, promoted discussions on important topics such as the Circular Economy (CE), plastic waste and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), identified the enabling conditions to shift toward a CE of chemicals. The second symposium on Circular Economy was held in Hengdzu, China, 18 September 2019. It aimed to provide a more focused discussion on circular economy and therefore delved deeper at identifying the requirements necessary to achieving a Circular Plastics Economy during two sessions; (i) the obstacles faced to realize circular economy of plastics; (ii) plastic policy and regulation. During the first Sustainability Conclave in New Delhi, India, 4 November 2019, stakeholders discussed solutions and obstacles in achieving circular economy in the context of India. The second workshop on regulatory framework on sound management of chemicals was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 2021 November 2019. Stakeholders discussed the sound management of chemicals, regulatory framework for chemicals in Latin America, and risk assessment for chemicals. The 4th edition of the Indian Chemicals Council (ICC) Sustainability Conclave took place on 17th & 18th November 2022 in New Delhi. ICCA and UNEP hosted a joint session on "Pollution: Strengthening the Role of the Industry". The third workshop on regulatory framework on sound management of chemicals was held in Bogota, Colombia from 5-6 December 2022. Governments and stakeholders discussed the sound management of

[11] https://cwplatforms.unitar.org/
[12] https://cwcourses.unitar.org/

chemicals, regulatory framework for chemicals in Latin America, and best practices for chemicals prioritization.

82. ICCA reported that they have showcased their commitment to the Strategic Approach through their participation in key SAICM meetings, representation of chemicals industry at the SAICM extended Bureau, and significant number of capacity building and technical cooperation projects. Additionally, ICCA has an on-going Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP, renewed at the end of 2021 for three years, which outlines collaboration on a range of initiatives to advance sound chemicals management including efforts towards joint capacity building activities and development of public-private partnerships. ICCA provides financial support to the SAICM Secretariat under the MOU. At the regional level, the chemical industry is also working closely with governments through the APEC Chemical Dialogue or the Latin American Regulatory Cooperation Forum (LARCF) to promote GHS implementation, capacity building for regulators, and SAICM implementation.
83. With respect to heath sector engagement, in May 2017, the Seventieth World Health Assembly with its decision WHA70(23) approved the WHO Chemicals Road Map[13] for the health sector at the national, regional, and international levels towards achieving the 2020 goal and contributing to relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Road Map was requested by the WHA 69.4 resolution in 2016 and was developed by WHO in consultation with Member States and others.
84. The WHO Chemicals Road Map considers the OOG, the intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach beyond 2020 as well as WHO's existing relevant work and the strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. It also emphasizes certain areas, as defined by the WHA 69.4 resolution. One of those areas is establishment or strengthening of national, regional, or international coordinating mechanisms, proper for multisectoral cooperation, and enhancing engagement of all relevant health stakeholders. The Road Map identifies concrete actions where the health sector has a lead or important supporting role to play in the sound management of chemicals, recognizing the need for multi-sectoral cooperation. For each action, the main actor, or lead, is identified.
85. The engagement of UNIDO for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste is seen in the overall context of advancing the circular economy or life cycle approach. Currently UNIDO is implementing around 200 projects that contribute directly or indirectly to the sound management of chemicals in their life cycle in countries in Africa, Asia & Pacific, Latin-America, and Central and Eastern Europe. Ongoing UNIDO's activities in support of SAICM strategic objectives include UNIDO's Global Chemical Leasing Programme that seeks to mainstream and upscale Chemical Leasing and other business models for sustainable chemicals management. Chemical Leasing is a circular economy, performance-based business model that shifts the focus from increasing sales volume of chemicals towards a value-added approach. The project on Innovative Approaches to Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (IAMC) provides practical solutions for industry to become more efficient and at the same time reduce unnecessary hazardous chemicals consumption and protect human health and the environment. The project was part of the Joint UNIDO-UNEP Programme on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) in Developing and Transition Countries. IAMC strives for decoupling resource use and pollution from industrial development and promoting the growth of productive sectors and entrepreneurship in Developing and Transition Countries.
86. In February 2020, IPEN organised a Global Meeting which gathered more than 100 environmental, health, and human rights leaders from over 50 countries to share the work they do locally and globally to ensure a just and healthy future for everyone by eliminating harm to human health and the environment from toxic

[13] https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/chemical-safety-and-health/chemicals-road-map

chemicals. The Global Meeting, conducted simultaneously in English and French, focused on global networking, policies, skill sharing and trainings to: 1. Strengthen the Toxics-Free Future Global Movement: Building and deepening relationships among IPEN Participating Organizations and stakeholder allies working on chemicals and waste issues; 2. Learn from Each Other and Share Skills: Elevating awareness about and capacity on toxics issues via learning from each other and sharing skills and experiences; 3. Organizational Capacity-Building and Development: Practical and technical trainings on several of the following issues: toxic impacts on health; generating data/monitoring; communication/message framing; organizational management/planning; fundraising; and international policy processes; 4. Reflect on the Evolving Global and National Policy Landscapes: Key speakers shared their local, national or global perspectives; 4. Elevate the Profile of Chemicals & Waste Issues: Through a separate IPEN Global Forum on Chemicals and Waste, international and national leaders from governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations and other institutions shared their outlooks about the future actions needed to address the rapid growth and impact of the chemicals and fossil fuel economy, as well as public and political engagement.

87. Based on an initiative from IPEN youth Pos, an IPEN Youth Caucus was established in 2020, with the aim to strengthen the active participation of youth in IPEN work in preventing harm from toxic chemicals and waste. The IPEN Youth Caucus held regular meetings throughout 2021 and 2022 and actively participated in policy meetings throughout 2022.

88. In the time period 2020 – 2022, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, IPEN continued to develop and execute activities to promote effective SAICM participation and undertake enabling and implementation activities for NGOs and CSOs in developing and transition countries, corresponding to all the principal SAICM objectives. IPEN continued to engage fully in the Virtual Working Groups of the SAICM Beyond 2020 process, coordinating submissions and interventions from civil society organizations in the global south. Dedicated IPEN leaders led IPEN´s work in each of the working groups. Capacity building was undertaken, and support provided throughout the process. IPEN also continued its active participation in SAICM with a significant delegation at the IP4 in August and contributed to the UNEA discussions on developing a Science to Policy (Science-Policy) Panel (SPP). At IP4 IPEN has called for a stronger and more ambitious instrument and a process that engages robust, meaningful, and inclusive participation of all stakeholders. IPEN also contributed to the UNEA discussions on developing a Science to Policy (Science-Policy) Panel, calling for policies based on sound, independent science, the precautionary principle, the industry duty to disclose information, and citizens' right to know. The Ozone Secretariat[14] has been assisting parties in the ratification process of the 2016 Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol through the provision of legal advice and other relevant information, as appropriate[15]. The Secretariat has also been promoting partnerships in key sectors to assist parties in identifying ozone- and climate-friendly alternative substances and technologies that are also energy efficient and safe to use. Some of these activities are:

- Rome Declaration on the Contribution[16] of the Montreal Protocol to Food Loss Reduction through Sustainable Cold Chain Development and the United Nations Food Systems Summit.
- Activities related to the sustainable cold chain and cooling sector and to promote the Montreal Protocol, the Kigali Amendment and the Rome Declaration:

[14] https://ozone.unep.org/

[15] The 2016 Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, aiming at phasing out the production and consumption of high-GWP hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), was ratified by 150 parties as of 9 June 2023. The Amendment entered into force on 1 January 2019, and the growing number of ratifications since its adoption in 2016 shows increasing global commitment and cooperation towards reducing these climate damaging substances.

[16] https://ozone.unep.org/treaties/montreal-protocol/meetings/thirty-first-meeting-parties/decisions/annex-i-rome-declaration-contribution-montreal-protocol-food-loss-reduction-through-sustainable-cold

- 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit: As part of the Summit, the Ozone Secretariat partnered with the Government of Italy, FAO and other relevant organizations and initiatives to coordinate activities that demonstrate the critical role of sustainable cold chains in ensuring food safety and security, decreasing food waste and loss, reducing global warming, and preventing ozone layer depletion.
  Ahead of the Summit, the Ozone Secretariat and the OzonAction Programme of UNEP, with the support of the Cool Coalition and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants, organized an online dialogue on "Sustainable cold chains and the Rome Declaration: delivering efficient ozone and climate-friendly cold chains to ensure nutritious and healthy food for all". The outcome document and the video recording of the event are available on the Ozone Secretariat website[14].
- As part of the activities associated with the United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021, the Ozone Secretariat collaborated with the Cool Coalition and FAO to develop the report "Sustainable Food Cold Chains: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward[17]".
- The Ozone Secretariat and UNEP's OzonAction Programme developed the virtual exhibition[18] on sustainable cold chains which was launched on World Ozone Day on 16 September 2021 to demonstrate commercially available cold chain technologies, mainly targeting applications and equipment with refrigeration and cooling cycles that use ozone- and climate-friendly refrigerants and have enhanced energy efficiency characteristics. The online exhibition also aims to provide access to critical information for policymakers, decision-makers, and public and private sector end-users, to enable them to identify technological options and the latest state-of-the-art cold chain solutions.

89. the Ozone Secretariat contributed to the report "Chilling Prospects: Tracking Sustainable Cooling for All 2022". with a story entitled "Ozone treaties – a global partnership for more sustainable cooling"[19]. The report was launched at the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll)[20] forum in May 2022.The Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement (CREPD)[21], an NGO based in Cameroon, in collaboration with OK International (California based NGO)[22], gathered information on hazardous chemicals, including heavy metals (mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium) in gold ores and ASGM tailings in Cameroon, as well as miners' exposures to these chemicals and built on the results to design target awareness raising and miners, their family members and community empowerment including capacity building to shift to safer mining practices.
90. Welfare Togo[23], an NGO based in Togo, organised capacity building and awareness raising workshops on SAICM and participated in radio talk shows at Kanal FM.
91. The contribution of Health sector stakeholders from governments, national health systems and civil society was enhanced through Health Care Without Harm's work within the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network and in partnership with WHO and UNDP. Trade unions representing health workers were activated to engage in managing chemicals in health care settings to protect the occupational health of health workers.
92. Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development[24], an NGO SAICM National focal point based in Serbia, has indicated that in Serbia in the period 2020-2022, the Department for Chemicals of the Ministry of Environmental Protection launched an initiative to improve cooperation with the health

[17] https://www.fao.org/3/cc0923en/cc0923en.pdf
[18] https://ozone.unep.org/coldchainexhibition/index.html
[19] https://www.seforall.org/data-stories/ozone-treaties
[20] https://www.seforall.org/
[21] http://www.crepdcm.com/#/
[22] http://www.okinternational.org/
[23] https://twelfare.wordpress.com/
[24] http://ambassadors-env.com/en/

sector[25]. A road map of chemicals in the health sector was prepared, and a draft of the National Program on the Impact of the Substances of Very High Concern to Human Health was prepared in accordance with the Ostrava Declaration. EASD as NGO SAICM National Focal point participated at some related international meetings.

93. A number of countries have been active under this core activity (a). The complete list of answers submitted to the Questionnaire, which was prepared by the SAICM secretariat for the extended period 2020–2022, are presented in Annex IV. All submissions are also available online on the SAICM website[26]. A selection of results, actions and activities taken by governments relevant for the period 2020-2022 is provided in the paragraphs below.
94. Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH): In the period 2020–2023 BH drafted a countrywide strategy on environmental protection (ESAP 2030)[27], resulting in engagement of different sectors (environment, health, industry, agriculture) and with the support of WHO BH created a "Group of Experts" in health sector with a role to promote chemicals management in the health sector.
95. Colombia: In the period 2020 to 2022, Colombia developed or implemented various instruments and projects that also involved the private sector: a) Update and approval of the Environmental Policy for the integrated management of hazardous waste and its Action Plan 2022-2030. b) Policy regarding Asbestos Substitution; c) POPs projects: progress or projects developed in the period 2020-2022.
96. Finland made a voluntary agreement, Green Deal, on early childhood education and care between Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Social Affairs and Health with the objective to reduce children's exposure to harmful substances in early childhood education.
97. France: In May 2021, the 4th fourth National Health and Environment Plan was launched. This fourth Plan is the result of a consultation carried out with all the stakeholders within the framework of the Health and Environment Group (GSE) and has four objectives for the next five years, including reducing environmental exposures and their impact on health and ecosystems and involvement of communities.
98. Kenya: The Kenya National Multisectoral Committee on Sound Chemicals Management was established in 2020 with members from Government Ministries, key lead agencies and sectors, enablers, universities, civil society organizations and industry. The Committee will promote collaboration and partnerships, awareness and advocacy on sound chemicals management, data collection and analysis, knowledge sharing, capacity building, as well as prepare joint multi-sectoral project concepts and promote innovative solutions for sustainable sound chemical management.
99. Madagascar: In 2020 an intersectoral Lead in Paint committee for the implementation of the project was established; EXPLOI project which aims to reduce plastic pollution in the Indian Ocean was started,
100. Montenegro: informative materials were produced and made available online[28]; In 2020 and 2021, a few NGO projects were selected for the implementation of an educational campaign in the field of safe management of chemicals. In the period 2022-2025 the project "Strengthening synergy between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions" will be implemented. The scope of this project is to improve cooperation between ministries and agencies, industry, scientific institutes and civil society organizations in the field of chemicals and waste management. Expected results include the establishment of a synergistic approach to the management of chemicals and waste through the improvement of the regulatory framework, capacity building and awareness-raising activities, as well as the establishment of an efficient national reporting mechanism.
101. South Africa: A national multi-stakeholder committee on chemicals management (MCCM) was established. MCCM is composed of all chemicals management stakeholders including academics, NGOs, chemicals industry, CroplifeSA and national departments: Water and Sanitation, Transport, Trade and Industry, SA Revenue with customs, Labour, Education, Agriculture, Health, and Environment.

[25] Information about the legislative framework is available on the website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection.
[26] https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
[27] ESAP 2030 (https://esap.ba/)
[28] https://epa.org.me/help-desk/

102. A few countries sent their responses outside the questionnaire. An extract of their responses that relate to core activity (a) is given in the following paragraphs.
103. The information on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach by the Russian Federation during the period of 2020-2022 was presented in terms of 20 indicators, agreed to at the second session of ICCM (ICCM2) in May 2009. Provided information on each individual indicator comprises of two sections. The first section contains facts and data on the progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach by the Russian Federation during the period of 2020-2022. Additional information on the implementation of SAICM in the Russian Federation is outlined in the second section and is aimed to provide a broader context on the progress part (see further details in Russian Federation's submission on the SAICM website).
104. EU: The European Union and its member states have been involved in the following activities:
    - Adoption of the European Green Deal
    - Adoption of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability - Towards a Toxic-Free Environment
    - Adoption of a new Circular Economy Action Plan - For a cleaner and more competitive Europe
    - Adoption of the EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil'
    - Adoption of the Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system
    - Adoption of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives
    - Adoption of the EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027 - Occupational safety and health in a changing world of work
105. Russian Federation: For the capacity building and technical cooperation indicator, the following activities were mentioned (among others): Corporate activities in relation to providing resources (financial and intangible) to assist in capacity building and technical cooperation with other countries, the Fundamentals of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the field of ensuring chemical and biological safety for the period up to 2025 and beyond, the Action plan for the implementation of the Fundamentals of the State Policy of the Russian Federation in the field of ensuring chemical and biological safety for the period up to 2025 and beyond, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the State program "Ensuring chemical and biological safety of the Russian Federation" and the Federal target program "National system of chemical and biological safety of the Russian Federation (2015 - 2020)".
106. Serbia: In the context of cooperation with stakeholders, Serbia has established cooperation with two main entities i.e. the industrial associations and the health sector. The Ministry of Environmental Protection has also actively participated in development of the Action Plan for Health Security for period 2023-2025.

Looking beyond 2020

107. At the fifth meeting of the ICCM5 Bureau, the Regional SAICM Focal Points noted their challenges in engaging relevant national and stakeholder focal points from countries in implementing the sound management of chemicals. During this discussion, it was suggested that the regions could consider reactivating their coordination groups that were previously established within the regions to support priority setting and SAICM implementation. Furthermore, paragraph 44 of the OOG highlights the need for increased regional collaboration. It states that this may be accomplished by further engaging centres with a range of competencies and within their respective mandates, such as the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, the regional offices of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), WHO, FAO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), regional bureau of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and joint UNEP/UNIDO cleaner production centres.

108. Overall, active promotion of the sound management of chemicals and waste within each relevant sector and the integration of programmes across all sectors will maximize future impact. Each sector has a role to play to ensure that the adverse impacts on human health and the environment are minimized.
109. Furthermore, inclusion of the sound management of chemicals and waste in national development assistance plans and frameworks should ultimately ensure that it is a significant component of national policy frameworks, thus prioritizing the chemicals and waste agenda at national level. This will ensure sustained focus and financing in moving forward.

3.2 Core activity (b) – Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation

Overall guidance

110. There is an urgent need to set and strengthen chemicals regulations and controls in a number of countries and to extend cooperation with a view to building the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the sound management of chemicals and wastes and promoting the adequate transfer of cleaner and safer technology to those countries. Some developed countries also face challenges in meeting the 2020 goal.
111. It is critical that the Overarching Policy Strategy be implemented including all, or as many as possible, of the basic elements identified, in order to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste.
112. The enforcement of existing legal frameworks and infrastructure, and compliance mechanisms, as well as the establishment of coordinating mechanisms between the various entities involved in the value chain, are key in setting up the necessary infrastructure to eradicate illegal activities.

Reflections on progress

113. In 2010, WHO developed and shared with State Parties a core capacity monitoring framework, with a questionnaire on the status of implementation of the International Health Regulations for States Parties to complete on a voluntary basis. This framework included a checklist and 20 indicators on the status of eight core capacities, including those related to chemical events. The self-assessment tool constituted the basis for reporting on the implementation of the International Health Regulations by WHO between 2010-2017. From 2018 on, state parties reported by using the new State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting Tool. The new tool diverts away from a pure questionnaire approach and introduces an Ordinal system. As a result, reporting is more stringent, i.e. reported scores can be lower for the same capacities compared to the previous monitoring tool.

114. The International Health Regulation (IHR) Average Core Capacity Score is used to describe the level of achievement of a core capacity and is one of the eight indicators of IOMC. The Attribute Score is the per centage of attributes, i.e. capacities in a technical area that have been achieved. In the case of chemical events, this includes, for example, if experts were identified for public health assessment and response to chemical incidents; national policies or plans are in place; designated focal points were nominated; coordination mechanisms were established; surveillance systems are in place; priority chemical events/syndromes were identified; inventory of major hazard sites was created; a national chemical profile was developed; manuals and Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) are in place; information exchange is functioning; laboratory capacity is available; and Poison Centre(s) are in place. The minimum Score is 0 per cent, i.e. none of the elements and functions listed in the checklist have been achieved. The maximum

Score is 100 per cent, i.e. all elements and functions are in place. The Score is 50 per cent if half of the elements and functions are in place.

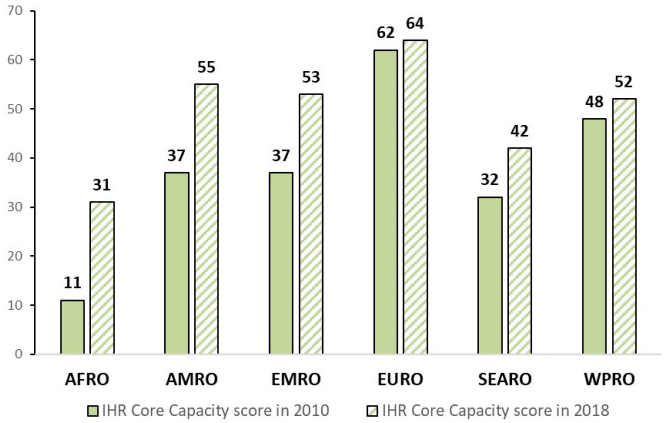


Figure 10 - Per cent Average Core Capacity score core capacities for chemicals under the International Health Regulations per WHO region.

115. The global average Score[29] reached 50 per cent in 2018 from 38 per cent in 2010 (Figure 10). Eighteen countries have achieved 100 per cent core capacity between 2011 to 2018, reaching a total of 24 countries in 2018. Since 2010, the baseline for IOMC indicators, there has been considerable improvement in the development of core capacities for chemicals at a global scale, in particular in the African, the American, and the Eastern Mediterranean regions. Almost all regions, except Africa and South-East Asia, reached a Score above 50 per cent in 2018. Nevertheless, the progress of the African region has been significant from 11 per cent Score in 2010 to 31 per cent in 2018.

116. The IOMC internet-based "Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management" is being updated with a new user interface and use of the website by stakeholders is being supported by a series of national and regional training workshops (seven workshops or events during 2018, seven workshops during 2019, and at least seven workshops in 2020), as well as a series of webinars (a total of nine to date) on the Toolbox including related toolkits and tools. The IOMC Toolbox includes management schemes and identifies appropriate actions and guidance for seven key topics of chemicals management. Toolkits are also available on environmental risk assessment, Chemical Leasing, pesticide registration, chemical hazards (health risks), and innovative approaches to the sound management of chemicals and chemical waste. Lastly, entry points are being developed for easier access to the tools for specific target audiences, including the health sector, for Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and plans for entry points for other stakeholders such as industry and trade unions[30].

117. To support countries in taking actions for strengthening national legislation and institutional structures in establishing chemicals control, UNEP in collaboration with the Swedish Government in 2018 launched four complementary documents to the LIRA guidance from 2015 (Legal and Institutional infrastructures for the Sound Management of Chemicals and measures for costs Recovery of national Administration). They are primarily intended for government officials working to implement the safe management of chemicals. The four documents are: a) an information document to provide to the reader with information about the role of chemicals control in the life cycle of chemicals and to provide the arguments for taking actions to establish chemicals control legislation with defined responsibilities; and b) three guidance documents, namely:

[29] Average of the 6 regional scores
[30] More information available at https://iomctoolbox.org/

- National Authority for Chemicals Control: Guidance on the institutional capacity and structure and its funding
- Risk reduction elements in Chemicals Control: Guidance on tools and on data that can be used
- Enforcement of Chemicals Control Legislation: Description of inspection methodology linked to chemicals control.

A link to the LIRA guidelines has been published on the Special Programme webpage[31] and the guidelines are referred to in the Guidance on the Scope of the Special Programme, for the benefit of applicants for funding under the annual rounds of funding.

The GEF-funded project on Chemical Observatories supported 9 African countries to adapt the Guidance nationally, producing national institutional capacity building need assessments. Action plans based on these assessments were delivered by the project from 2021-2023.

118. One key activity for IPEN together with its partners is to generate and make publicly available new data in order to enable governments to act as well as to enter into dialogue with all relevant stakeholders to promote action. Within its country-level initiatives, IPEN has produced a number of studies and reports that have helped in the adoption of legally binding laws in China (2020), Colombia (2020), Vietnam (2020), Georgia (2021), Ukraine (2021), Morocco (2021), South Korea (2022), and Jamaica (2022). Furthermore, a voluntary standard was published in Zambia (2020), a voluntary standard was revised in Indonesia (2022), and a voluntary standard was adopted in Malaysia (2022). Legally-binding standards and regulations are being developed in Indonesia, Malaysia, Tajikistan, Tunisia, and Zambia and a regulation in Nigeria was approved in 2022 but is awaiting publication in the official gazette.

    IPEN's Latin America produced a report[32] on concentration of mercury in women' hair which was reported internationally[33] and nationally[34] in Bolivia leading to Bolivian Vice Minister of Environment request for IPEN's support to develop a mercury import ban.

    IPEN also conducted activities to promote the continued ratification as well as implementation of the Basel Convention´s Ban Amendment in national law after it entered into force at the end of 2019 and produced a report[35].

119. The Ozone Secretariat provides advice on a regular basis to parties in response to requests related to a broad spectrum of issues, and in particular, issues of implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the ratification of the Kigali Amendment on the phase down of HFCs.

    The secretariat also supports all eight regional ozone networks established under UNEP/OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP). The Secretariat's participation in annual key regional meetings and workshops involves delivery of presentations on Montreal Protocol requirements and developments, reporting processes and follow up on implementation of various decisions. Through such support, developing countries are assisted to enhance their regulatory frameworks to better implement the Protocol. In the period 2020-2022 the Secretariat participated in more than 10 regional network meeting across the globe.

120. CREPD, supported by the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry[36], catalyzed the development and government ownership of a draft regulation on phasing out dental amalgam in Cameroon currently pending the las national concertation by stakeholders and government enactment. Phasing out dental amalgam, one of the significant sources of mercury added products, is important contribution to SAICM. Delivering on its commitment to SAICM implementation.

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[31] Special Programme https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/special-programme-projects-database

[32] "Mercury exposure of women in four Latin American gold mining countries"

[33] Mining exposes Indigenous women in Latin America to high mercury levels (mongabay.com)

[34] El lento envenenamiento de los indígenas lecos por el mercurio (opinion.com.bo)

[35] "The Entry into Force of the Basel Ban Amendment - A Guide to Implications and Next Steps"

[36] https://mercuryfreedentistry.net/

121. Health Care without Harm was involved in the development of a National policy in three countries: China, India and Vietnam and sub-national policy in Free State, South Africa:
    - China (China Environmental United Certification Center): Production of a Sustainable Procurement Evaluation Guidance for health care institutions. The Guidance evaluates three elements of a health care institution's procurement practice: management measures, key products and services, and supplier management.[37]
    - India (India National Centre for Disease Control).[38]
    - Vietnam: Policy to eliminate single use plastics and plastic waste in health care settings. Health Care Without Harm published a model sustainable procurement policy and interactive tool for the assessment of policy within the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Hippocrates data system.
    - South Africa: Sustainable Health in Procurement Project (SHiPP) case study: Bongani Regional Hospital[39]. The hospital is a leader in implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - reducing the use of hazardous pesticides by substituting more sustainable choices. The facility drafted and implemented an IPM policy which led to the adoption of a province-wide policy (Free State), ensuring that the practice became a required practice.

122. EASD, In order to improve capacity to address basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste, developed a new EASD/IPEN online course in English and Serbian (Fostering Female Leadership: Training Women to address Chemicals and Waste in the Public Setting).

    In addition, in July 2022, EASD joined the Initiative: Urgent call for a strong SAICM-Beyond-2020-Framework ensuring sound chemicals and waste management and promoted initiatives through their networks and social media.

    At the final conference of the project "Strengthening the Synergy in the Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions in the Republic of Serbia", an exchange of experiences with the countries of the Western Balkan was organized.

    EASD has organized two study visits for the competent authorities for the chemicals management of the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Albania, where the National legislative framework of the Republic of Serbia was presented. Series of presentations were held to share EASD's experience in the harmonization and implementation of the EU aquis.

123. A number of countries have been active under this core activity (b). The complete list of answers submitted to the Questionnaire, which was prepared by the SAICM secretariat for the extended period 2020–2022, are presented in Annex IV. All submissions are also available online on the SAICM website[26]. A selection of results, actions and activities taken by governments relevant for the period 2020-2022 is provided in the paragraphs below.

124. Colombia: in the period 2020 – 2022 a few laws and regulations were issued to strengthen the management of various chemicals and wastes, such as lead, chemical pesticides for agricultural use, chemical substances for industrial use and waste electrical and electronic equipment: Law 2041 of 2020 on lead, Resolution 480 of 2020 on electrical and electronic equipment, Decree 1630 of 2021 on chemical substances for industrial use, etc.

125. Costa Rica: Government agencies were engaged in the development of a joint 'National HHP Action Plan' in order to reduce the use as well as risks associated with the use of pesticides.

126. Dominican Republic: A General Comprehensive Law and Co-processing of Solid Waste (Law 225-2020) was approved; two regulations were updated: Regulation 0016-2020, the environmental technical

[37] https://noharm-global.org/shipp-cec-china

[38] https://noharm-global.org/issues/global/sustainable-health-procurement-project

[39] Environmental benefits of the IPM policy: The use of pesticides was reduced by 80% in all health care settings in the Free State; Promotion of sustainable and environmentally friendly pest control methods such as ultrasonic pest repellents, use of natural predators, and bird control-based approaches have also been deployed in all health facilities. https://noharm-global.org/shipp-bongani

regulation for the management of hazardous substances and wastes and Regulation 0020-2020, Regulation for Land Transportation of Hazardous Substances and Materials.

127. Eritrea: in 2022 Directive for Hazardous Waste Management and Other Wastes has been issued.
128. Gambia: two legislations have been approved by the cabinet: the Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides Control and Management Amendment Bill 2023, and the waste bill 2022.
129. Georgia: The Minamata Convention "on Mercury" has been ratified by the Georgian Parliament by resolution N3005-XIმს-Xმპ "Regarding the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury" on May 31, 2023. The Governmental Decree N247 (23.05.2018) "On Adoption of the National implementation plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) for 2018-2022 years" is adopted in accordance with the requirements of the Stockholm Convention "On Persistent Organic Pollutants". As of 2020, the Order №2-29 regulates "Pesticides Approved for Use and placing on the market in Georgia "on Approval of Official Catalogue of Pesticides Approved for Use in Georgia. In September 2022 the EU technical assistance project "Support to waste management and development of the circular economy in Georgia" was launched.
130. Germany: National position on improving environmental protection in preparation of the EU Pharma Package 2023; German Biocide Law Implementation Ordinance (2021); German Law on Nature Conservation and Landscape Management updated in 2022
131. Kenya: Kenya is among the countries who initiated the development of regional Highly Hazardous Pesticides risks reduction strategy. A few policies, laws and programs were initiated within the period of 2020-2022, including the development of the Draft Chemicals Policy, Hazardous substances regulations, and the enactment of the Waste Management Act.
132. Kingdom of Lesotho: The Toxic and hazardous chemicals management bill entered the final stage of drafting.
133. Madagascar: A national standard NMG 421-1 for "Paint Products" with a view to the protection of human health, in particular children and workers in the field concerned and the Management of chemicals and public health pesticides were integrated in the new draft Health Code.
134. A few countries sent their responses outside the questionnaire. An extract of their responses that relates to core activity (b) is given in the following paragraphs.
135. Mexico: Unidad Coordinadora de Asuntos Juridicos in Mexico, reported the establishment and strengthening of national legislative and regulatory frameworks as basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and their wastes and to promote cooperation among the various levels of government.

3.2.1 The Quick Start Programme (QSP) trust fund

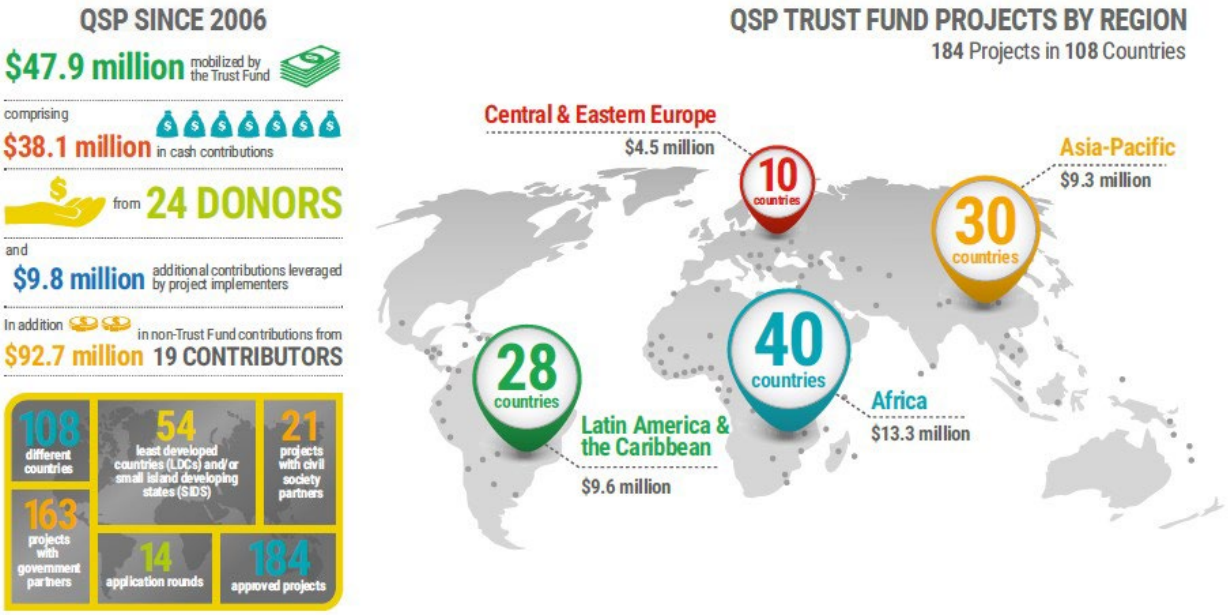


Figure 11 - Number of countries in each region having QSP projects and total fund mobilized in each region.

136. The Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund, from its establishment in 2006 until its closure in 2019, has mobilized a total of over US$ 47.9 million (Figure 11). This amount includes approximately US$ 38.1 million in cash contributions to the Trust Fund and over US$ 9.8 million in cash and/or in-kind contributions from project implementers and Executing Agencies. Over the 14 application rounds, 184 projects were approved, covering 108 different countries. Notably, 21 Projects (i.e. 11 per cent) were with Civil Society partners and 163 projects (i.e. 89 per cent) with government partners.

137. From 2006 to 2019, the non-Trust Fund contributions reached a total of approximately US$ 92.7m from 19 different contributors. The contributors have been the governments of Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Intergovernmental organizations that have contributed during the same period include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Additional non-governmental donors include the Argentine Society of Doctors for the Environment (AAMMA), the BASF, the Dow Chemical Company (DOW), the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE).

138. A good regional balance was achieved over 14 application rounds. Out of 108 countries with QSP projects, 37, 28, 9, and 26 per cent of countries were respectively in the AFR, ASP, CEE, and LAC regions. In other words, 74, 57, 43, and 85 per cent of the countries in each region of AFR, ASP, CEE, and LAC have had at least one QSP project. Out of 108 countries which had QSP projects, 54 were from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and/or Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Figure 12 draws a visual comparison between the distribution of funds in LDCs and/or SIDS countries versus other countries.

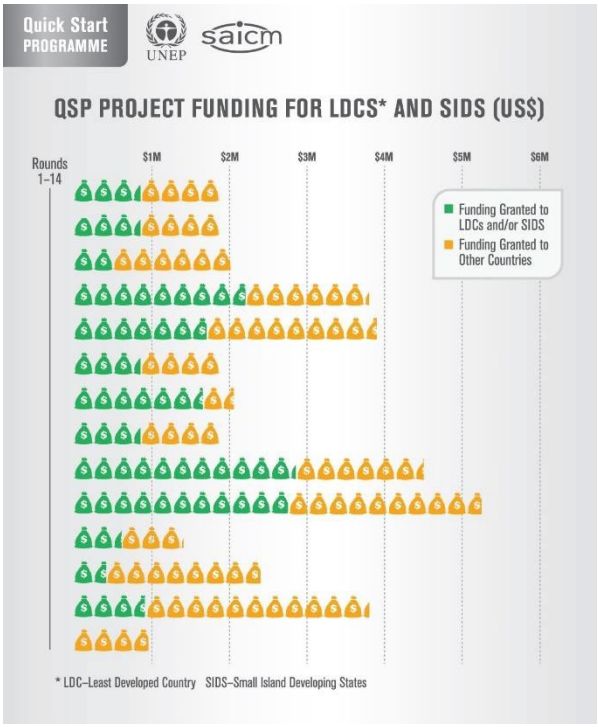


Figure 12 - QSP project funding for LDCs and SIDS as compared to other countries.

139. The strategic priorities defined by ICCM highlight that the QSP should mobilize resources for national priority initial enabling activities in keeping with the work areas set out in the Strategic Objectives of section IV of the Overarching Policy Strategy, in particular:
    - **Strategic priority A.** Development or update of national chemical profiles and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management;
    - **Strategic priority B.** Development and strengthening of national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes, and activities to implement the Strategic Approach, building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals-related agreements and initiatives;
    - **Strategic priority C.** Undertaking analysis, inter-agency coordination, and public participation activities directed at enabling the implementation of the Strategic Approach by integrating – i.e., mainstreaming – the sound management of chemicals in national strategies, and thereby informing development assistance cooperation priorities.
140. In almost all application rounds (the exception being round two), projects were approved addressing each of the three priorities of the Programme. Overall, the environment sector dominated in the total number of projects, followed by health, other/multisector, agriculture, industry, labour, and science. However, the trend over time has been toward greater sectoral coverage of projects as the rounds progressed as displayed in Figure 13.

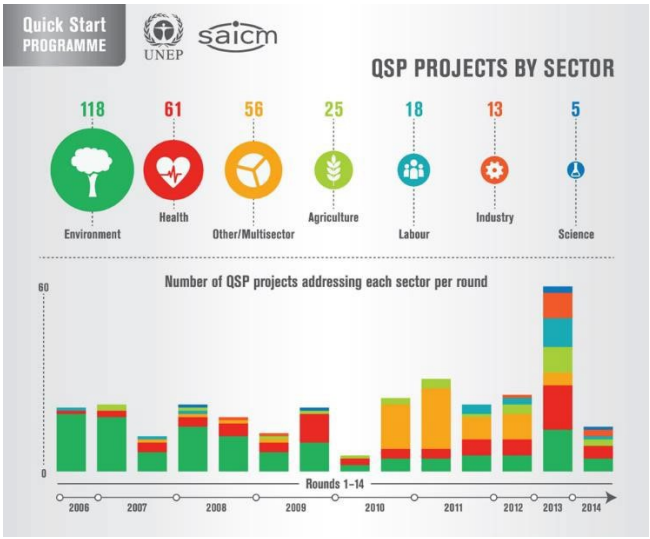


Figure 13 - Distribution of QSP projects among various sectors from over 14 application rounds.

3.2.2 Special Programme

141. The Special Programme was set up to support country driven institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and SAICM as one of three mutually supportive elements of the integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste. The other elements are mainstreaming and industry involvement. It takes into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, to increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle. In March 2022 UNEA decided to extend the duration of the Special Programme for an additional period of five years. This means that the Special Programme will be open to receive contributions and applications for funding until 2027 and to disburse funds until 2030.

142. To date 75 projects have been approved under the Special Programme in 65 countries, following six rounds of funding, with approved project budgets totaling almost US$ 20 million.

At its second meeting, the Executive Board of the Special Programme approved seven projects in Argentina, Benin, the Dominican Republic, Iraq, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tanzania, and Ukraine following the first and pilot round of applications for funding from the Special Programme.

At its third meeting, the Executive Board approved seventeen projects in Afghanistan, Belarus, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Gambia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Kiribati, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Uganda and Viet Nam.

At its fourth meeting, the Executive Board approved 18 projects in Albania, Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Eswatini, Iran, Kazakhstan, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Pakistan, Palau, State of Palestine, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tunisia, and Vanuatu.At its sixth meeting the Executive Board approved fifteen projects under the fourth round of funding, in Armenia, Belarus, Burundi, Georgia, Malawi, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Peru, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uzbekistan.

At its seventh meeting the Executive Board approved nine projects under the fifth round of funding, in Argentina, Belize, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Serbia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

At its eighth meeting the Executive Board approved 9 projects under the sixth round of funding, in Ecuador, Gambia, Georgia, Kenya, Lesotho, Maldives, Mali, Rwanda and Togo.

143. The seventh round of applications for funding from the Special Programme was launched on 6 April 2023 with a closing date of 11 August 2023 for the submission of applications. To facilitate the preparation of applications, updated application Guidance and Guidelines documents have been made available[40] in English, Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish and an e-learning platform[41] is available in English, French and Spanish to support applicants in preparing their applications. The documents include specific information on how the Special Programme can support SAICM implementation..

144. In the period 2017-2019, 61 projects with a total value of nearly US$ 839m were funded by the GEF on various priorities related to chemicals and waste management. Certain projects were on a regional scale and involved more than one country. An analysis of the GEF projects database provided the data on the number and value of projects in each region. Figure 14 shows the distribution of GEF funding by SAICM regions and the number of projects in each SAICM region. The allocated funds and number of projects were evenly distributed except for the CEE region with only three projects and a total funding of US$ 762k. Three projects were on global scale, two of which involved 8 countries each with a total value of US$ 64.5m in funding.

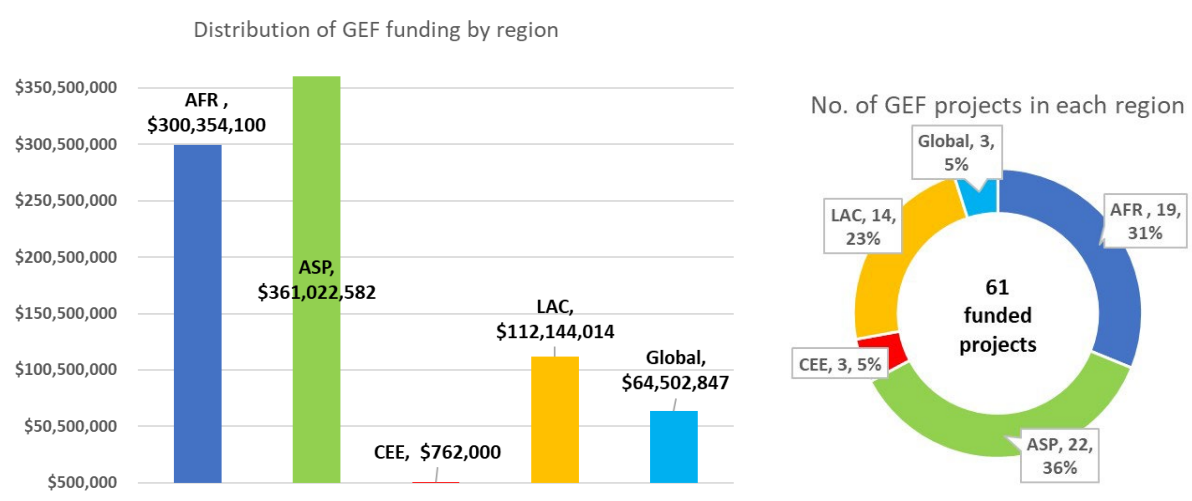


Figure 14 - Distribution of GEF funding and number of GEF projects in the SAICM regions for the approved projects in the period 2017-2019.

145. The current report attempts to link the objectives/outputs of the GEF funded projects to the Strategic Objectives. It is also notable that a large share of projects (i.e. 34 per cent) addressed Objective D (Capacity-building and technical cooperation) in this period as compared to PR3 where Objective A (Risk reduction) was the focus. Nevertheless, Objectives A, C, and D received an equal focus from the projects as demonstrated in Figure 15. It is important to note that many of the projects covered more than one objective. Objective E stood last as only 2 per cent of the projects addressed illegal international traffic. In this period, a considerable number of projects (>29 per cent) involved Mercury in the context of implementation of the Minamata Convention such as Minamata initial assessment and development of National Action Plans. Similarly, more than 29 per cent of the projects are focusing on tackling issues concerning Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in the context of the implementation of the Stockholm

[40] Available at https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/applyingfunding-through-special

[41] https://specialprogramme.unenvironment.org/?_ga=2.131608527.152646212.1685526095-695312235.1591952916

Convention, such as update to National Implementation Plans and PCB elimination among other national priorities in the plans.

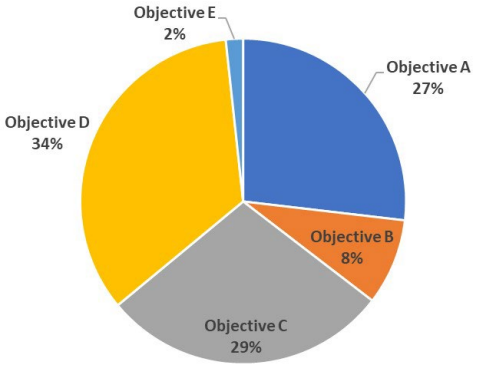


Figure 15 - Distribution of GEF projects among Strategic Objectives.

146. The National Profile Support Programme of UNITAR provides guidance, training, and technical support to the countries in order to assess the existing infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals[42]. The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) Resolution I/4 has recognized the development of a National Profile as a key enabling activity to support SAICM implementation.[43]

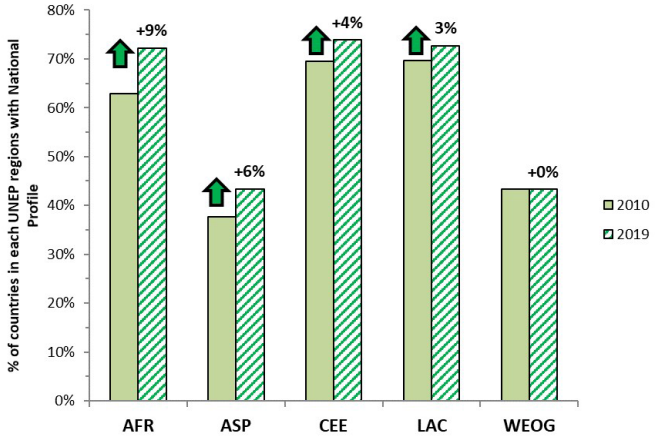


Figure 16 - Per cent of the countries in each UN region with National Profiles (UNITAR).

147. There has been no change in the number of National Profiles in the period 2017-2023. Nevertheless, looking at the progress since SAICM baseline report in 2010, 116 countries have prepared a National Profile which shows a slight growth (9 per cent).[44]

148. A majority of CEE (74 per cent), LAC (73 per cent), and AFR (72 per cent) countries have developed a National Profile as of 2019, whereas, less than half (43 per cent) of ASP countries have a National Profile. As it can be seen in the Figure 16, the number of National Profiles has increased slightly in all the regions between 2010 and 2019, except in the WEOG region where only 13 governments have established a

[42] https://cwm.unitar.org/national-profiles/nphomepage/np3_region.aspx
[43] https://cwm.unitar.org/national-profiles/publications/inp.aspx
[44] Ten other countries also updated their National Profiles between 2011 and 2016.

National Profile out of 30 countries in this region. The number of National Profiles increased by 9 per cent in the AFR region since 2010, the largest growth among regions.

149. As for the status of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), as can be observed in Figure 17, as of 2016, 49 countries had established their PRTRs. By the end of 2022 this number increased to 53 countries, up from 39 countries in 2017. In the period 2017-2022, four countries, three in the Europe region (i.e. Kazakhstan, Moldova and Montenegro), and one in the GRULAC region (i.e. Peru) established a PRTR. The majority of the PRTRs are located in the European region (i.e. 39 PRTRs) followed by the GRULAC region with 7 PRTRs. Three registered PRTR exist in the ASP region and 3 in North America[45]. No PRTR has been established in the AFR region as of 2019. The data highlights the large gap across regions in the number of PRTRs and the room for work in PRTRs design and national legal frameworks.

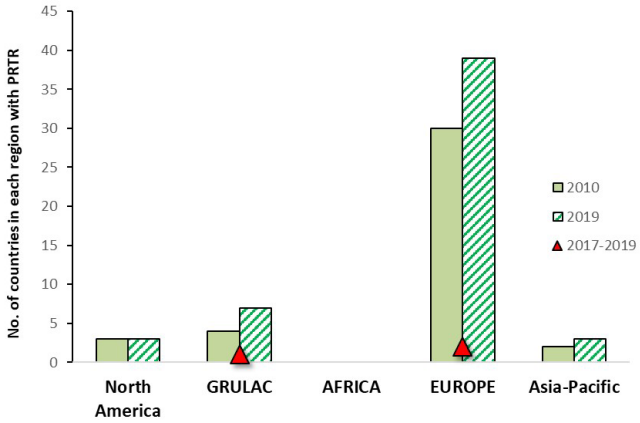


Figure 17 - Number of countries with a PRTR in 2010 and 2016 (UNITAR) [46].

150. Efforts have been made to strengthen capacity to prevent, prepare for, and respond to chemicals accidents, including institutional strengthening for poison centres. According to WHO, a total of 91 countries had poison centres by the end of 2019 which accounts for 47 per cent of WHO member states. Even though some regions have observed opening or closure of the centres, the total number of poison centres has remained unchanged since 2010 (i.e. the time of the baseline report of SAICM).[47]

[45] United States of America, Canada, and Mexico.
[46] The regional grouping is based on data received directly from UNITAR.
[47] The number of countries in WHO regional breakdown: Africa (AFR) 47, Americas (AMR) 35, South East Asia (SEAR) 11, European region (EUR) 53, Eastern Mediterranean (EMR) 21 countries, Western Pacific (WPR) 27. More information on the WHO regional groupings can be found on: http://www.who.int/about/regions/en/

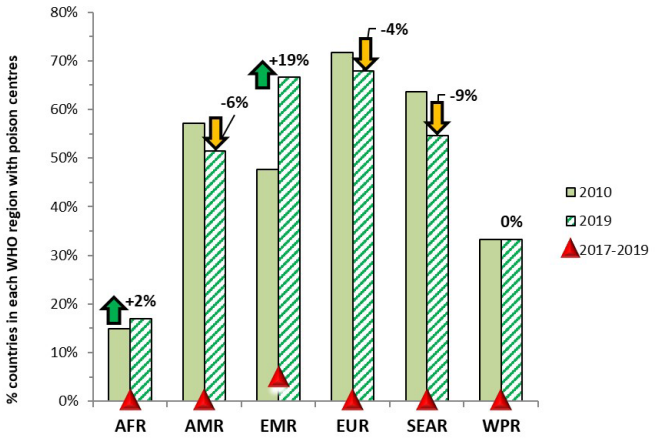


Figure 18 - Per cent countries with poison centres in each WHO region (WHO).

151. As can be observed in Figure 18, there has been an increase in the number of poison centres in the Eastern Mediterranean region (i.e. 4 poison centres or an increase of 19 per cent) and in the Africa region with two newly established poison centres (i.e. +2 per cent) since 2010. However, some poison centres were closed in the same period including 2 in the Americas, 2 in Europe, and 1 in South East Asia. The number of poison centres in the West Pacific region remained unchanged (9 centres) since 2010.

152. Overall, more than 50 per cent of the countries have operational poison centres, except for the African (i.e. 17 per cent of all countries) and Western Pacific regions (i.e. 33 per cent of all countries). Figure 19 shows the total number of poison centres in each WHO region. There is a total of 310 poison centres worldwide, with the largest part located in the Americas region (i.e. 45 per cent), followed by the European, and Eastern Mediterranean regions with 23 per cent and 19 per cent respectively.

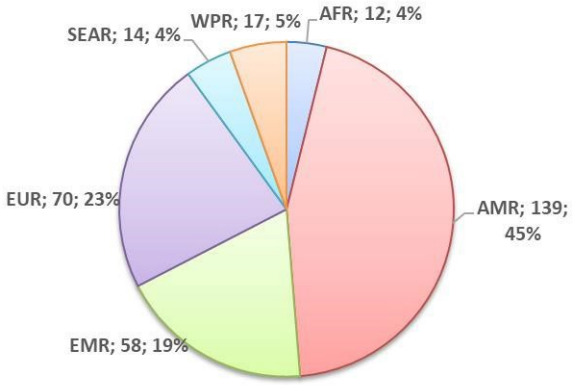


Figure 19 - Total number of poison centres in each WHO region as of January 2020. [48]

153. WHO has continued its work related to the network of poisons centers, regularly updating the poison center directory on WHO Global Health Observatory (GHO). From 2017 to 2019, five new poison centers were added to GHO, 2 in 2017, 2 in 2018, and 1 in 2019.

154. In 2018, WHO started its work on updating the Guidelines for Poison Control. WHO convened an international working group to provide input and review. The group continued its work on the document

[48] Information obtained through: periodic surveys by WHO; regional meetings organized by WHO; and direct approach to WHO by poisons centres.

through 2019 to finalize it at an editorial meeting hosted by the WHO Collaborating Centre on December 2019 in London, UK.

155. The International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, developed by FAO/WHO, provides standards of conduct as well as guidance for all public and private entities engaged in, or associated with, the management of pesticides. The Code of Conduct is especially useful for countries where inadequate, outdated, or even no national legislation to regulate pesticides is available, as outlined in the Guidelines on Legislation.

156. The presented data in Figure 20 shows the status of member states under each FAO region[49] in the period 2017-2019 collected through FAO Plant Protection officers based in FAO Regional and Sub Regional offices. As of 2019, 89 per cent (i.e. 175 countries) have implemented pesticide legislation, whereas 3 member states (i.e. 2 per cent of the states) have not. No data is available for 18 member states (i.e. 9 per cent). A large majority of FAO member states have therefore already adopted a pesticide legislation. The regional breakdown shows that all the 19 FAO member countries in the Near East and North African region have implemented legislation. Notably, 32 out of 33 of the member states in Latin America and Caribbean, and 52 out of 53 member states in Europe and Eastern Asia have developed a pesticide legislation. Out of 18 member states with no available data, 9 are in Africa and 8 are in the Asia Pacific region. As compared to the beginning of the reporting period in 2017, two member states have adopted pesticide legislation, one in Africa and one in the Latin American and Caribbean region, as of 2019.

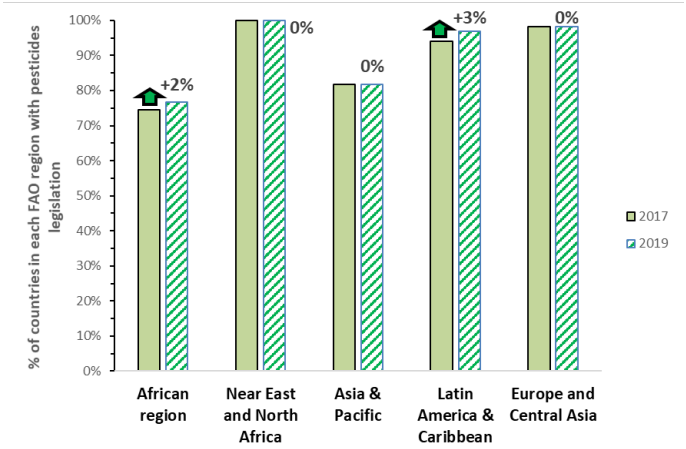


Figure 20 - Per cent of FAO member countries per region with pesticide legislation based on the FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (FAO).

157. FAO has been running programmes and technical cooperation projects on capacity building for pesticide management since the 1960s. Operational projects as of January 2020 span more than 65 countries with more in development as others conclude their activities continuously. As one of the implementing agencies of the , FAO is supporting countries, especially the Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), on capacity building for pesticide lifecycle management. This is done, in particular by implementing projects, for instance currently in more than 65 countries in seven regions. The projects address all aspects of pesticides, from production to disposal of waste, by strengthening regulatory frameworks, risk assessment and registration, post-registration compliance, laboratory capacity, judicious use, and waste management. The projects are also used to support the development and upscaling of non-chemical alternatives to the most hazardous pesticides

[49] The number of countries in FAO regional breakdown: Africa 47, Near East and North Africa 19, Asia and Pacific 44, Latin America and Caribbean 33, Europe and Central Asia 53 countries.

158. Training is offered on an ongoing basis on every aspect of FAO's work on pesticide lifecycle management and standard setting (e.g. MRLs), and, in collaboration with other agencies through IOMC, expands opportunities for capacity development. FAO is also supporting a post-graduate diploma programme on pesticide management at the University of Cape Town.

159. FAO collaborates with GEF and UNEP on the implementation of projects under ISLANDS programme[50], particularly in the area of sustainable agriculture, by assisting Caribbean and Pacific countries in sound management of pesticides and their waste. FAO also links its work on pesticide risk reduction with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through the EU-funded project "Building capacity related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP MEAs 3)"[51]. Through the project, national, regional and global capacities are strengthened to adopt ecosystem-based practices and improve the management of pesticides so as to support the transitioning to sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.

160. FAO and WHO, in collaboration with UNEP and OECD, support countries on the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management through a joint program on pesticide management. Through the program, international guidance documents are developed; international specifications and Maximum Residue Limits are established; and issues of global concerns, including highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), illegal trade, online sale, drone application, protecting indigenous peoples from exposures to pesticides and human rights, etc. are addressed.

161. Upon request, the FAO-part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat provided technical assistance to around 100 parties in 2019, and to around 147 parties between 2020 and 2022. This technical assistance focused on support in the monitoring of pesticides poisonings, identification of alternatives to HHPs, identification of severely hazardous pesticide formulations under conditions of use, national and regional cooperation, strengthening of legal frameworks and implementation of the main obligations of the Convention. This technical assistance was mainly financed by FAO through its regular programme budget, which provides 1.5 million USD/biennium to the Rotterdam Convention.

162. With respect to the ratification of the chemicals and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements, the number of parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and to the Minamata Convention as of 2019 is displayed in the Figure 1.

[50] https://www.gefislands.org/Caribbean

[51] https://www.fao.org/in-action/building-capacity-environmental-agreements/en/

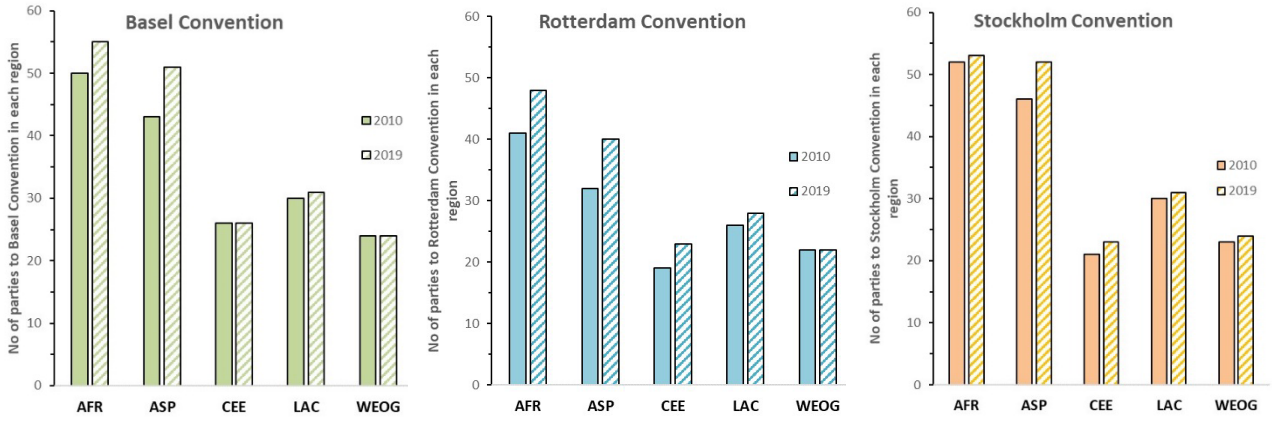


Figure 21 - Number of parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions in 2010 and 2019.

163. The number of parties has reached 187 for the Basel Convention, 161 for the Rotterdam Convention, 183 for the Stockholm Convention as of 2019 (Figure 21). The data shows a steady growth in the number of Parties since the baseline report in 2010 by 7, 11, and 6 per cent for the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, respectively. Comparing data from the period 2017-2019 with that of 2014-2016, 4 new parties joined the Basel Convention in each period. Two became parties to the Rotterdam Convention in the period 2017-2019 (vs. 5 in 2014-2016), and one new party to the Stockholm Convention in the period 2017-2019 (vs. 3 in 2014-2016).

164. Looking at the regional data, it is notable that a majority of the countries in the AFR, ASP, CEE, and LAC regions have ratified the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. No new ratifications were recorded by the LAC states in the period 2017-2019 to any of the three conventions. Whereas the ASP region demonstrated good progress over this period with 2, 3, and 2 ratifications of Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions, respectively. For the rest of the regions, two countries in the AFR region ratified the Basel Convention, 3 countries in the ASP and 2 in the CEE regions ratified the Rotterdam Convention and finally one country in the WEOG region ratified the Stockholm Convention.

165. There has been a steady growth in the number of parties to the Rotterdam Convention since the baseline report in 2010 (Figure 22). Since the last reporting period (2017–2019), four additional countries became parties to the Convention leading to a number of 165 parties by end of 2022.

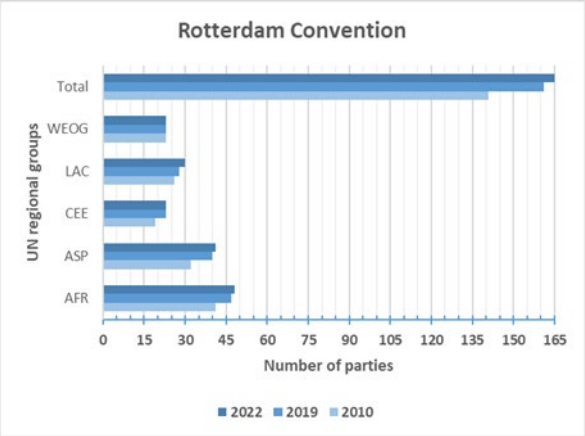


Figure 22: Number of parties to the Rotterdam Conventions in 2010, 2019 and 2022 (Source: FAO)

166. The number of countries having ratified the Minamata Convention was 35 in the period 2014-2016, noting that it did not enter into force until 16 August 2017. The number of parties increased by 85 member states in the period 2017-2019, reaching 115 ratifications in 2019[52], giving growth of 229% since 2016, with the following regional breakdown of 32, 27, 13, 23, and 20 member states in the AFR, ASP, CEE, LAC, and WEOG regions, respectively. Whereas in the reporting period 2020 – 2022 the number of parties to the Minamata Convention went from 126 in 2020, to 137 in 2021, and to 139 in 2022 (Figure 23) showing growth of 21%. It must be noted that in the reporting period 2020 – 2022, the number of parties in LAC region remained stable at 24, in the Africa region went from 33 to 38, in the ASP region went from 32 to 35, in the CEE region went from 15 to 16 and, finally, in the WEOG region went from 22 to 26.

[52] More exactly this data is the number of countries that deposited instruments.

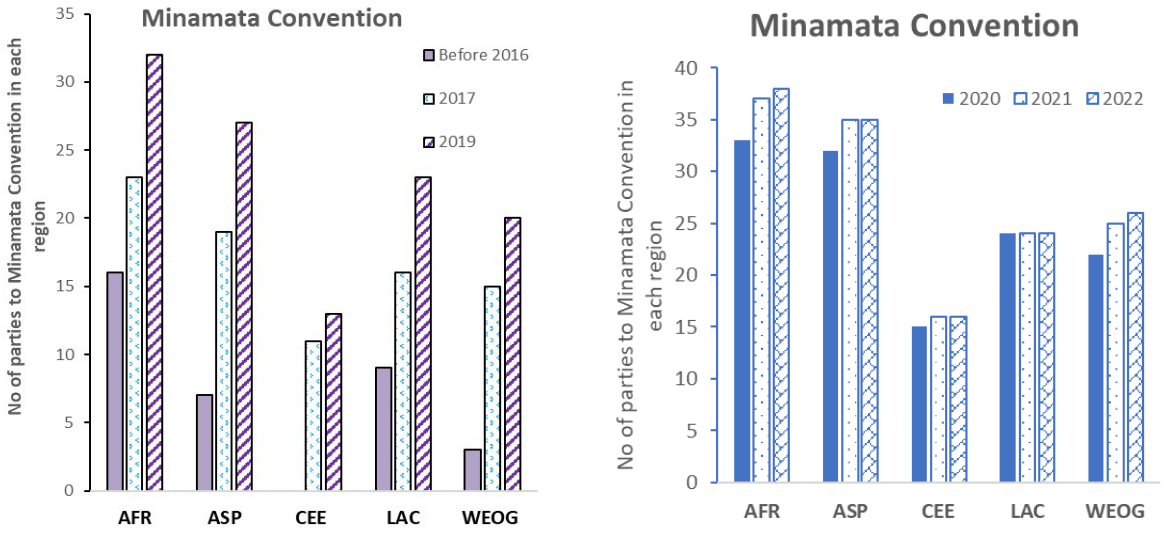


Figure 23: Number of parties to the Minamata Convention as of 2016, 2017 and 2019[53] and for the last reporting period 2020 – 2022.

167. ILO continues to promote the global ratification and implementation of several International Labour Standards (ILS) related to the sound management of chemicals, which total more than 20 conventions and recommendations[54]. The ILO's ILS on sound chemical management are on general chemicals issues (e.g., Convention on Chemicals, 1990 (No.170)); risk-specific instruments (e.g., Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162)); sector-specific instruments (Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176)); and general OSH instruments that provide a foundation for OSH (Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155)). The ILO List of Occupational Diseases (ILO List of Occupational Diseases, Recommendation (No. 194) includes occupational diseases caused by a number of chemicals, including mercury or its toxic compounds. There are a number of ongoing ILO projects related to mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), and also in the automobile dismantling sector. Various ILO projects are actively participating in National Action Plans (NAPs) to eliminate mercury and producing guidance and research materials in collaboration with other stakeholders. The ILO, through its office in Beirut, managed a project in Lebanon to conduct a gap analysis on OSH as well as the development of a national OSH profile and policy following the 2020 port explosion. The gap analysis included analysis of several key Conventions related to chemicals including the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) and the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174).

168. Following recommendations of the ILO's Standard Review Mechanism (SRM) Technical Working Group (TWG), the ILO plans to develop a new standard on chemical hazards, to provide a complement to the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) and the Chemicals Recommendation, 1990 (No. 177), as well as to develop new technical guidelines on chemical hazards. The ILO will also be taking action for the promotion of the Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162) concerning Safety in the Use of Asbestos and the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174).

[53] The Minamata Convention entered into force on 16 August 2017, thus there were no "parties" before that. While the indicator is number of parties, the data shows the number of deposited instruments

[54] ILO Conventions and Recommendations in the field of Chemical Safety https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/areasofwork/chemical-safety-and-the-environment/WCMS_118358/lang--en/index.htm

169. ILO's Green Jobs programme promotes the "greening" of enterprises, workplace practices, and the labour market as a whole. These efforts create decent employment opportunities, enhance resource efficiency and build low-carbon sustainable societies. Green jobs are defined as "decent jobs that contribute to preserve or restore the environment", be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction, or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency. Such jobs help to: improve energy and raw materials efficiency; limit greenhouse gas emissions; minimize waste and pollution; protect and restore ecosystems; and support adaptation to the effects of climate change.

170. The sound management of chemicals and waste is an important component of UNDP's efforts to achieve sustainable, inclusive, resilient human development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while shifting to a circular economy that eliminates waste and pollution, maintains the use of products and materials for longer periods and regenerates natural systems. In aiming towards circularity, UNDP's interventions in the area of chemicals and waste management directly support the implementation of the Montreal Protocol; the Basel, Minamata, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

171. Within its programmes under the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and the Montreal Protocol, UNDP endeavours to incorporate issues related to POPs and Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) management into national development planning processes, and its projects aim to improve policy and regulatory frameworks through targeted institutional capacity development. Within the framework of Montreal Protocol and funded by the Multilateral Fund (MLF), UNDP supports 22 countries with institutional strengthening projects, with focus on national ozone units.

172. UNDP supports governments, businesses, local communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through the following gender-response interventions[55]:

- Strengthen policy, regulatory and financial incentives to phase out chemicals of concern, design out pollution and waste generation, increase the circular use of materials, ensure compliance with waste hierarchy principles and improve residual waste management. These interventions also facilitate the mainstreaming of chemicals and waste management into national development planning and budgeting processes.
- Support life cycle assessments and cost-benefit analyses to make a comprehensive, long-term economic case for circularity and identify chemicals and waste-related interventions to support change.
- Support the identification of "hotspot" sectors of unsustainable consumption and production and associated circular economy opportunities, which form the basis for enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) strategies.
- Promote product innovation and redesign by building the capacity of designers, manufacturers and producers to enable them to design circular products which i) have a long lifespan (by increasing durability, reusability, repairability, refurbishment, recyclability); ii) by phasing out chemicals of concern; iii) by introducing sustainable or alternative non-plastic packaging; iv) by changing existing business models from product ownership to services (e.g. chemical leasing, product rental).
- Support process innovation and redesign by building the capacity of manufacturers and producers to introduce cleaner production principles (e.g., best available technologies, reducing resource use, improving efficiency, designing out chemicals of concern, reducing pollution and waste generation).
- Raise consumer awareness around sustainable purchasing practices by increasing consumer demand for greener, safer, healthier services and products; support green public procurement initiatives; support systems for improved product labelling and supply chain transparency and share best practices, and so on.

[55] https://www.undp.org/publications/transitioning-circular-economy-through-chemical-and-waste-management

- Improve waste management and recycling systems by improving systems for waste segregation, recycling (including reverse logistics) and waste collection and management systems to increase re-use and recycling rates, reduce waste leaks into the environment, and minimize the release of greenhouse gases (GHG) and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). This component is not intended to minimize the importance of waste reduction and redesign, which remain priority interventions.

173. UNITAR, in close collaboration with UN Environment Programme, developed in 2018 key publications to support the development and implementation of NAPs on ASGM under the Minamata Convention: (i) The "Handbook for Developing National ASGM Formalization Strategies within National Action Plans"[56]; and (ii) the "Mobile data collection tool for national ASGM overview"[57]. UNITAR also developed the "Socio-Economic ASGM Research Methodology"[58]. In 2023, UNITAR completed its work for the development of updates to the UNEP mercury inventory toolkit, including the development of a new level: inventory Level 3, integrating all mercury sources into their entire mass flow through and out of society to the environment.

174. As for the progress of the World Bank, an Implementing Agency of the GEF and of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the World Bank works with developing countries and countries with economies in transition to develop and implement environmental policies and to carry out the investments and build capacities for meeting their obligations under international environmental treaties.

175. Moreover, the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) sets environmental and social standards (ESS) including requirements on environmental assessment used to examine environmental risks and benefits associated with all Bank investments (ESS1).[59] Among the 10 ESS are also standards that deal with labor and working conditions (including occupational health and safety) (ESS2) and that address resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management (ESS3). The ESF requires that not only national legislation be taken into account but also a country's obligations under relevant international environmental treaties and agreements, including for example the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions, and the Montreal Protocol. The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group's private sector arm, has equivalent Environmental and Social Performance Standards, which define IFC clients' responsibilities for managing their environmental and social risks.

176. In the Chemicals-related field, all Bank-implemented projects seek to build capacity to ensure that regulation and enforcement capabilities are in place and to ensure the long-term sustainability of efforts. For example, a project in Montenegro supports strengthening of the regulatory framework and development of waste management infrastructure that can bring the country into compliance with Montenegrin and European Union regulations. In Punjab, a green development project supports reforms that modernize the legal and regulatory framework to reduce air and water pollution.

177. Of direct relevance to SAICM, the Bank promotes approaches where client countries can build the foundations for long-term capacity for chemicals management while working to implement the Stockholm Convention on POPs. For instance, in Lebanon and Egypt, the Bank works to reduce the release of uPOPs through improved waste management. In Iraq, the Bank has carried out an analysis of pollution hotspots and is preparing a project on the removal of PCBs and POPs.

178. The Bank is currently developing a new program that will support pollution management and circular economy interventions including through analysis and the development of pollution management capacity in the Bank's client countries.

179. ICCA reported on their progress on capacity building activities with a focus on the implementation of the Responsible Care programme, transfer of chemical management expertise to regulators, promotion of

[56] http://mercury.unitar.org/site/document/1438
[57] http://mercury.unitar.org/site/document/1401
[58] https://www.unitar.org/sites/default/files/uploads/cwm/final_socio-economic_methodology.pdf
[59] https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework

adoption of GHS, and Global Product Strategy. ICCA's Capacity Building Task Force established in 2016 aims to strengthen product stewardship activities and improve GHS implementation. ICCA developed a Regulatory Toolbox in 2013 and updated it in 2018. The toolbox helps developing economies establish high-quality chemicals management practices while reducing regulatory cost and complexity.

180. The capacity building efforts of ICCA in this reporting period included; (i) workshops in Philippines and Vietnam on GHS alignment, chemicals inventory requirements, and prioritization of risk assessments, (ii) a comprehensive capacity building workshop series covering a wide variety of topics ranging from basic awareness to developing training materials on process safety, Responsible Care®, and chemicals management across the region in Japan, (iii) three Responsible Care forums in China, (iv) development of ICCA's Responsible Care Security Code in India and efforts on updating other codes and supporting implementation materials covering product safety and stewardship, process safety, and distribution, (v) ICCA-funded workshops addressing process safety, product stewardship, and self-assessment reporting processes in Pakistan; (vi) Latin America Regulatory Cooperation Forum promotes a dialogue between industry and governments in the region to achieve regulatory alignment, promoting risk-based regulations and transparent policy making processes. The forum held workshops in Brazil and Argentina with large participation of the regional countries; (vii) ICCA's Africa Task Force (ATF) is responsible for helping improve chemicals management in African countries, including the establishment of new national Responsible Care associations which hosted a conference on chemicals management and Responsible Care in Morocco and Kenya with regional participation.

181. On WHO's progress, they reported the launch of the WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network, the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network, and Phase III of the IOMC Toolbox project on decision making in chemicals management titled: From design to action.

182. As of December 2019, over 70 Member States had joined the WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network. The network serves as a global forum for discussion among senior level policy makers and representatives about issues related to health and chemicals. The goal of the network is to facilitate implementation of the road map by promoting collaboration on common policy challenges, perspectives, and priorities of health ministries in managing chemicals, especially considering the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and to facilitate continuity of contact among health ministries and with WHO.

183. The network complements and does not duplicate technical forums (such as the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network) and regional networks. It is coordinated by WHO Headquarters and leverages the capacities of the regional offices.

184. The WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network[60] established in 2013 is a voluntary collaborative initiative whose overall goal is to improve chemical risk assessment globally through facilitating sustainable interaction between institutions on chemical risk assessment issues and activities. In 2019, the network consisted of 86 institutions from 50 countries.

185. In the reporting period, several activities related to chemical risk assessment methodology were taken forward covering several topics, including Mode of Action, Combined Exposures, chemical specific adjustment factors, immunotoxicity of nanomaterials, systematic review in chemical risk assessment and identification of emerging risk from chemicals, in addition to delivery of a Continuing Education Course at a toxicology conference (2019).

186. In 2018, the Strategic Plan for enhancing chemical risk assessment capacity61 in the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network, which was developed in 2017, was officially launched. The Plan aims to increase chemical risk assessment capacity among WHO Network Participants, thereby strengthening environmental health decision-making. It supports the implementation of capacity building related actions

[60] https://www.who.int/activities/working-together-through-the-who-chemical-risk-assessment-network
[61] https://www.who.int/ipcs/network/Network_Capacity_Building_Strategy.pdf?ua=1

of the Chemicals Road Map. The Plan includes actions to be implemented from 2018 to 2020 to strengthen national institutional capacities to address health threats from chemicals and on filling gaps in knowledge and methodologies for risk assessment.

187. In 2018, a Steering Group was formed to coordinate and provide advice to WHO on the various capacity building projects taking place under the Strategic Plan 2018-2020. In 2019, a Community of Trainers (CoT) was established and two webinars to present different types of available training courses in chemical risk assessment with specific examples were organized.

188. In 2017, WHO and OECD, each signed an agreement with the European Commission to launch Phase III of the IOMC Toolbox project on decision making in chemicals management titled: From design to action. The contribution provided by the European Union for this project was EUR 2 Million. The project, among others, organized several capacity-building workshops on Enhancing the Health Sector Role in the Management of Chemicals, one in Egypt (national) and two in Kazakhstan (sub-regional) and Mali (national) from 2018 to 2020.

189. In collaboration with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions and with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, UNEP implemented a project in Asia (2018-2022) aiming to further enhance the understanding and capacities required to implement chemicals and waste MEAs, funded by the China Trust Fund. Strengthening chemicals and waste MEAs implementation contributes directly in reaching the SAICM goals and objectives. UNEP, with financial support from GEF, is supporting 32 Stockholm Convention Parties in reviewing and updating their National Implementation Plans (NIPs) according to Article 7 of the Convention. The NIPs play a key role in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and subsequently contributing to achieving the SAICM goals and objectives, including to its indicators to measure progress: mechanisms a) to address key categories of chemicals and b) for setting priorities for risk reduction. Also, in helping Parties to organize and facilitate the use of their NIP and POPs inventories data, UNEP is implementing a project on development of Integrated Electronic Toolkit to submission of national implementation plans in a harmonized manner with the reporting under Article 15 of the Convention, to be finalized by end of June 2023. Having such database with easy to extract and use of data, brings added value into the SAICM reporting process as well. In support of the implementation of Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention on Effectiveness Evaluation, UNEP continued to execute four follow-up projects on the Global Monitoring Plan for POPs started in 2016 and to be completed by January 2023. The projects funded by GEF benefited a total of 42 countries. The projects support the measurement of presence of POPs in air, water, human milk, matrices of national interests and strengthening the capacities for monitoring of POPs. These data contribute to achieving the SAICM progress monitoring indicator on 'monitoring activities for selected environmental and health priorities'.

UNEP is implementing a GEF financed project which is establishing joint health and environment 'Chemical Observatories' to support evidence-based policy and investment initiatives (2018-2023). The project has developed and piloted quantitative calculators for health and environmental impacts and developed a web-based visualization and analysis tool in the MapX platform. This directly contributes to achieving the SAICM progress monitoring indicator on mechanisms for setting priorities for risk reduction

190. UNEP in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is implementing GEF funded project aiming to develop and promote non-POPs alternative to DDT" for introducing bio- and botanical pesticides and other locally appropriate cost-effective and sustainable alternatives to DDT as a first step for reduction and eventual elimination of dependency on DDT, ensuring food safety, enhancing livelihood, and protecting human health and the environment. DDT is one of the HHPs. HHPs were recognized as an emerging policy issue and issue of concern under SAICM resolutions adopted which recognized the policy imperatives to address identified concerns, agree on the actions needed and requested specific stakeholders to consider undertaking certain actions.

191. UNEP is implementing a project on "Reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs, in the textiles sector" in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Viet Nam as to deliver significant reductions in the use of POPs, POP candidates and other priority chemicals of concern (CoCs) in the manufacture of

textiles processing chemicals and textile products in beneficiary countries. The project launched in 2022 with chemical inventories underway at 500 wet processing mills.

192. UNEP is implementing the MedProgramme, a multi-focal area programme working to reduce land-based sources of POPs and mercury pollution to the Mediterranean Sea between 2020-2024,which through one of its child project has already initiated disposal of approximately 800 tonnes of PCBs from Algeria & Lebanon. UNEP is also the lead agency for the GEF Programme "Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States, ISLANDS". It aims to assist 33 Small-Islands Developing States with the management of chemicals and chemicals-containing products. The programme contributes to the implementation of the Minamata and Stockholm Conventions as well as SAICM, and will help island countries prevent the release of over 23,000 metric tons of toxic chemicals and more than 185,000 metric tons of marine litter by 2027

    UNEP is initiating the implementation of the recently approved multi-focal area plastics project in the LAC region to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and the Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach, with the aim of delivering reductions in POPs and unintentional POPs emissions through both upstream (policy and design) and downstream (collection, segregation, and environmentally sound disposal of waste) solutions. UNEP has been working on development of a project proposal focusing on circular and POPs-free Plastics in 5 African countries, which has been approved during December 2022 GEF Council meeting and its full-fledge project is currently under development.

Looking beyond 2020

193. The basic elements and measures to strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks on chemicals and waste will remain relevant to implement and follow up progress beyond 2020. There is a need to increase efforts to establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste.

194. Stakeholders may wish to reflect on relevant milestones for achieving progress in this area beyond 2020. Regions may also wish to reflect on regional progress and promote regional progress.

3.3 Core activity (c) – Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes, and budgets

Overall guidance

195. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents an opportunity to reinforce links between development and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste into national development plans in developing countries and into international development assistance priorities will contribute to the reshaping of budgets, allowing for the possibility of national and international financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste. The benefits of action and the cost of inaction will justify greater investment in this area.

196. Actions taken to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste should be designed, financed, and implemented with sustainability in mind, also bearing in mind that project funds are finite while ongoing enforcement, monitoring, and capacity development are essential to effective mainstreaming.

Reflections on progress

197. FAO applies the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to reduce the reliance on the use of chemical pesticides for plant pest control. IPM entails the careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and the subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human and animal health and/or the environment. IPM is widely implemented in FAO pest and pesticide program, including the Global Action on Fall Armyworm[62], Locust control, etc. FAO IPM programmes have demonstrated that it is possible to significantly reduce pesticide use without reducing crop yield or farmers' profits, even in areas with increased pest pressure.

198. In collaboration with WHO and the European Commission, ILO has developed a comprehensive database of International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) intended to provide essential safety and health information on chemicals in a clear and concise way. To date, approximately 1700 cards are available and hosted in the ICSC database. The database is available in English, French, Spanish, Finnish, Hungarian, Japanese, Polish, Italian, Chinese, Russian, Hebrew, Korean, German, Portuguese and Persian. The ILO is dedicated to chemical risk reduction efforts through the promotion and regular update of the ICSC database.

199. The ILO has developed, and pilot tested several risk assessment tools for improving health and safety at the workplace, which includes safety in the use of chemicals. The training package on workplace risk assessment and management for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the 5-step guide for employers, workers, and their representatives on conducting workplace risk assessments provide practical strategies towards the improvement of health and safety and the management of hazardous risks at the workplace. ILO promotes these tools through various risk assessment training courses.

200. ILO has various projects and initiatives that seek to foster the creation of a global culture of safety and health prevention, with the objective of achieving real reductions in the incidence of work-related death, injury, and disease across Global Supply Chains (GSCs). These projects aim to reduce and prevent OSH risks, including those related to hazardous chemical exposures, for workers in key sectors across GSCs – including agriculture (exposure to pesticides), textile and garment production (exposure to dyes), and manufacturing (exposure to paints, solvents, and glues).

201. In the framework of the Montreal Protocol, UNDP helps countries undertake investment activities in refrigeration, air conditioning, foams, and solvents sectors to phase out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances thus reducing risks to human health and environment. Such activities also include the validation and demonstration of low carbon alternative technologies with zero ozone-depleting potential. As one of the implementing agencies of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (MLF), UNDP is assisting 54 countries to implement 188 activities to phase out ozone-depleting and climate-warming substances with a portfolio of projects amounting to US $124 million. UNDP supported activities cumulatively eliminated 69,937 ODP tonnes of ozone-depleting substances.

202. To protect public health and the global environment from the impacts of heavy metals, such as mercury and lead, UNDP is supporting countries through i) introduction of management schemes that support the waste aspects of obsolete equipment (including mercury waste stream), which arise when more environmentally friendly and energy efficient appliances are being introduced (e.g. as a result of refrigerator replacement programmes); and ii) introduction of Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and Best Available Technologies (BAT) to e-waste processing to avoid harmful releases of heavy metals and other hazardous substances.

203. As one of the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as of June 2023, UNDP is supporting 27 countries in implementing thirty-six projects to address persistent organic pollutants, lead, and mercury with a portfolio of projects amounting to US$ 167 million of grants provided by the GEF with co-financing of US$ 1 billion. UNDP supported activities have cumulatively reduced 159,898 metric tonnes

[62] https://www.fao.org/fall-armyworm/en/

of toxic chemicals and reduced or avoided the release of 201 grams of toxic equivalent of hazardous chemicals into the air[63].

204. As for the progress of UNEP, in 2019, the Green Technology Bank (China), SUS Environment (China), and Sunpower Corp. (Japan) signed a pledge to promote environmentally sound waste management in their operation with the support of UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre. It also partnered with Coca-Cola Southeast Asia Services Co Ltd: Sprite to implement a change from Green to Clear PET bottles in Southeast Asia, a major shift that will boost PET bottle collection and recycling in the region.

205. In Jordan (2017-2018), through a project funded by SAICM Quick Start Programme, in partnership with the Royal Scientific Society, Jordan, UNEP supported finding alternatives for the replacement of identified hazardous chemicals in SMEs for paint, fertilizers, drilling, and detergent sectors. The project helped reduce health risks for employees and consumers, and the environmental impacts associated with the handling and use of hazardous chemicals. These sustainability benefits are gained while supporting companies in identifying new market opportunities for their newly developed products, ensuring their competitiveness in the local and international markets, and complying with national and international regulations on the sound management of chemicals.

206. UNITAR has supported more than 30 countries to prepare their Mercury Initial Assessments (MIAs) and the National Action Plans (NAPs) on Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM). As part of the MIAs, UNITAR provides training on the development of mercury emissions' inventories using UNEP's Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases. In 2021/2022, UNITAR collaborated with the Government of Ethiopia, Eco-justice Ethiopia and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships on the development of a gender roadmap for the ASGM sector in Ethiopia.

207. The World Bank Group has been active in public and private sector pollution management for several decades and has a strong track record of supporting client countries in tackling chemical pollution challenges. Between 2003 and 2022, the World Bank Group implemented pollution management projects, with a total commitment of US$ 52 billion. Out of these projects, the Bank financed chemicals and hazardous waste management interventions amounting to more than US$5 billion. Bank projects have improved the management of solid and hazardous waste and wastewater and helped control pollution related to transport, industry, energy, mining, and other sectors across many countries Recent project examples include:

- The Zambia Mining and Environmental Remediation and Improvement Project invests $65.5 million aimed at reducing environmental health risks in critically polluted mining areas, including exposure to lead.
- The Africa Environmental Health and Pollution Management Program, a $37.9 million program, aims to reduce exposure to mercury and uPOPs and strengthen the institutional capacity to manage and regulate mercury use in artisanal small-scale gold mining.
- The Contaminated Site Management Project in China improves the country's capacity for managing toxic chemicals site contamination and environmentally sound identification and cleanup of sites contaminated with POPs and other hazardous chemicals.
- The Montenegro Industrial Waste Management and Cleanup Project helps to remediate industrial waste disposal sites and ensures that hazardous waste from industries is disposed in compliance with applicable law.
- The China Hunan Integrated Management of Agricultural Land Pollution Project demonstrates a risk-based approach to managing heavy metal and chemicals pollution in agricultural land and strengthens monitoring and management and including through training.

[63] https://www.sparkblue.org/content/2022-highlights-montreal-protocol-chemicals-and-waste-unit

- The Punjab Green Development Program in Pakistan includes chemicals and waste management interventions. The project has supported legal and regulatory reforms and has promoted investments in cleaner technologies in highly polluting sectors (brickmaking, leather tanning).

208. As an Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility, the Bank relies on its comparative advantage for investments to bring about on-the-ground risk reduction. The World Bank's portfolio addresses the closure of production of toxic chemicals, identification and promotion of alternative technologies and practices, investments in Best Available Techniques/Best Environmental Practices, and environmentally sound destruction of toxic stockpiles and wastes. Moreover, sound chemicals management can be achieved through World Bank projects as a byproduct of a project's primary objectives. Though not quantified, these opportunities constitute a strong potential for synergies and mainstreaming chemicals management in Bank operations that can be explored and expanded based on client country priorities.

209. The OECD provided progress on their system of Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) which is based on OECD Test Guidelines and OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice[64]. The MAD allows participating countries to share the results of various non-clinical safety tests done on chemicals and chemical products. By avoiding duplication of testing, the MAD system saves a considerable number of test animals, and around 300 EUR million per year to governments and industry according to the report "Saving Costs in Chemicals Management" published in 2019[65].

210. Since ICCM4, OECD has published more than 20 new or updated Guidelines for testing chemicals for health effects, environmental effects, and pesticide residue chemistry. Additionally, OECD has published more than 20 documents supporting Test Guidelines in the Series on Testing and Assessment[66].

211. In this reporting period, the WHO International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) is leading a project to harmonize approaches to the assessment of risk from exposure to chemicals. The goal of this project is to globally harmonize approaches to risk assessment through both increased understanding and agreement on basic principles and to develop international guidance documents on specific issues. In 2019, WHO initiated work to update the WHO Human Health Risk Assessment Toolkit, which is a publication of the Harmonization Project.

212. In 2017, in the framework of the Chemicals Risk Assessment Network, two collaborative forums were established to work on Mode of Action and Combined Exposures, sharing with the network participants information about activities on the topic and coordinating work as necessary.

213. In the same year, the network started planning an activity on identifying emerging risks from chemicals including; (i) a mapping and survey of existing systems, (ii) preparation of a report on present methodologies and systems for identifying emerging risks from chemicals, (iii) establishment of a task group to publish the mapping report and develop the network work plan for 2020 on identifying emerging risks.

214. In 2018, the project on existing methodologies and tools for the prioritization of chemicals for risk assessment was initiated in the framework of the Strategic Plan. Its overall objective is to assist network institutions based in developing countries in identifying and prioritizing chemicals and settings within their jurisdiction and/or context using existing tools and resources.

215. In the reporting period, WHO developed a framework on systematic review in chemical risk assessment. The framework aims to be a concise, high-level document which introduces the topic of a systematic review, provides a practical perspective on when to conduct a systematic review, and gives an overview of the tools and resources available. The text of the framework was finalized in 2019 and presented at EUROTOX.

[64] http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/testing/
[65] http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/saving-costs-in-chemicals-management-9789264311718-en.htm
[66] https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/testing/oecdguidelinesforthetestingofchemicals.htm

216. IPEN launched its Toxics-Free SDGs campaign [67] in 2018. The campaign is directly related to the Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing the inherent relationship between chemicals, waste and sustainable development, and that toxic chemicals and waste continue to harm human health and the environment.

The campaign has three focuses:

- Activities: Since activities kicked off in 2018, IPEN has conducted 258 projects across the globe such as testing for chemicals in products (CiP), conducting mercury testing, starting a youth lead campaign informing the public on toxics and chemicals, and creating country situation reports and awareness campaigns on highly hazardous pesticides, low POPs content levels, toxic plastics, and dioxins and incinerators;
- Resources: Publications on mercury, pesticides, endocrine disruption chemicals, a NGO guide to SAICM, lead in paint, ocean pollutants, and more are gathered into IPEN's Toxics-Free SDGs campaign;
- The Toxics-Free SDGs Pledge: outlines a vision of a world where chemicals and wastes are no longer a source of harm, translating the pledge into multiple languages, signed by hundreds of public interest civil society organizations.

Between 2020 – 2022, more than a hundred projects have been conducted. In 2021, 69 projects across 45 countries that started in 2020 was finalized and in 2022, 47 projects across 41 countries started that will be finalized in 2023.

Altogether, IPEN Participating Organizations contributed to achievement of 16 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17). The activities included: demonstrated economic benefits of organic agriculture in rural communities (SDG1), country situation assessments and phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides (SDG2), work to eliminate lead in paint (SDG3), educational work on PCBs and pesticides alternatives (SDG4), trainings on gender equality and toxic substances (SDG5), documentation of water pollution (SDG6), awareness-raising and promoting labor rights for industrial and agricultural workers (SDG8), helping to implement mercury-free practices in healthcare facilities (SDG9), addressing waste dumping in developing countries by developed countries (SDG10), working for environmentally sound waste management (SDG11), identifying toxic substances in consumer products (SDG12), projects addressing waste burning and plastics (SDG13), activities to manage ocean pollutants including PCBs and plastics (SDG14), characterization of industrial pollution hotspots (SDG15), advancing information access to PRTR data (SDG16), and national-level financing recommendations to address chemicals and waste management issues (SDG17).

217. IPEN has specifically focused on the need to address exposure to toxic chemicals and involvement in decision-making to be able to reach SDG4 on Gender Equality, and the work advanced through 2020 – 2022. A report[68] was released in 2021 on Women, Chemicals, and the SDGs, developed in collaboration with UNEP under the GEF SAICM project[69], and was presented at a joint UNEP-IPEN webinar[70] in 2022.

A follow-up report[71] titled "Women Leaders: Addressing Chemicals and Waste Issues" was released in 2022, that highlights women's leadership through ten organizations from around the world working to address chemical health threats. Finally, an extensive online gender and chemicals training[72] consisting of 9 modules was made publicly available in 2021. The goal of the free, online courses is to educate the public at large and to build a broad, woman-led leadership for addressing issues related to toxic chemical exposure.

[67] Toxics-Free SDGs Campaign | IPEN https://ipen.org/campaigns/toxics-free-sdgs-campaign
[68] https://ipen.org/documents/women-chemicals-and-sdgs
[69] https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/GEFProject/tabid/7893/language/en-US/Default.aspx
[70] Webinar on women leadership, chemical safety, and the SDGs | SAICM Knowledge
[71] https://ipen.org/documents/women-leaders-addressing-chemicals-and-waste-issues
[72] https://ipen.org/women-and-chemicals-courses

218. In collaboration with OK International, CREPD set up a pilot site for ASGM wet processing to reduce miners' exposures to unintentional heavy metals (Lead, Mercury and other) and silica dust identified and documented in ASGM dry processing practices in Cameroon. Educational materials developed and distributed, call for action made including policy recommendation for safer ASGM practices in Cameroon.
219. IPEN has has continued to advocate for measures to make the Polluter Pays Principle operational within the chemicals and waste cluster, through a levy on the production value of basic chemicals and supporting the call for a global fund on chemicals. In 2020 IPEN has released a report[73] on Financing the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste.
220. PAN International and PAN Member groups played in important role in generating and spreading information on the hazard, availability, and use of HHPs, and their adverse impacts. PAN International engaged in implementing the ICCM4 decision of phasing-out HHPs and replacing them with agro-ecological alternatives, contributing to realizing many of the SDGs, most particularly SDGs 1,2,3,5,8,10,12,13,15.
221. As for the progress of the chemical industry, ICCA reported that Responsible Care® has been extended to three new countries – Croatia, Egypt, and Pakistan – and is working to grow the initiative in additional countries, particularly in Asia and Africa. Associations are encouraged to report from their members. Of the 69 countries that report health and safety data (i.e. Number of fatalities, lost time injury rate, and number of process safety incidents), 40 report fatality data from Responsible Care member companies. Of these 40, 22 have reported data from 2007 to 2017. The results from these 22 associations indicated that there has been at least 50 per cent decrease in the number of fatalities at Responsible Care companies worldwide since 2007, while the number of persons in thousands who work at companies participating in Responsible Care for reporting associations in this study has increased. The fatality rate per thousand employees has decreased by a factor of approximately 4 over the past 11 years for the associations included in this study.
222. The Ozone Secretariat submits annual reports to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development[74], who reviews the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The reports present the work of the parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol. The Secretariat also provides metadata information related to Goal 12 (Indicator 12.4.1) for the UN Statistics Division's repository[75] as well as participates in broader UN inter-agency collaboration to streamline methodologies and processes relating to Goal 12 and build a common platform entitled the SDG 12 Hub[76].

    On the basis of decision XXIX/11 on safety standards, adopted by the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Parties in 2017, the Secretariat has developed and maintains an online system safety standards tool[77] that lists international, regional and national safety standards relevant to refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump equipment developed by relevant standards organizations.
223. In 2020 the Secretariat commissioned to the Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (Chile) a study entitled "Hotspots analysis for value chains involving substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer". The study, coordinated jointly with the Life Cycle Initiative of UNEP, examined the value chains in food refrigeration (cold chains) and air-conditioning systems and their effects on ozone depletion and climate change with the objective to facilitate the application of life cycle knowledge in the global sustainable development agenda.

[73] https://ipen.org/site/international-coordinated-fee-basic-chemicals#media
[74] https://hlpf.un.org/search?search=Ozone+Layer
[75] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/
[76] https://sdg12hub.org/
[77] https://ozone.unep.org/system-safety-standards

224. Welfare Togo, an NGO based in Togo, organized multistakeholder workshops on the link between SMCW and Agenda 2030 as well as produced and distributed information materials to stakeholders.
225. The Sustainable Procurement Index for Health (SPIH)[78], jointly developed by Health Care Without Harm and UNDP, was launched in 2021 with pilot testing and training in 2020. The SPIH mainstreams the sound management of chemicals and waste together with climate and human rights into the procurement of health products.
226. GEHA, an NGO based in Syria, actively worked and promoted cooperation with civil society in the cleaning of areas from pollution.
227. EASD reported that in Serbia, through the process of preparation of the National Strategy within the Green Agenda for the Western Balkan, the sound management of chemicals were addressed through the Circular Economy pillar and the Pollution Prevention pillar with respect of SDG 12.
228. A number of countries have been active under this core activity (c). The complete list of answers submitted to the Questionnaire, which was prepared by the SAICM secretariat for the extended period 2020–2022, are presented in Annex IV. All submissions are also available online on the SAICM website[26]. A selection of results, actions and activities taken by governments relevant for the period 2020-2022 is provided in the paragraphs below.
229. Armenia: Chemicals and wastes sound management mainstreamed in strategy and policy documents; Action Plan for 2022-2026 was approved by the Government
230. Ethiopia: The government of Ethiopia has mainstreamed the SD (which chemical is a part) in its strategic and annual plan and accordingly implementing.
231. Finland: The national Chemicals Programme was revised in 2022. It sets targets and guidelines for developing and improving chemical safety until 2035 and has the aim to prevent, identify and combat environmental pollution caused by harmful chemicals from various sources and the hazardous exposure of the population and employees to chemicals.
232. Gambia: The newly approved National Development Plan (2022-2027) have incorporated provisions specific to hazardous waste management as a national priority. Also, the National Environment Agency, in collaboration with the UNDP, is implementing a chemicals and waste project aimed at strengthening national efforts in sound management of chemicals and wastes.
233. Georgia: In 2022 changes were made in the national waste management strategy in order to effectively implement the existing challenges in the waste management sector and address; the new national action plan for 2022-2026 was also approved. A number of new Resolutions are effective since 2020 setting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principle requirements for producers including regulations on the Management of Used Batteries and Accumulators, of End-of-life Tires (ELTs), of Waste Electronic and Electric Equipment (WEEE). The fourth National Environmental Action Program of Georgia for 2022-2026 years (NEAP) is the country's main strategic document in the field of environment and natural resources management. A chemical risk factors assessment laboratory (CRAL) was established in 2021 with the objective to explore heavy metals and other toxic element sources, which are harmful on population's health.
234. Germany: The German Environment Agency (UBA) published in 2023 a background document on the potential trade-offs of ambitious climate protection policies on other policy areas, including the sound management of chemicals and waste. Ground Water Directive: Monitoring of selected pharmaceuticals in surface water and groundwater. UBA-Initiative “Sustainable Control of Harmful Organisms in the Twenty-First Century" (SCOTTY): the goal of the SCOTTY-initiative is to provide a broad portfolio of different efficacious options to control harmful organisms. On initiative of UBA, the document ‘TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOCIDES’ was compiled.

[78] https://noharm-global.org/content/global/sustainable-procurement-index-health

235. Kenya: The Draft Chemical Policy 2022 included the promotion of Responsible Care Programme in collaboration with Kenya Association of Manufacturers as well as budgetary allocations specific for chemicals and waste.
236. Kuwait: The Environmental Protection Authority of Kuwait has established a Chemical Safety Department whose role is to validate the proper storage and sound management of chemical storage, environmental impacts, to promote the importance of the sound management of chemicals, health and labor as well their weight in chemical safety frameworks as a whole.
237. Montenegro: The project [79] "Comprehensive environmentally friendly management of PCB waste in Montenegro" was completed in December 2022 (1,050 tons of PCB-contaminated soil were removed).
238. Panama: Some specific issues of pesticides and hospital waste management have been incorporated into the national agendas.
239. A few countries sent their responses outside the questionnaire. An extract of their responses that relates to core activity (c) is given in the following paragraphs.
240. Russian Federation: For the risk reduction indicator, the Russian Federation mentioned, among others, the following activities: unified list of chemicals, MAYAK database, accounting for pesticides and agrochemicals, Federal Law "On Special Assessment of Working Conditions", Preparations for the adoption of the TR EAEU "On the safety of paints and varnishes", Regulations containing general requirements for the safety of raw materials and materials in the circulation of products for the period 2020-2022, Technical regulation of the Eurasian Economic Union "On the safety of chemical products", Regulations reflecting the control of substances in articles, Corporate Product Stewardship Programs (2020-2022), Implementation of the Federal Law "On Production and Consumption Wastes" in 2020-2022, Regulations on the licensing of activities for the collection, transportation, processing, disposal, neutralization, placement of waste of I-IV hazard classes.

Looking beyond 2020

241. Mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste underpins progress towards each of the five Objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy and is one of the three elements in the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste. It is an important aspect in ensuring the sustainability and progress towards the sound management of chemicals and waste.
242. The evaluation of the integrated approach, to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste[80] may provide useful guidance to stakeholders in looking beyond 2020. In particular, the report indicates the need to strengthen the chemicals and waste agenda in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda, beyond the current focus on SDG12. In developing future policy approaches, in particular with respect to mainstreaming and national action, real and effective linkages need to be made to integrating mechanisms like the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

3.4 Core activity (d) – Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies

Overall guidance

243. Emerging policy issues have been identified by ICCM, which provide a unique global framework for identifying, promoting, and advancing chemical safety objectives. The emerging policy issue process

[79] www.pcbmontenegro.com
[80] Outlined in document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/11

demonstrates the broad scope and potential effects of activities that can be undertaken under the Strategic Approach since, thanks to its non-binding nature, it offers a forum in which the risks of emerging policy issues and measures to deal with them can be considered. This leads to increased awareness and national, regional, and global responses.

244. The emerging policy issues identified by ICCM to date are lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. In addition, managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, and HHPs have been identified as issues of concern.

245. The emerging policy issues under the Strategic Approach offer the prospect of addressing large groups of chemicals at the same time, marking a shift from a chemical-by-chemical approach to a more general one that identifies and manages the risks of groups of chemicals, such an approach is conducive to significant progress towards the 2020 goal and beyond. Accordingly, in addressing emerging policy issues, Strategic Approach stakeholders should first consider the extent to which those issues would already be addressed through the implementation of components of the existing Global Plan of Action. Any gaps identified following such a consideration should be documented and specific actions developed.

Reflections on progress

246. UNEP reported on their ongoing projects to reduce risk from the harmful effects of hazardous chemicals and waste in countries with support from the GEF. These GEF projects address a few of the EPIs, including: a) elimination of lead in paint with support on the development of laws and work with the paint industry to comply with those laws. Paint reformulation guidelines are currently being pilot tested in selected paint SMEs and 2 additional countries (Israel and Bangladesh) have adopted lead paint laws, b) management of electronic waste, c) chemicals in products.

247. ILO is developing its strategic approach for engaging on a number of global issues of concern including lead in paint, chemicals in products (textile and garment supply chain), highly hazardous pesticides, and nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials.

248. The Ozone Secretariat has actively participated in the first meeting of the Ad-hoc OEWG established to prepare proposals for the operation of the SPP held since October 2022. The Secretariat also cooperates with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions on issues of common concern including illegal trade of controlled substances and sound management and disposal of controlled substances in electronic waste, such as refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment.

249. The progress made by the stakeholders under each of the EPIs are hereby provided, as received.

Lead in paint

250. With respect to lead in paint, 75 countries have control measures in place. The data was collected through a series of surveys filled by the states in 2014 as the baseline, as reported to the 2014 SAICM OEWG, in 2015 (as reported to ICCM4) and annually since then. Comparing the period 2017-2019 with the previous period (i.e. 2014-2016), a total of 61 countries (i.e. out of 194 WHO member states) reported having control mechanisms over lead in decorative paint as of 2019; a notable growth of 8 per cent since 2016.

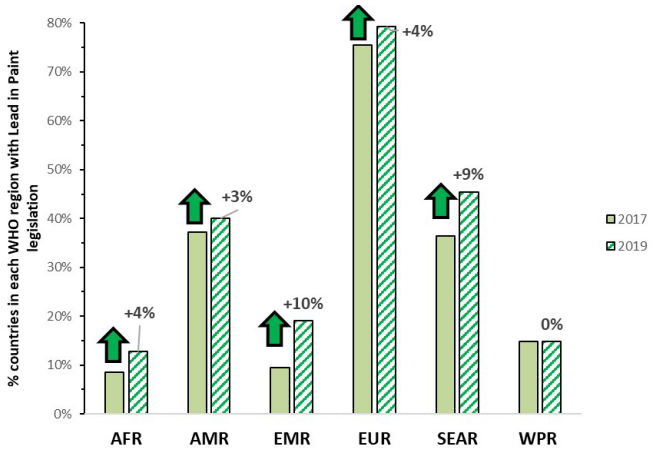


Figure 24 - Per cent countries in each WHO region with controls over lead in decorative paint (Source: WHO and UNEP)

251. With successive surveys, more countries provided information, possibly because of increased awareness of lead in paint as an issue. Thus, the number of countries that did not provide any information with regard to controls over lead in paint decreased from 33 per cent of member states in 2016 to 18 per cent in 2019 (i.e. from 64 to 34 countries).

252. In the period 2017-2019, all the regions observed small yet steady progress in number of lead in paint legislation except for the Western Pacific region (Figure 24). The largest growth was observed in the Eastern Mediterranean, Africa, and Europe regions each with two states establishing controls over lead in paint. Noticeably, similar to other indicators, there is a significant gap between the developing and developed countries where 79 per cent of the countries in Europe reported the presence of controls over lead in paint while only 13 and 15 per cent of countries in Africa and Western Pacific have similar controls.

253. Since 2017, IPEN has conducted studies of lead in paint sold for home use in 23 countries, all showing lead in paint being readily available on the market. In addition, a regional African and a Global paint report were developed and released. The data provided and made publicly available by IPEN, together with its NGO partners, provided countries with evidence and support to adopt and enforce national bans on lead in paint. It also provided evidence as to why lead in paint needs to be regulated in all countries. In addition, studies by IPEN showed that lead in paint is prevalent on playground equipment in Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, and Thailand. IPEN also conducted numerous lead in paint elimination activities in Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia including national campaigns, development of studies, public awareness-raising, and technical information dissemination. IPEN NGOs in Albania and Belarus participated in the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week to raise awareness on the issue of lead in paint and the need for its elimination.

254. IPEN NGOs conducted sampling of lead in paint on the market in Benin and Guinea and raised awareness about health impacts in Benin, Cameroon, Congo, and Guinea. Follow-up activities in Benin and Guinea included review of regulatory frameworks to pave the way for the ban on lead in paint in the two countries. In Cameroon, research on lead levels in the blood of children showed extremely high levels. NGOs participated actively in the International Week of Action for the Prevention of Lead Poisoning. NGOs also expanded work on lead to include lead battery manufacturing and recycling by investigating lead levels in soils around these sites in Cameroon, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, and Tunisia.

255. COLNODO (an IPEN member NGO) released a study on Lead in solvent-based paints for home use in Colombia. In addition, the study triggered the participation of Colombia in a GEF demonstration pilot project for paint manufacturers in Small and Medium Sized enterprises (SMEs), executed in eight countries, that is looking to address the technical barriers faced by SMEs in replacing lead additives in paint with lead-free alternatives. Other studies on lead in household paint and lead in paint for domestic use were conducted in Argentina and Mexico respectively.

256. IPEN organizations in Egypt, Iraq, and Sudan conducted studies on lead in paints and raised awareness of health impacts. In Egypt, trainings were conducted for workers and paint manufacturers on eliminating lead in paint. Blood lead levels among paint workers were investigated in Iraq. Lead safe labeling was promoted among manufacturers in Tunisia and a campaign to eliminate lead paint in products was conducted in Jordan. Organizations in all these countries participated actively in the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action.

257. Thirteen studies of lead in paint in 10 countries were conducted by IPEN in collaboration with NGO partners during the grant period, primarily focusing on compliance monitoring of regulations on lead in paint that were adopted between 2015 and 2020. The studies were conducted in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Nepal, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand and Vietnam. All reports are or will be publicly accessible on IPEN´s lead paint webpage.

258. Overall, IPEN was able to provide technical, policy and financial support to Participating Organizations in 45 countries during 2021-2022 to develop and implement national campaigns to eliminate lead paint. Campaign activities included:

- Dissemination of information about the hazards of lead paint and lead content of paint available on the national market, with a special effort to engage national media to increase visibility of the issue;
- Engagement with national paint manufacturers, paint industry associations, and supply chain actors to have a dialogue around the hazards of lead paint and the urgent need to eliminate lead paint in their country;
- Engagement with small and medium sized manufacturers to develop strategies for how to support reformulation of their paint, including strategies to overcome obstacles they may have in terms of technical support and access to lead-free raw materials; and
- Engagement with national policy makers to advocate for the drafting and adoption of regulatory controls to ban lead paint.

259. WHO reported on revisions to six modules in the Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Group toolkit to assist countries in establishing and implementing legally binding controls on lead in paint. In addition, two documents are updated in this period: (i) brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in paint and (ii) the brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in blood.

260. In the period 2017–2019, WHO coordinated the fifth, sixth, and seventh international lead poisoning prevention weeks, that took place in October 2017, 2018, and 2019. The aim of the campaigns was to raise awareness worldwide about lead poisoning and to encourage action to eliminate the use of lead in paint. WHO, in collaboration with UNEP, US EPA, and IPEN, developed campaign resource packs and a range of campaign materials, including posters, infographics, web banners, flyers, and FAQs. All materials were published in the six UN languages.

261. A wide range of activities were carried out from 2017 to 2019, including multi-stakeholder meetings to discuss developing laws on lead in paint, media statements, public displays and dissemination of leaflets, publication of the results of market surveys of paint, events in schools and poster competitions. The reports of the lead weeks were published on the WHO website[81].TAn increased interest and participation in the lead weeks was observed, indicating rising awareness on the concerns related to lead and understanding of the need to take further actions to prevent lead poisoning.

262. A side event on lead in paint was organized during the Third Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa in 2018. Only six countries had lead in paint laws in the African region. The ministers agreed on the strategic action plan for Africa for 2019–2029 that includes support for the work of the Lead Paint Alliance, particularly by enacting national legislation to ban lead in paint.

[81] Search for "International Lead Poisoning: prevention week" on https://apps.who.int/iris/

Chemicals in products

263. The transparency of information on chemicals in global supply chains has been an emerging policy issue for the SAICM since 2009, leading to programmes such as the UNEP Chemicals in Products Programme that focuses specifically on the textiles, toys, electronics and building materials sectors. Guidance on information systems have been developed for these sectors.

264. Specifically, UNEP's work on chemicals in product with support from the GEF involves using life cycle thinking and approaches, as well as eco-innovation methodology and tools such as sustainable public and private procurement, to manage risks and reduce impacts in three value chains: buildings, electronics, and toys. Key chemicals of concern are identified in these three sectors, and life cycle tools applied to get a better understanding of toxicity and other impacts from potential alternatives to harmful chemicals, using and improving USETox (the UNEP-SETAC Life Cycle Initiative toxicity model).

    Throughout the GEF-funded SAICM project "Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM" tools and guidance have been developed in the three targeted value chains.

    Buildings: Report on chemicals of concern and potential alternatives in the building sector; USEtox-based model to assess chemicals in building products in the context of life cycle assessment (LCA); Global guidance for sustainable public procurement and for eco-innovation in the building products sector; Guide for banks on setting up green mortgages; Information Hub on Building Materials.

    Electronics: Global guidance for sustainable public procurement and for eco-innovation in the electronics sector; Report on regulatory approaches addressing CoC in electronics and policy recommendations; Regional studies (Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern European regions) on life cycle management of electronics; Analysis on how ecolabels address the issue of CoC and recommendations for further harmonization and integration

    Toys: Toolkit to support regulation and compliance in the toy sector; Report on regulations for chemicals in toys in China; Report reviewing toy safety policies and regulations in selected Low- and Medium-Income Countries (LMIC)

    In addition training and support has been delivered government and value chain actors to trial and adopt new guidance and tools. This includes Training on USEtox model for companies of building products and toy sectors in Sri Lanka and China; Eco-innovation and/or Sustainable Public Procurement training and/or pilot projects in Colombia and Sri Lanka; Sustainable finance pilot project in Sri Lanka; and Training and consultations on regulatory and compliance approaches for toys and electronics sectors.

265. UNIDO promotes Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production, Chemical Leasing and Green Chemistry, and a life cycle approach for the phase out of hazardous chemicals in products and process in different industrial sectors.

266. IPEN reported on their progress on the work on chemicals in products like mercury in dental amalgam and mercury-containing products. In Tanzania, AGENDA conducted awareness-raising and worked with the Ministry of Health and developed national guidelines to ban the use of mercury dental amalgam by vulnerable groups including women of child-bearing age and children. UNETMAC conducted a campaign to phase-out mercury containing products in Uganda. Products included florescent bulbs, cosmetics, dental amalgam, school thermometers and baby toys. In Kenya, CEJAD analyzed children's toys for chemicals content followed by campaigns for safer toys.

267. In Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia regions, IPEN actions include conducting studies on consumer products made using recycled plastic which revealed that toxic brominated flame retardants have been contaminating recycled plastics in consumer products across Europe, the identification of phthalates and, heavy metals in toys, analysis of the availability of information on chemicals on product labels, and advocacy campaigns in targeted countries.

268. IPEN conducted awareness-raising on toxic chemicals in plastics in Mali and Togo since 2017. Thanks to the effective awareness-raising of institutions and relevant stakeholders in Benin, led by NGOs GAPROFFA

and of "La Grande Puissance de Dieu", Benin's authorities enacted a series of regulations for safe management of plastics. Three laws in total have been adopted from 2017 and 2019.

269. Taller Ecologista in Argentina, CETAP in Brazil and CASACEM in Mexico have participated in the IPEN Global Project to measure flame retardants in children's toys made from recycled plastic, released in 2017, to end the polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) recycling exemption in Stockholm Convention. IPEN has coordinated projects to collect and measure heavy metals in children´s toys globally. In Mexico, OUSANEG has participated in the sampling and results will be presented in 2020. Furthermore, research on harmful chemicals in children's toys was conducted in Tunisia and a workshop on green building materials was conducted in Lebanon.

270. In Bangladesh, NGO studies have included data on toxic substances such as mercury in skin lightening creams. Toxic chemicals in children's toys have been investigated in Nepal and in 2017, the government enacted standards for 12 different heavy metals and chemicals, including Bisphenol A (BPA) and phthalates. In 2019, persistent NGO efforts led to the enactment of cosmetic standards on 3 July, 2019, which have parameters for both mercury and lead for lipsticks, skin creams, and skin lotions. In India, an NGO study explored the presence of microplastics in cosmetics.

271. The work conducted by IPEN to highlight the need to address the hazardous chemicals in plastics includes release of data from analytical studies of plastic products and materials, as well as technical and information materials. Several new reports that showed the presence of hazardous chemicals in recycled plastics were released:

- "Widespread chemical contamination of recycled plastic pellets globally"[82] (2021). Recycled HDPE plastic pellets from 24 recycling facilities in 23 countries were analyzed, showing the presence of 18 targeted substances, representing three types of toxic chemicals: 11 brominated flame retardants, 6 benzotriazole UV stabilizers and bisphenol A.
- "Hazardous Chemicals in Plastic Products"[83] (2022). Brominated flame retardants (BFRs) were found in consumer products made of recycled plastic from eleven Arabic and African countries.
- "Brominated flame retardants in plastic products from China, Indonesia, and Russia"[84] (2022)

272. In addition, several new reports on the presence of hazardous chemicals in products made from virgin plastics were released:

- "A Call to Action: Free Children from BPA's Toxic Legacy"[85] (2022). This report studied BPA in products in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia, Sri Lanka & Tanzania that come into contact with food or with children's mouths.
- "Plastics, EDCs & Health"[86] (2021). This joint report of the Endocrine Society and IPEN provides the current best knowledge about the effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in plastics on human health.
- "UV-328 Research Update"[87] (2022). UV-328 is used as a UV absorber in plastics and cosmetics and is part of several consumer products including coating products, adhesives and sealants, sunscreen, food contact materials, and plastics. This report summarizes recent IPEN research on the presence of UV-328 in e.g. toys and hair accessories.

273. In collaboration with IPEN, CREPD analyzed POPs in recycled plastic products to inform the strengthening of the areas of collaboration between the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention on POPs, particularly POPs waste definition and development of subsequent technical guidelines on the ESM of

[82] https://ipen.org/documents/widespread-chemical-contamination-recycled-plastic-pellets-globally
[83] https://ipen.org/documents/hazardous-chemicals-plastic-products
[84] https://ipen.org/documents/brominated-flame-retardants-plastic-products-china-indonesia-and-russia
[85] https://ipen.org/documents/call-action-free-children-bpas-toxic-legacy
[86] https://ipen.org/documents/plastics-edcs-health
[87] https://ipen.org/sites/default/files/documents/ipen-uv328-research-update-v1_2-en.pdf

waste resulting from those plastic products. With this initiative CREPD has contributed to improve knowledge and understanding of chemicals in plastic products including children's toys, kitchen stuffs and others.

Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products

274. ILO has produced a series of technical publications on E-waste to promote capacity building among its constituents and stakeholders to better tackle this issue. In addition, ILO has joined the new UN Coalition to Tackle Electronic Waste and promotes the implementation of its objectives. In April 2019, ILO hosted a high-level Forum to discuss current and emerging issues related to decent work in the management of the E-waste sector.
275. The waste part of the lifecycle of electronics is a major issue in African countries. IPEN's activities in Africa include conducting campaigns on e-waste management in Uganda. Pesticide Action Nexus Ethiopia (PAN-Ethiopia) conducted the first e-waste inventory in Ethiopia which allowed the Ethiopian Government to secure the first GEF funds for e-waste management. An African Guide for an e-waste inventory was published with IPEN support in 2013 and drafting of the regulation began. PAN Ethiopia's work resulted in promulgation of the Regulation on the Management and Disposal of Electrical and Electronic Waste by The Council of Ministers of Ethiopia in 2018, which included a provision on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
276. With increasing dependency on electronics, the production of e-waste is rapidly increasing. IPEN member NGOs in India have performed public outreach in schools and watch-dogged implementation and enforcement of the e-waste regulation, including the extended producer responsibility provision. NGOs also raised awareness about the toxic chemicals used in the production part of the lifecycle by screening "Stories from the Clean Room" in India and Nepal.

Nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials

277. The OECD work on the safety of manufactured nanomaterials promotes international cooperation in human health and environmental safety related issues around manufactured nanomaterials, within the context of the industrial chemicals sector, in order to assist countries in the development of rigorous safety evaluation of nanomaterials. The OECD develops appropriate methods and strategies to assist countries in the development of rigorous safety evaluation of nanomaterials and ensure human health and environmental safety. The outputs of the programme include: a) the development of methodologies for the safety assessment of nanomaterials[88] and b) the evaluation of tools and models for assessing exposure to NMs and c) best practices for risk assessment. Furthermore, the OECD continues its commitment to support the Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2018, the OECD has been exploring ways to further promote a Safer and Sustainable Innovation Approach (SSIA). This approach aims at boosting safer and sustainable innovations by integrating safety and sustainability at an early stage of the design phase of innovative materials, products, applications, and processes. To advance the discussion, the OECD built on the lessons learned since the establishment of the Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials in 2006. Case studies on nano, advanced materials, and nano-enabled products are being developed to identify the necessary tools for its implementation. To date, more than 100 documents have been published in the Series on the Safety of Manufactured Nanomaterials[89], and Webinars, in both English and Spanish, are being organised and made available online, to increase their accessibility across the globe

[88] https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/nanomet/
[89] http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/nanosafety/

278. UNITAR also embarked with IOMC partners such as OECD to raise awareness about nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, including the implications for developing countries as nano-based or nano-containing products are traded across borders. Furthermore, UNITAR has coordinated with other stakeholders to submit information to the Basel Convention in relation to waste containing nanomaterials. In 2023, an academic publication[90], focusing on the management of nanomaterials in laboratory settings, was finalised in advance of the BRS COPs 2023. Furthermore, UNITAR released a revised version of their online training course on nanomaterials safety[12].

279. IPEN's progress on nanotechnologies include engagement of ReLANS (the Latin American Nanotechnology and Society Network) in searching for companies that incorporate nanomaterials in their final products. The work is being done by an international group, and the first results came from four countries. These outcomes were published in the book: *Cadenas de Producción de las Nanotecnologías en América Latina: Argentina, Brasil, Colombia y México*[91].

280. IPEN member NGOs also conducted several awareness-raising activities related to nanotechnologies and nanomaterials including, two webinars on nanopollution organized by the Greenwomen in Kazakhstan. In Togo, Welfare Togo, with the financial support from UNITAR, led a project on nanotechnologies and nanomaterials, and human health.

Endocrine-disrupting chemicals

281. To advance work on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), UNEP organized two meetings back-toback with the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. They included a consultative meeting on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals, held on 20 and 21 April 2017, followed by the fourth meeting of the UNEP Advisory Group on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals, held on 21 April 2017. Three reports have been launched to share recent advances in science including: (i) worldwide initiatives to identify EDCs and potential Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals; (ii) review of existing national, regional, and global regulatory frameworks that address EDCs; (iii) overview of the current knowledge on chemicals identified as EDCs and selected potential EDCs. The reports are available on UNEP website.

    UNEA requested in March 2022, as part of resolution 5/7 on the Sound management of chemicals and waste, UNEP executive Director, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, to update the report entitled State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012.

282. An important part of the work of OECD on Test Guidelines was dedicated to screening or testing of EDCs. Two new Test Guidelines on fish embryo models for EDC screening and mode of action determination were released (TG 250 EASZY assay for estrogenic chemicals[92], and TG 251 RADAR assay on androgenic chemicals[93]). The Programme also established a new Expert Group on Thyroid Disruption Methods), with an initial focus on the standardization of in vitro methods emanating from the EU-NETVAL initiative organized by EURL-ECVAM[94]..

283. IPEN in Serbia performed an investigation of BPA in thermal paper and plastic food packaging – including recycled plastics. Analysis was also conducted on the presence of banned or restricted phthalates in toys and childcare articles with the aim of raising public awareness on toy health safety in Serbia. IPEN ran an awareness-raising campaign on the impacts of EDCs in Tunisia. In India, NGO studies investigated BPA in

[90] Schwab, F., Rothen-Rutishauser, B., Scherz, A. et al. The need for awareness and action in managing nanowaste. Nat. Nanotechnol. 18, 317–321 (2023). (https://doi.org/10.1038/s41565-023-01331-4)

[91] Nanotechnology Production Chains in Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico (ISBN: 978-958-774-617-4)

[92] https://doi.org/10.1787/0a39b48b-en

[93] https://doi.org/10.1787/da264d82-en

[94] https://dx.doi.org/10.2760/862948

baby feeding bottles and sippy cups. Another study explored BPA in thermal paper widely used in ATMs and cash register receipts.

284. IPEN conducted several activities in Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Pacific including analyzing EDCs in urine, monitoring EDCs in consumers' products, including children's products, monitoring farmers' exposure to EDCs-containing pesticides, and monitoring EDCs in water bodies. Other NGOs translated IPEN's EDCs Guide to their local language and used it for their local campaigns, to guide their work, or in their outreach to government agencies.

Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants

285. According to the progress report of IPEN, the Center for Environmental Solutions, during a public awareness-raising campaign in Belarus, raised the issue of obsolete pharmaceuticals in the environment.

286. Given global attention and the need for further information dissemination and awareness-raising on EPPPs highlighted by ICCM4, UNEP has carried out a specific analysis. The report looks at the magnitude of the problems concerning the impact of EPPPs on the environment and human health, what the drivers are, and which knowledge gaps need to be addressed. The report also discusses shared challenges, and strategies to prevent and mitigate the problem, offering some examples of practical solutions that relevant stakeholders can carry out to accelerate action. Furthermore, UNEP has also developed two technical discussion papers on safe disposal of unused medicines, needs and conditions of EPPPs, and sustainable procurement to deepen the analysis.

287. Global discussions have been promoted mapping out and mobilizing different stakeholders through webinars. Capacity development activities have also been carried out in countries to analyze and support their efforts on safe disposal of unused medicines. UNEP is implementing a GEF Medium Size Project on EPPPs, executed by WHO with UNEP technical inputs on hotspot analysis and environmental pollution pathways, which launched in 2023. In addition, UNEP is supporting the link to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a related agenda with a number of common elements. UNEP launched in February 2023 its first spotlight report 'Bracing for Superbugs: Strengthening environmental action in the One Health response to antimicrobial resistance', which offers a comprehensive overview of scientific findings on the subject. The report also analyzes the three economic sectors and their value chains that are key drivers of AMR development and spread in the environment: pharmaceuticals and other chemicals, agriculture and food, and healthcare, together with pollutants from poor sanitation, sewage and waste effluent in municipal systems. As part of the Quadripartite Alliance for One Health, UNEP, with FAO, WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) are committed to the AMR agenda, as leaders in the multilateral system on human, animal, plant and environmental health.

288. In 2019, the OECD released the report "Pharmaceutical Residues in Freshwater: Hazards and Policy Responses"[95]. This report calls for a better understanding of the effects of pharmaceutical residues in the environment, greater international collaboration and accountability distribution, and policy actions to prevent and remedy emerging concerns. The report outlines a collective, life-cycle approach to managing pharmaceuticals in the environment. In 2023, the OECD released the report "Management of Pharmaceutical Household Waste: Limiting Environmental Impacts of Unused or Expired Medicine"[96]. This report provides an overview of available data on pharmaceutical consumption and disposal practices across OECD countries, reviews existing collection schemes and provides recommendations to best prevent, collect and treat unused or expired medicines in order to avoid their leakage into the environment.

[95] https://www.oecd.org/publications/pharmaceutical-residues-in-freshwater-c936f42d-en.htm
[96] https://www.oecd.org/environment/management-of-pharmaceutical-household-waste-3854026c-en.htm

Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives

289. The OECD/UNEP Global Perfluorinated Chemicals (PFC) Group, established in 2012, is one mechanism for implementing ICCM 2 Resolution II/5 on PFAS. Under the facilitation of OECD, between 2017-2022 the Global PFC Group has published 7 reports on topics to better characterise and communicate PFAS as well as on shifting to alternatives:

- "Reconciling Terminology of the Universe of Per- and Polyfluoroalky Substances: Recommendations and Practical Guidance"[97].
- Fact Cards of Major Groups of PFASs[98].
- Synthesis Report on Understanding Side-Chain Fluorinated Polymers and Their Life Cycle[99].
- PFASs and alternatives in food packaging (paper and paperboard): Report on the commercial availability and current uses[100].
- PFAS and Alternatives in Food Packaging (Paper and Paperboard): Hazard Profile[101].
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Alternatives in Coatings, Paints and Varnishes (CPVs): Report on the Commercial Availability and Current Uses[102].
- Comprehensive Global List of PFAS[103].

In addition the OECD maintains a WebPortal[104] that regroups the publications and information on country risk reduction initiatives for PFAS (submissions from 14 countries). Twelve webinars have been organised since 2018 with invited experts to share knowledge and experience on PFAS, in particular on risk management approaches and the development of alternatives.

290. IPEN Participating Organizations in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon conducted surveys to explore possible PFAS uses and pollution sources, scientific studies and government actions, including under the

[97] OECD (2021), Reconciling Terminology of the Universe of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: Recommendations and Practical Guidance, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 61, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/terminology-per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances.pdf

[98] OECD (2022), Reconciling Terminology of the Universe of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: Recommendations and Practical Guidance, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 68, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=ENV/CBC/MONO(2022)1&doclanguage=en

[99] OECD (2022), Synthesis Report on Understanding Side-Chain Fluorinated Polymers and Their Life Cycle, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 73, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD

[100] OECD (2020), PFASs and Alternatives in Food Packaging (Paper and Paperboard) Report on the Commercial Availability and Current Uses, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 58, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD,https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/PFASs-and-alternatives-in-food-packaging-paper-and-paperboard.pdf

[101] OECD (2022), PFAS and Alternatives in Food Packaging (Paper and Paperboard): Hazard Profile, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 69, Environment, Health and Safety,Environment Directorate, OECD, https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/cbc/mono(2022)2&doclanguage=en

[102] OECD (2022), Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Alternatives in Coatings, Paints and Varnishes (CPVs), Report on the Commercial Availability and Current Uses, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 70, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD, https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-alternatives-in-coatings-paints-varnishes.pdf

[103] OECD (2018), Toward a New Comprehensive Global Database of Per- and Polyfuoroalkyl Substances (PFASs): Summary Report on Updating the OECD 2007 List of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 39., Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. Sumnmary Report: https://one.oecd.org/document/ENV/JM/MONO(2018)7/en/pdf Database: https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/global-database-of-per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances.xlsx

[104] https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/

Stockholm Convention. The surveys found that the substances are poorly regulated and studies in individual countries found contamination of food contact papers, breast milk, and dust.

291. NGOs in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka developed the first country situation reports on PFAS substances. Though some countries have restricted PFAS in line with the Stockholm Convention listing, most PFAS substances remain unregulated. The reports found significant breast milk contamination in India and contamination of blood in Sri Lanka tea plantation workers. PFAS water pollution was widespread, resulting in contamination of fish.

292. Country situation reports on PFAS were produced by IPEN member NGOs in five countries in Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific including Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. The reports included a review of press articles, scientific studies, and country regulatory policies related to PFAS. The NGOs also engaged with their governments to highlight the need for attention and regulatory action on PFAS in support of PFAS listing under the Stockholm Convention.

293. IPEN produced two reports on the presence of PFAS in various consumer products:

- "Throwaway Packaging, Forever Chemicals"[105] (2021). The report presents data on the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in paper, board, and molded plant fiber disposable food packaging and tableware, sold in six European countries: The Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.
- "PFAS in Clothing: Study in Indonesia, China, and Russia Shows Barriers for Non-toxic Circular Economy"[106] (2022) This study tested for PFAS and related chemicals in water-resistant clothing sold in China, Indonesia, and Russian.

Highly Hazardous Pesticides

294. FAO, WHO and UNEP, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, have focused on reducing the risks and impacts of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) by raising awareness, strengthening governance, supporting structural and technical capacities, and promoting viable alternatives to HHPs[107].

295. FAO and WHO, with support from UNEP and OECD, published the "Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides"[108] with criteria for identifying HHPs as part of a 3-step technical approach to risk mitigation to guide stakeholders to address HHPs. This is in line with the updated FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticides Management[109], which includes articles on the mitigation of risks from HHPs. Several further publications to support the development of appropriate legislations and the mitigation of risks have been published, including "Detoxifying Agriculture and Health from Highly Hazardous Pesticides: A call for action"[110].

296. FAO, WHO and UNEP promote viable alternatives to HHPs in agricultural and health sectors through IPM and Integrated vector management (IVM). UNEP has developed its "Guidelines on alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)". FAO and the Rotterdam Convention have supported capacity building in

[105] https://ipen.org/documents/throwaway-packaging-forever-chemicals

[106] https://ipen.org/documents/pfas-clothing-study-indonesia-china-and-russia-shows-barriers-non-toxic-circular-economy

[107] https://www.fao.org/pest-and-pesticide-management/pesticide-risk-reduction/hhps/en/

[108] FAO/WHO (2016). International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides. Rome. https://www.fao.org/3/i5566e/i5566e.pdf

[109] FAO/WHO (2014). The International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. Rome. https://www.fao.org/3/I3604E/i3604e.pdf

[110] FAO/WHO. 2019. Detoxifying agriculture and health from highly hazardous pesticides - A call for action. Rome. https://www.fao.org/3/ca6847en/ca6847en.pdf

South East Asia, Central Africa and the Caribbean to innovate and scale-up IPM and to develop safe alternatives to HHPs.

297. FAO supports countries to identify HHPs, assess risks and develop risks mitigation program in seven regions during 2019 to 2022. In Africa, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) have drafted strategies to address HHPs regionally, and EAC countries have identified up to 30 HHPs and conducted needs and risk assessments. In Central Africa, FAO and the Rotterdam Convention have supported capacity building for countries to identify and monitor incidents related to HHPs and to promote safer alternatives to them. The Asia and Pacific region (RAP) supports countries in risk assessment and mitigation, including the phasing out of HHPs and promoting alternatives. The Near East and North Africa (NENA) region has identified 89 HHPs and developed some priority actions on HHPs for implementation. Also, HHP risk reduction activities have been undertaken in East Europe and Central Asia (REU) and regulatory actions to phase out or ban HHPs have been taken in 12 Caribbean countries (SLC).

298. Scaling up addressing HHPs globally is currently high on FAO's agenda: in collaboration with IOMC POs including WHO, UNEP, UNDP, and UNIDO as well as national partners, FAO is developing a Global Strategy and Action Plan on HHPs that will be introduced at ICCM5. I

299. PEN's work on highly hazardous pesticides has been actively carried out in Ethiopia, Lesotho, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda. In Kenya (CEJAD), Mozambique (AFSD), Tanzania (AGENDA) and Uganda (NAPE), NGOs identified HHPs used in the country and conducted campaigns for phase-out and replacement with agroecological alternatives. In addition, in several countries in AFR, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia, awareness-raising activities (including public meetings, radio programs, and training workshops) with farmers and community members, campaigns, awareness raising webinars on HHP productions, use, health hazards and safer alternatives were conducted.

300. In addition, IPEN reported on their progress on HHPs in Cameroon and Niger where country situation reports were developed. Awareness-raising was conducted in Benin on the effects of chemical pesticide use and in Cameroon on management of empty pesticide containers. Alternatives to pesticides were addressed in Benin, Chad, Burundi, and Niger and integrated agriculture promoted in Togo. In Mali, the health impacts of pesticides were studied in the cotton growing region. Finally, awareness-raising among customs and police officers in Benin addressed the illegal traffic of endosulfan.

301. With the coordination efforts of IPEN and RAPAL (the Latin America Regional Network on Pesticides and Alternatives) members, a series of HHP country situation reports have been published and used in public awareness-raising activities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, and will soon be finished in Panama and Uruguay. Awareness raising and campaign activities were conducted in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, and Paraguay on a wide range of topics including risk reduction arising from HHP use, pesticide exposure and poisoning, and best agricultural practices.

302. Country situation reports on highly hazardous pesticides were undertaken or are underway in Jordan, Oman, Morocco, Sudan, Iraq, and Tunisia. In addition, a workshop on the use of ceratitis traps for insects was conducted in Tunisia.

303. IPEN partners engaged in activities to identify the availability and use of those pesticides that are highly hazardous under their ordinary conditions of use in the country, and promoted establishment and enforcement of legislation that prohibits the manufacture, import, sale and use of HHPs:

- In 2021, Country Situation Reports on Highly Hazardous Pesticide were drafted by IPEN partners in 17 countries: Uganda, India, Mali, Tunisia, Jamaica, India, Togo, Burundi, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Cuba, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Costa Rica.
- In addition, collection of information about HHP alternatives was conducted in four countries: Tanzania, Kenya, Vietnam, Niger.

- In 2022, these reports were complemented with information on use of chlorpyrifos in 14 countries: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Armenia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia, Togo, Chile, Uruguay, Mexico, Nepal, India, Indonesia.

304. NGOs have been working to regulate highly hazardous pesticides in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. In Bangladesh, community awareness programs for farmers have been organized. NGOs in India have worked with farmers to develop sustainable farming systems in addition to addressing agricultural waste and dicofol – a pesticide listed in the Stockholm Convention for global elimination. In Sri Lanka, NGOs have worked both on pesticide regulatory policy and in training farmers to implement organic agriculture.

305. PAN International worked to phase-out HHPs and phase-in agroecology as the alternative to HHPs, contributing to the achievement of all 17 SDGs (see contribution to SDGs in http://files.panap.net/resources/Agroecology-PAN-International-Position-Paper-en.pdf). PAN International representatives from Europe, Asia & Pacific, Africa, Latin-American and the North America engaged in the SAICM intersessional process, took part in IP3 and OEWG3, contributed to relevant papers and were actively involved in side events, sector meetings etc.

306. PAN International engaged in relevant international pesticide policy forums (such as the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on pesticide Management) and Conventions with the goal of better protecting humans and the environment from pesticides and to support sustainable alternatives in pest management and crop protection. In 2017, PAN International supported the successful listing of the HHPs carbofuran and trichlorfon in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, and the 2019 dicofol in the Stockholm Convention contributing significant information on nonchemical alternatives. With the publication of its position paper on Agroecology in multiple languages, PAN International contributed to a better understanding of Agroecology as a solution to HHPs. PAN regional centers and member groups supported the PAN international work and carried out a wide range of independent activities, including:

- PAN UK implemented a campaign on experience sharing and international dissemination of HHP risk reduction and promotion of alternatives to HHPs. This included engagement with sustainability standards and supermarkets, and IPM and non-chemical solutions for specific commodities like in pineapple, coffee and cotton. The promotion of organic cotton in cooperation with PAN partner OBEPB in Benin is one example of PAN's engagement to phase-in alternatives to hazardous pesticides in West Africa.
- PAN Africa supported national engagement for agroecology with a specific support of women farmers and engaged in information and knowledge transfer.
- PAN North America (PANNA) participated and lead campaigns to achieve restrictions and a legal ban of neurotoxic HHP chlorpyrifos. PANNA achieved a California buffer zone legislation against HHPs use around schools to protect children and carried out the Hawaii buffer zone campaign (ongoing) where people live in closer proximity to field test sites and are especially exposed to HHPs. PANNA supported indigenous rural residents in Minnesota which are suffering health damage from HHP drift from potato fields and to get the company currently producing potatoes with HHPs to move to less toxic production methods. PANNA coordinated the joint PAN International work on Agroecology, supported experience sharing of agroecology successes in the US, advocated to promote alternatives to HHPs e.g. a more ecological approach to agriculture in California and was the relevant force in putting a Californian legislation in place that ensures that sustainable practices will reach this often-marginalized community of farmers.
- By issuing the PAN International HHP-List, PAN Germany provided to the global community an important tool that enabled stakeholders to identify HHPs, and empowered them to take steps within their area of responsibility in phasing-out HHPs and replacing them with less harmful alternatives. With its webinar "SAICM for newcomers" ("SAICM für Einsteiger"), PAN Germany raised awareness about SAICM and stressed the importance of taking action on global HHPs replacement. PAN Germany

revealed the growing danger of endocrine disrupting pesticides especially for children and engaged in the European EDC-free Campaign (EU wide). PAN Germany contributed to the critical discussion on double standards in pesticide trade and supported engagement against these, by revealing that more than a quarter of all pesticides exported from Germany in 2018 were highly hazardous and some had no EU approval as they were carcinogenic, toxic to reproduction or acute highly toxic (WHO Ib).(PAN Germany Study "Toxic Exports - The export of highly hazardous pesticides from Germany into the world).

- PAN Europe coordinated work on EU level, engaged to promote IPM and alternatives to HHPs e.g. with a Film and report on "Alternative methods in weed management to the use of Glyphosate and other herbicides." PAN Europe played an important role in pushing the identification and exclusion from approval of ED pesticides in EU pesticide law.
- PAN Asia and Pacific (PAN AP) complied and published the PAN International Consolidated List of Banned pesticides, giving regulators and other stakeholders easy access to information on how various jurisdictions are dealing with HPPs and other pesticides, providing additional support for their phase-out. PANAP undertake numerous engagements to raise awareness of women, and others, of HHPs and their alternatives; and Sarojeni Rengam the Executive Director of PAN Asia & Pacific was awarded the 'Gender Pioneers for a Future Detoxified' by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stock-holm Conventions on 3 May 2017. In 2019, PANAP published the results of its extensive community monitoring in 7 Asian countries, drawing attention to the widespread use of HHPs, the resulting poisoning (7 out of 10 farmers) and the lack of proper implementation of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management resulting in a number of human rights breaches. Public Eye (CH), PAN UK and PAN Asia & Pacific published the report "Adverse health effects caused by paraquat" and documented the alarming health risks of paraquat. The report repeatedly addresses the particular risk to women.
- PAN Latin-American (RAP-AL): Contributed to transparency and awareness regarding HHP use by issuing country reports for Argentina, Mexico and Chile in cooperation with IPEN. RAP-Al strongly engaged on alternatives to HHPs, promoting agroecology on a scientific and farmer level.

307. In collaboration with IPEN, CREPD developed on online course on women/gender and HHPs that registered significant number of subscribers who completed the course.

308. Health Care without Harm Europe published the Report "Promoting safer disinfectants in the healthcare sector"[111] of the SAICM 2.0 Project. The objectives of this project are: to promote the use of safer and more environmentally friendly disinfectants without compromising hygienic and occupational health standards.; to reduce the emission of hazardous substances in the environment, thereby contributing to implementation of the WHO Chemicals Road Map and the United Nations Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) process.[112]

309. EASD actively participated in establishing the SPP-CWP panel as well as in cooperation activities with the academic sector. Education on the topic of intentionally added microplastics in detergents and cosmetic products has already been conducted in cooperation with Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Serbia. In addition, EASD has done: a Call to action for a tomorrow without toxics, and supported a Call on governments related transparency requirements on chemicals in plastics to support the effectiveness of the (future) Plastic Treaty.

310. A number of countries have been active under this core activity (d). The complete list of answers submitted to the Questionnaire, which was prepared by the SAICM secretariat for the extended period 2020–2022, are presented in Annex IV. All submissions are also available online on the SAICM website[26]. A selection

[111] https://noharm-europe.org/sites/default/files/documents-files/6599/2020-11-25-Promoting-safer-disinfectants-in-the-healthcare-sector_WEB.pdf

[112] https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240036864

of results, actions and activities taken by governments relevant for the period 2020-2022 is provided in the paragraphs below.

311. Armenia: Information sharing on emerging risks related to chemicals handling and awareness-raising campaign for vulnerable groups. Emerging policy issues have been discussed in BiH ESAP 2030+. BH set the goal (among others) to promote multisectoral collaboration in chemicals and waste management by developing and implementing a protocol that will define activities for all sectors including the promotion of educational activities.
312. Brazil: Emerging policy issues, not addressed in existing agreements, are discussed in specific groups established under Conasq.
313. Cambodia: Information sharing through SMC platform and regular meetings with relevant stakeholders.
314. Colombia: Currently participating in the OECD Working Group on Manufactured Nanomaterials. Initiative called "Management Plans for the Return of Post-Consumer Products of Expired Pharmaceuticals or Medicines" was awarded in 2021 as a successful policy worldwide in the Special Awards category of the Future Policy Award 2021, which recognized the best protection policies in the world against hazardous chemicals.
315. Costa Rica: Exchange if information on emerging policy issues via National Nanotechnology Laboratory (Laboratorio Nacional de Nanotecnología, LANOTEC) and the Regional Institute for Studies on Toxic Substances (IRET) as well as their undergraduate and postgraduate courses.
316. Ethiopia: Creation of a national chemical registration database which also serves as a platform to share information with all major stakeholders. A National inventory of PCB containing transformers was conducted including the creation of a PCB registry database.
317. Finland: The Chemicals Forum was established as a measure of the Chemicals Programme, and it will involve stakeholders and researchers in developing and influencing the decision-making process. New chemical issues and challenges arising from them, such as endocrine disruptors, nanomaterials, combined effects of chemicals or chemicals related to the circular economy, will be brought up in the discussion at the Chemicals Forum.
318. France: Continued its action on emerging risks. On nanomaterials, France is working to improve the quality of the data in the mandatory declaration register of nanomaterials placed on the market and distributed in France each year and continued to implement the second national strategy on endocrine disruptors. This strategy aims to reduce the exposure of the population and the environment to endocrine disruptors through the deployment of training and information, the reduction of risks at source and the promotion of research. France has also contributed to the European work on the definition of endocrine disruption in the CLP regulation.
319. Gambia: Capacity building and information sharing activities.
320. Germany: In 2020 the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) started a campaign with the aim to inform the public concerning the proper disposal of unused medicines. Initiatives on awareness raising and on providing early support on challenges identified for advanced materials, including manufactured nano materials. As part of the project “Thematic Conferences on Advanced Materials” an international stakeholder dialogue on advanced materials in the form of three thematic conferences was organized between 2019 and 2021. Initiative “Towards Safe and Sustainable Advanced (Nano)materials: A proposal for an early awareness and action system for advanced materials" (Early4AdMa) developed by Dutch RIVM together with BAuA, BfR and UBA with the aim to assist in identifying action on advanced materials that may be needed with regard to human health, environment, sustainability and to regulatory issues.
321. Iraq: Information and data exchange on risks associated with chemicals and the hazardous waste sector, especially in critical issues of concern (i.e. pesticides, lead in dyes, pharmaceutical sector). Promotion and implementation of BRS conventions.

322. Kenya: Participated in the drafting of the updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/12). Cohort study Characterizing household air pollutant and lead exposures and infant neurodevelopment from 2021-2025. Development of communication material on HHPs for community awareness in prioritized areas. National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.
323. Kingdom of Lesotho: Awareness raising activities on risk reduction for human health and workers safety.
324. Madagascar: Publication of the air quality newsletter in Antananarivo since 2020.
325. Montenegro: New strategy for chemicals management brought by the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.
326. Panama: Several online conferences on endocrine disruptors were held under the coordination of the University of Panama and CIIMET, in coordination with the Ministry of Health. Progress in the establishment of regulations for dangerous pesticides.
327. South Africa: An Academic Researchers Forum was established to strengthen science-policy interface not just on international but also local emerging policy issues.
328. National instrument under development within the framework of the CPSQ.
329. A few countries sent their responses outside the questionnaire. An extract of their responses that relates to core activity (d) is given in the following paragraphs.
330. EU:
    - Development of the concept of 'Safe and Sustainable by Design' chemicals and materials, including development of draft criteria and conduction of test cases in public-private.
    - Submission of restriction proposal to ban all PFAS (not yet adopted).
331. Serbia: The Ministry of Environmental Protection in cooperation with Chemical Industry Association within the SCC organized the stakeholder days with different sector of industries regarding education and sharing information related to risk of use of SVHC (substances of very high concern), Endocrine Disruptors Chemicals in their production process, available safer alternatives, new upcoming bans of restrictions of new hazardous chemicals including POPs candidates. Thematic workshops related to implementation of the EU legal acts related to chemicals managements such as REACH, CLP, PIC and POPs Regulations were held.

Looking beyond 2020

332. With eight emerging policy issues and issues of concern raised since 2009, there are many lessons learned to reflect upon in moving forward. Areas to scale-up efforts and streamline, as relevant, to address emerging policy issues should be determined with a view to increase risk reduction and information sharing. Consideration should be given to whether and how these emerging policy issues and other issues of concern may be taken up in the future instrument.

3.5 Core activity (e) – Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society

Overall guidance

333. The Strategic Approach fosters a strengthened science-policy interface and promotes transparent cooperative actions on global priorities, including voluntary industry initiatives, product stewardship, green chemistry, and information exchange. International and regional cooperation, including sharing data between countries, provides effective and cost-efficient means for strengthening chemicals and waste management.

334. One prerequisite for a well-functioning chemicals control is the availability of data and knowledge on the impact of substances on the environment and health. Based on the right information on the hazards and distribution of chemicals, both industry and governmental authorities can fulfil their respective responsibilities to contribute to sustainable development. In this context, implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals is among the most important measures a country can undertake, as it provides information on the hazards along the supply chain for chemical products. Chemical hazard and risk reduction information for manufactured products is not covered by the Globally Harmonized System; this information could be made available through the chemicals in products programme. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Global Portal to Information on Chemical Substances (eChemPortal[113]) is accessible globally and provides another source of chemical hazard data.
335. The absence of an information clearing house has had major implications for and impacts on mainstreaming, implementation, and capacity-building efforts. The full use of a more developed and sustained system for sharing relevant health and safety information, while ensuring that proprietary information is appropriately protected, is required in order to encourage all stakeholders to increase their contributions and exchange information. A Strategic Approach clearing house for sharing efforts related to implementation of the 11 basic elements is of particular importance.

Reflections on progress

336. In terms of GHS implementation, the number of countries with "full" or "partial" implementation of GHS is shown in figure 23[114]. GHS is a key component of SAICM implementation, featuring in the basic elements of the Overall Orientation and Guidance: "Collection and systems for the transparent sharing of relevant data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach, such as the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals". Furthermore, it features prominently in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, the Global Plan of Action and the IOMC's paper on integrated chemicals and waste management.
337. As of 2010 which is the baseline, 41 countries had fully or partially implemented GHS in their national legislation, a number that increased to 73 countries by June 2023. In the period 2017-2019, 9 governments were added to the countries that adopted GHS (i.e. 3 CEE, 2 ASP, 2 LAC), while 4 countries were added in 2020-2023 (i.e. 1 in AFR, 1 in ASP, 1 in LAC, 1 in WEOG), as compared to 5 countries in the period 2014-2016. The number of countries with GHS legislation has increased consistently over the years with the largest growth of 14 countries developing legislation in the period 2011-2013. The region with the most countries with GHS legislation is WEOG (29 countries), followed by CEE (19 countries), ASP (i.e. 12 countries), and the LAC (i.e. 10 countries) regions. The AFR region with only three countries adopting GHS legislation falls behind the other regions.

[113] https://www.echemportal.org/echemportal/

[114] National GHS implementation status - as of 1 April 2017 - was defined as passing of national legislation on GHS, categorising countries as following based on the research paper by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Wageningen University & Research (Persson et al, 2017, Sustainability 2017, 9, 2176):

- Full legal implementation: legislation passed as of 1 April 2017, irrespective of on which GHS revision the legislation is based, covering the workplace, agriculture and consumer sectors;
- Partial legal implementation: legislation passed as of 1 April 2017, covering at least one of the sectors agriculture, workplace or consumers;
- Not yet implemented in legislation: no legislation aligned with the GHS has been passed as of 1 April 2017, to the researchers' knowledge.

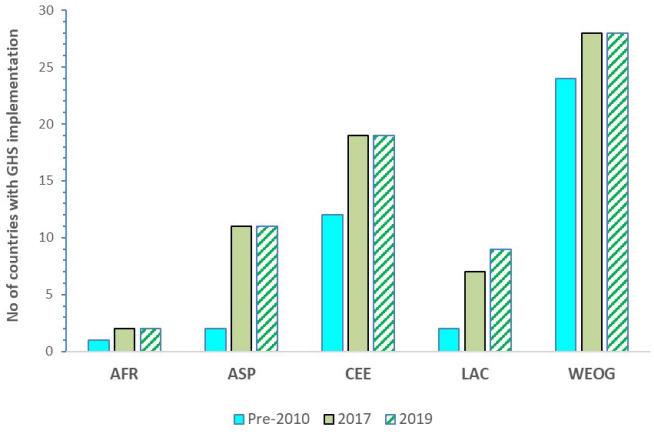


Figure 23- Number of countries with full or partial implementation of GHS pre-2010, in 2017 and as of end of 2019.

338. In April 2002, UNITAR, ILO, and the OECD, initiated the World Summit on Sustainable Development Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the GHS. Since that time, the partners have continued the training and capacity building programme on the GHS. For instance, the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme provides guidance documents, and educational, awareness-raising, resources, and training materials regarding the GHS. Since 2020, UNITAR has developed new documents on developing a national GHS Implementation strategy (2022 revised edition), lessons-learned, key elements of a national roadmap, legislative guidance. Studies have also been undertaken on the GHS and trade, and GHS and agriculture. Documents can be found on the webpage of the Global Partnership to Implement the GHS. ILO has continued its work to promote the GHS globally among its constituents and broader world of work stakeholders. From 2020-2022, ILO developed a number of technical resources and training materials, including a technical report[115] on GHS in the World of Work which explores critical synergies between the GHS and the ILO's instruments on chemicals and occupational safety and health, with the aim to further promote GHS implementation; an awareness raising brochure[116], available in five languages, which provides an overview of the GHS and how it relates to occupational safety and health and International Labour Standards; and a training module[117] on the GHS and linkages with the labour sector and measures that can be taken by world of work stakeholders to further promote its implementation and use at the workplace level.

339. Furthermore, UNITAR reported on a few ongoing activities toward knowledge and information sharing, including: (i) in collaboration with UNEP, UNITAR has developed the Mercury Platform[118] which shares insights, information, knowledge, and resources on mercury management. The Platform includes Mercury:Learn, which provides online training modules on developing mercury releases inventories, based on UNEP's Toolkit, (ii) in collaboration with UNIDO, UNITAR has developed a platform to provide information on the SADC Waste Management project focusing on national efforts to implement BAT/BEP for waste management[119], (iii) with Swiss support and in close cooperation with the Minamata and BRS Secretariats, UNITAR has developed the Chemicals and Waste Platform to share lessons-learned and learning modules that will assist stakeholders in understanding the different elements of chemicals and

[115] https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/news/WCMS_818523/lang--en/index.htm
[116] https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-administration-inspection/resources-library/publications/WCMS_841720/lang--en/index.htm
[117] https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/areasofwork/chemical-safety-and-the-environment/WCMS_871778/lang--en/index.htm
[118] http://mercury.unitar.org
[119] http://stopopenburning.unitar.org/

waste management, and how collaboration across agreements and topics may be beneficial[120]. The United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements, known as InforMEA[121], hosts the Introductory Course to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, created by the Secretariat to facilitate the understanding and applicability of the Convention. Additionally, UNITAR in collaboration with UNDP has developed a PCB Management Platform, which provides a comprehensive series of training materials on different aspects of PCB management, from its production/ import to elimination.

340. In addition to these IOMC Participating Organizations, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) provides the secretariat to the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS, which is a policy body acting as custodian of the GHS. UNECE participates in the Inter-Agency Meetings on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, which also includes all the IOMC Participating Organizations.

341. National capacities for pesticide lifecycle management have been improved and regional collaboration promoted through FAO's pesticide management program in LMICs. These are reflected in strengthened national regulatory frameworks, improved risks assessment and registration, sustainable waste management and reduced reliance on chemical pesticide use, especially through IPM.

342. Currently more than 40 technical guidelines covering all aspects of pesticide lifecycle management, more than 2000 pesticide specifications and 6000 Maximum Residue Limits are published online[122]. Many are translated into UN languages. Recent publications include the "Guidelines on Personal Protection when Handling and Applying Pesticides"[123], which gives special attention to the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)..

343. The report of a joint FAO/WHO global survey on pesticide management, conducted in 2018, was published[124]. Fifty-six countries completed the FAO parts on pesticide registration, regulation, and application. The report draws conclusions and recommendations to countries, funding agencies, and to WHO/FAO. A brochure on all FAO and WHO guidelines and resources on pesticides is also available[125].

344. The FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit[126], fully redesigned in 2019, has been helping pesticide registrars in improving their decisions and in accessing relevant information. As of the end of 2022, FAO has trained more than 600 registration staff members in over 70 countries on the Toolkit on pesticide registration since 2016.

345. In the reporting period 2017 - 2019, the process to update the WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard was started and continued, with new or amended acute toxicity data from evaluations of 95 new pesticides. The updated document was drafted and prepared for publication in 2020.

346. In 2019, WHO worked on development of a resource guide for pesticide registrars and regulators[127] to provide information on suicide prevention by reducing access to, and regulating the use of, highly hazardous pesticides. The resource guide was published in 2019 as a joint publication with FAO.

347. Between 2020 and 2022, the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat substantially updated its Resource Kit[128], which is a comprehensive source of information on the Convention intended to assist countries in the ratification process and in the implementation of the Convention. It has been designed to be flexible, simple to use and to meet the needs of a broad range of end users. The IOMC Toolbox is accessible through the website. The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat produced various publications such as "Pesticides and

[120] http://chemicalsandwaste.org/
[121] https://www.informea.org/en
[122] http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/code/list-guide-new/en/
[123] https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7430en
[124] http://www.fao.org/3/ca7032en/ca7032en.pdf
[125] http://www.fao.org/3/ca5201en/ca5201en.pdf
[126] http://www.fao.org/pesticide-registration-toolkit
[127] https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241516389
[128] https://www.pic.int/Implementation/ResourceKit/tabid/1064/language/en-US/Default.aspx

environmental incidents"[129], "Pesticides use, pesticides trade and pesticides indicators: Global, regional and country trends, 1990–2020"[130] and "Rotterdam Convention: Results of technical assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020-2021"[131].

348. Together with other FAO teams, the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat also worked on gender and pesticide exposure and on child labor, producing several publications. These include "Eliminating hazardous child labor through safe and sustainable farming practices"[132] and "Addressing hazardous child labor and reducing risks posed by hazardous pesticides"[133]. The objective of these brochures is to provide different stakeholders with an array of information pertaining to hazardous pesticides and child labor, the role they can play and the tools and resources to address the issue. The publication "Addressing gender issues in pesticide management"[134] highlights the gender-related implications of pesticide use and management, focusing on women's handling of hazardous pesticides through their roles in agriculture, the reasons why they are at higher risk and the health-related implications they face.

349. In 2021 FAO published a report "Assessment of agricultural plastics and their sustainability. A call for Action"[135]. In December 2022, FAO Council recommended the Organization to: support developing a "Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture"; and to support the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

350. To address knowledge gaps, FAO is preparing a series of reports on plastics used in agriculture, including a review of international regulatory instruments, an overview of national policy instruments, and a summary of findings from ongoing research projects. In addition, FAO has started inclusive and geographically representative consultations to inform the development of the Voluntary Code of Conduct, which is anticipated to be presented to the FAO Committee on Agriculture in September 2024.

351. ILO's work on knowledge and information sharing contributes significantly to this core activity. ILO has created a new website dedicated to the topic of chemicals and the environment[136]. This website is regularly updated with key resources, including instructional material, resources lists, information on normative instruments, and information on relevant upcoming events. The ILO has developed a large number of technical publications between 2020 and 2022 related to chemicals on topics including the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, mercury exposure in the workplace, a review of international legal instruments related to chemicals and a global review of chemical exposures in the world of work. It furthermore contains links to information about SAICM and IOMC. ILO, in collaboration with its International Training Centre (ITC-ILO) and the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) provides training on Chemicals Safety in the framework of a Master's Program in Occupational Safety and Health as well as an online training on major industrial accidents and their prevention[137]. Furthermore, the ILO has developed training materials on a range of topics related to chemical safety, including occupational safety and health and chemicals, chemicals and climate change and specific sectoral and chemical risk specific topics such as mining, agriculture and mercury, for example.

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[129] "Pesticides and environmental incidents: Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade" (FAO, 2022). https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6761en

[130] FAO 2022, FAOSTAT Analytical Briefs, no. 46, Rome. https://www.fao.org/3/cc0918en/cc0918en.pdf

[131] FAO 2022, https://www.pic.int/Implementation/ResourceKit/tabid/1064/language/en-US/Default.aspx

[132] FAO, 2021. https://www.fao.org/3/cb3587en/cb3587en.pdf

[133] FAO, 2021. https://www.fao.org/3/cb3586en/cb3586en.pdf

[134] FAO, 2022. https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CC0356EN/

[135] https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7856en

[136] https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/areasofwork/chemical-safety-and-the-environment/lang--en/index.htm

[137] https://www.itcilo.org/courses/major-industrial-accidents-and-their-prevention

352. The GCO-II is a key publication orchestrated by UNEP, with engagement of a wide spectrum of SAICM stakeholders, and seeks to alert policymakers and other stakeholders to the critical role of the sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of sustainable development. The GCO-II was published by UNEP in 2019. It is accompanied by a summary for policy makers and a synthesis report, both of which are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russia and Spanish which can be found on the UNEP website. Videos, brochures and factsheets were developed for the dissemination of the information from the report.

    Delegates in Nairobi at the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 4) in March 2019 welcomed the GCO-II and adopted Resolution 4/8 on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Among others, the Resolution contains a mandates for UNEP to prepare a report by 30 April 2020 on relevant issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment identified by SAICM, the GCO and under sub-paragraph (e) above[138], including an analysis of existing regulatory and policy frameworks and their ability to address these issues towards the achievement of the 2020 goal, in particular for lead and cadmium.

353. In September 2020, UNEP published An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment. The report aims to inform the international community about the current situation of specific issues of concern, based on a review of published evidence. The report assesses the eight emerging policy issues and other issues of concern identified under the SAICM. The report reviews how current regulatory and policy frameworks address them by specific instruments and actions, building on UNEP Global Chemicals Outlook-II findings and highlighting challenges and opportunities. The report also assesses the eleven issues with emerging evidence of risks identified by GCO-II. A "thought starter" on the identification of issues of concern is also presented in the report, including a review of existing approaches, a map of other current relevant initiatives, and considerations of potential areas in which future issues of concern might be identified and possible identification processes. The Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: is available on the UNEP website[139], accompanied by annexes and an executive summary (also available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish). A Technical Briefing on the report was organized in November 2020 during the SAICM Virtual Working Group meetings to support the discussions of Virtual Working Group 3 on Issues of Concern.

354. In response to the recommendations of the GCO-II to integrate green and sustainable chemistry into education, research and innovation policies and programmes, UNEA Resolution 4/8 welcomed the analysis of best practices in sustainable chemistry. The resolution requested UNEP to prepare manuals on green and sustainable chemistry, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

    UNEP's Green and Sustainable Chemistry: Framework Manual[140] provides a high-level overview of various scientific, technical and policy aspects of green and sustainable chemistry. At the heart of the Framework Manual are 10 objectives and guiding considerations for green and sustainable chemistry. The overall intention of the Framework Manual is to foster learning and scaling-up action to advance the Objectives and unveil the full potential of chemistry such that it is compatible with, and supports, the implementation of the 2030 sustainable development agenda. UNEA Resolution 5/7 welcomed the Framework Manual and encouraged it's use as appropriate.

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[138] Subparagraph (e) reads as follows: Follow trends in the design, production, use and release of chemicals and the generation of waste in order to identify issues of concern for future editions of the Global Chemicals Outlook and the Global Waste Management Outlook and catalyse sound management actions.

[139] An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment | UNEP - UN Environment Programme

[140] https://www.unep.org/resources/toolkits-manuals-and-guides/green-and-sustainable-chemistry-framework-manual

A Specialised Manual on Green and Sustainable Chemistry Education was also developed by UNEP. By providing practical guidance for designing effective green and chemistry learning, and featuring examples and resources, the Specialized Manual intends to stimulate and facilitate transformative changes through education to reap the full potential of green and sustainable chemistry. At the time of this update, the Specialized Manual is in its final development stages.

355. An "Integrated Stockholm Convention toolkit to improve the transmission of information under Articles 07 and 15 of the Stockholm Convention" is a GEF funded project that aims to facilitate the development, transmission, access, and use of data contained in national implementation plans and national reports. It includes the development of an electronic template for the reporting of quantitative information contained in national implementation plans in a manner harmonized with the reporting under Article 15 of the Convention.

356. UNEP also developed tools to provide technical information on mercury, amongst which are the Global Mercury Assessment (2018), the Global Mercury Supply, Trade and Demand Report (2017) as well as the Mercury Inventory Toolkit (2019 updated version). With the support of the GEF, UNEP is supporting 62 countries in their Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) where UNEP mercury toolkit is used to provide an overview of the mercury emissions nationally and established priorities for action. In addition, 25 countries are supported by UNEP in the development of their National Action Plan (NAP) for the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining sector. UNEP supported the countries by developing a methodology for initial assessment of the use of mercury in the sector and is supporting the collection of information with a geographic representation tool, MAP-X. UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre has also been investigating the issue of open burning of mercury waste since 2018.

357. UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) provided knowledge and technical support for development of national- and municipal-level waste policies, strategies, and action plans. In partnership with Global Partnership on Waste Management, the Centre completed three assessments in 2017: (i) Global Mercury Waste assessment, (ii) Waste management in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN Countries), (iii) Regional study on mercury waste management in the ASEAN countries. The Global Waste Management Outlook published in 2015 provided targeted regional and thematic reports. A thematic outlook for mountain region was published in December 2016, and one for Small Island Developing States was published in 2019. Regional waste management outlooks for Asia, Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean were published in September 2017, and the Waste management outlook for Africa was published in June 2018 during the World Environment Day. An update to the Global Waste Management Outlook is under development and will be launched at UNEA-5 in 2021.

358. The IETC also produced three thematic publications on waste in 2019: (i) "the Waste to Energy: Considerations for Informed Decision-making"; (ii) "Future E-Waste Scenarios" which targets two specific waste streams; (iii) "the Gender and waste nexus: Experiences from Bhutan, Mongolia, and Nepal" highlights the interlinkages between gender and waste management. The Centre also promoted the 3R approach for waste management through development of waste management strategies and action plans at national and city levels. In 2019, the Maldives, Cambodia, Honduras, Tanzania, and Bhutan developed and adopted national waste management strategies with support from UNEP.

359. The World Bank has recently completed an economic cost estimate of health effects from lead exposure and, in 2023, plans to release a comprehensive report on the global cost of lead pollution. Currently, the Bank is working on an assessment of conflict-related toxic chemical contamination in Ukraine. Other recent examples of analytical work include[141]:

- The Global Health Cost of PM2.5 Air Pollution: A Case for Action Beyond 2021.
- Recycling of Used Lead-Acid Batteries: Guidelines for Appraisal of Environmental Health Impacts.

[141] Searchable at https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/home

- Artisanal Scale Gold Mining: A Framework for Collecting Site-Specific Sampling and Survey Data to Support Health-Impact Analyses.
- Getting Down to Earth: Are Satellites Reliable for Measuring Pollutants that Cause Mortality in Low- And Middle-Income Countries?
- Are All Air Pollution Particles Equal? How Constituents and Sources of Fine Air Pollution Particles (PM2.5) Affect Health.
- Blue Skies, Blue Seas: Air Pollution, Marine Plastics and Coastal Erosion in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Risk Analysis Approaches to Evaluating Health Impacts from Land-Based Pollution in Low-and Middle-Income Countries[142]
- Pollution and Health: A Progress Update[143]

360. UNIDO's Global Green Chemistry Initiative is a GEF funded project that aims to increase global awareness and technical capacities on deployable Green Chemistry approaches for the design of products and processes that advance global environmental benefits throughout their life cycles. UNIDO, in close collaboration with the Centre for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale University, conducted different awareness raising and training workshops and drafted a guidance document and a technology compendium to promote the concept of green chemistry in economies in transition.

361. OECD has continued to populate its Substitution and Alternatives Assessment Toolbox especially with a library of case studies[144]. A comparative study of activities on substitution and alternative assessment in a number of countries was released in 2019[145]. On sustainable chemistry, the OECD released a report on the economic features of Chemicals Leasing, which received a silver award at the 2018 Global Chemical Leasing Awards[146]. OECD has continued work to develop and disseminate guidance and information on Substitution and Sustainable Chemistry. This includes the following information sources and reports.

Substitution:

- OECD Substitution and Alternatives Assessment Toolbox (ongoing).
- Key Considerations Identification and Selection of Safer Chemicals Alternatives[147].
- Lessons Learned from Third-Party Approaches that Support Substitution of Chemicals of Concern[148].
- Economic instruments to incentivise substitution of chemicals of concern – a review[149].

[142] Williams, Pamela RD, et al. Risk Analysis 41.11 (2021): 1971-1986 (https://doi.org/10.1111/risa.13699)

[143] Richard Fuller et al., The Lancet, Vol.6, Issue 6, E535-E547, June 2022 (https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(22)00090-0)

[144] http://www.oecdsaatoolbox.org/

[145] http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/testing/substitution-of-hazardous-chemicals.htm

[146] http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/risk-management/sustainablechemistry.htm

[147] OECD (2021), Guidance on Key Considerations for the Identification and Selection of Safer Chemical Alternative, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 60, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/guidance-on-key-considerations-for-the-identification-and-selection-of-safer-chemical-alternatives.pdf

[148] OECD (2023), Lessons Learned from Third-Party Approaches that Support Substitution of Chemicals of Concern, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 78, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/lessons-learned-from-third-party-approaches-support-substitution-of-chemicals-of-concern.pdf

[149] OECD (2023), Economic instruments to incentivise substitution of chemicals of concern – a review, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 79, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/economic-instruments-to-incentivise-substitution-of-chemicals-of-concern-a-review.pdf

- Cross Country Analysis: Approaches to Support Alternatives Assessment and Substitution of Chemicals of Concern – 2nd edition[150].

Sustainable Chemistry:

- A Chemicals Perspective on Designing with Sustainable Plastics Goals, Considerations and Trade-offs[151]
  - CASE STUDY ON BISCUIT WRAPPERS An example of weighing sustainability criteria for plastic flexible food packaging from a chemicals perspective[152]
  - CASE STUDY ON DETERGENT BOTTLES An example of weighing sustainability criteria for rigid plastic non-food packaging[153]
  - CASE STUDY ON FLOORING An example of chemical considerations for sustainable plastics design[154]
  - CASE STUDY ON INSULATION An example of chemical considerations for sustainable plastics design[155]
- Workshop Report on Flexible Food Grade Plastic Packaging[156]
- Workshop Report on Improving Alignment of Chemicals and Waste Management Policy[157]
- Global Forum on Environment - Plastics in a Circular Economy: Design of Sustainable Plastics from a Chemicals Perspective[158]

  1) Considerations and Criteria for Sustainable Plastics from a Chemical Perspective[159]

[150] OECD (2023), Cross Country Analysis: Approaches to Support Alternatives Assessment and Substitution of Chemicals of Concern – 2nd edition, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 77, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/cross-country-analysis-approaches-alternatives-assessment-and-substitution-second-edition.pdf

[151] OECD (2021), A Chemicals Perspective on Designing with Sustainable Plastics : Goals, Considerations and Trade-offs, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/f2ba8ff3-en

[152] OECD (2021), Case study on biscuit wrappers: An example of chemical considerations for sustainable plastics design, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 64, Environment, Health and Safety,Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/sustainable-plastic-products-biscuit-wrappers.pdf

[153] OECD (2021), Case study on detergent bottles: An example of weighing sustainability criteria for rigid plastic non-food packaging , OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 63, Environment, Health andSafety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/sustainable-plastic-products-detergent-bottles.pdf

[154] OECD (2021), Case study on flooring: An example of chemical considerations for sustainable plastics design, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 65, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/sustainable-plastic-products-flooring.pdf

[155] OECD (2021), Case study on insulation: An example of chemical considerations for sustainable plastics design, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 66, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/sustainable-plastic-products%20insulation.pdf

[156] OECD (2023), Workshop Report on Flexible Food-Grade Plastic Packaging, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 76, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/workshop-report-flexible-food-grade-plastic-packaging.pdf

[157]OECD (2020), Workshop Report for the OECD Workshop on Improving Alignment of Chemicals and Waste Management Policy. OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 59, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://one.oecd.org/document/ENV/JM/MONO(2020)27/en/pdf

[158] OECD (2018), Meeting report of the Global Forum on Environment: Plastics in a Circular Economy - Design of Sustainable Plastics from a Chemicals Perspective, Environment Directorate. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/global-forum-on-environment-plastics-in-a-circular-economy-meeting-report-.pdf

[159] OECD (2018), Considerations and Criteria for Sustainable Plastics from a Chemicals Perspective – Background Paper 1. OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 53, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/considerations-and-criteria-for-sustainable-plastics-from-a-chemicals-perspective.pdf

2) Technical Tools and Approaches in the Design of Sustainable Plastics[160]
3) Working paper on Policy Approaches to Incentivise Sustainable Plastic Design[161]

- Economic Features of Chemical Leasing[162]

362. The OECD has also expanded its activities on risk management approaches and published a document *Government Risk Management Approaches Used for Chemicals Management* [163]that provides a synthesis of the various risk management approaches and options that are used by government chemical regulatory programmes. The synthesis can serve as a basis for future discussions of individual risk management approaches and facilitate international alignment. It can also promote the identification of areas where governments can additionally support better chemicals management and serve as a resource for countries developing their chemicals management programmes.
363. Four IPEN organizations based in CEE are involved in the Life AskReach initiative[164]. This effort created a mobile phone application, Scan4Chem, that allows the public to inquire if a product contains a Substance of Very High Concern. The answers provided by manufacturers are used for building a database of products with these substances that is accessible to the public. They have created an easy-to-use process to make ingredients information readily accessible to the average person.
364. In Collaboration with IPEN, CREPD organized and host four webinars on topics like toxic chemicals in plastics and toxics-free SDGs among African BRS convention delegates and NGOs. CREPD also continued advocacy for the enforcement of lead paint, and development of national capacity to identify, analyze and address lead exposures from other relevant sources (Lead acid Battery recycling plans, Aluminum cookware).
365. An awareness-raising project by Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE) was conducted. The project focused on potential risks from glyphosate and existing agro-ecological alternatives primarily focused on decision-makers in the area of chemical safety, NGOs, farmers, and other stakeholders. The project raised awareness among women and children as most vulnerable groups. The guidelines on hazardous pesticides in the FAO Code of Conduct were translated into Armenian and disseminated at the training for stakeholders.
366. As a companion to the WHO Chemicals Road Map, the WHO chemicals road map workbook was developed and published in 2018 in 6 UN languages. The workbook was designed to assist Member States in using the road map to identify priorities and to plan activities around these priorities, offering a structured way to work through the road map. It can also facilitate sharing of information and discussions within and among countries/organizations about health sector priorities and potential activities to address them. It included input received from Member States. The workbook aims to increase capacities of Member States, consequently it helps to implement Objective D, Capacity building and Technical Cooperation.

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[160] OECD (2018), Technical Tools and Approaches in the Design of Sustainable Plastics – Background Paper 2. OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 52, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/technical-tools-and-approaches-in-the-design-of-sustainable-plastics.pdf

[161] Watkins, E., et al. (2019), "Policy approaches to incentivise sustainable plastic design", *OECD Environment Working Papers*, No. 149, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/233ac351-en.

[162] OECD(2017), Economic Features of Chemical Leasing), Series on Risk Management No. 37, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/economic-features-of-chemical-leasing.pdf

[163] OECD (2022), Government Risk Management Approaches Used for Chemicals Management, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 74, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD. https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/government-risk-management-approaches-used-for-chemicals-management.pdf

[164] https://www.askreach.eu/scan4chem-app-for-checking-substances-of-very-high-concern-in-products-launched/

367. WHO's technical work to implement road map activities included publication of updated estimates of the burden of disease attributable to chemicals, presented in the document: *The Public Health Impact of Chemicals: Knowns and Unknowns*[165]. In 2016, 1.6 million lives were lost due to exposures to selected chemicals. Data is, however, available only for a small number of chemicals exposure, while people are exposed to many more chemicals. The updated estimations were published in 2018.

368. The WHO has conducted a project on Chemicals of Public Health Concern that aims to raise awareness, advocate for action, and facilitate access to tools for action on selected chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern has been updated regularly. These are: (a) arsenic; (b) asbestos; (c) benzene; (d) cadmium; (e) highly hazardous pesticides; (f) inadequate or excess fluoride intake; (g) lead; (h) mercury; (h) major air pollutants; and (i) polychlorinated dibenzodioxins and dioxin-like compounds. In this reporting period, information on the 10 chemicals was regularly updated, including adding newly developed materials and published on WHO website.

369. In 2019, WHO commenced development of a report on human health risks resulting from exposure to microplastic in the environment. A state of the evidence report on microplastic in drinking-water166 was published. A wider assessment of human health risks from exposure to microplastic particles from the environment via food, air, and other sources of water was initiated.

370. Furthermore, a joint study was commissioned by UNEP and ICCA on Knowledge Management and Information Sharing for the Sound Management of Industrial Chemicals. The study provides a comprehensive inventory of publicly available databases on environmental, health, and safety information (EHS) of the industrial chemicals in commerce. It discusses the scope, strengths, and limitations of each database. SAICM stakeholders were consulted closely during the development of the Study and their inputs were carefully incorporated in the final product. The study was publicly shared with the SAICM stakeholders as an Information Document in advance of the OEWG3 in April 2019 and at the IP3 in October 2019. The SAICM secretariat developed a policy brief on the main findings of this Study[167].

    Following the joint study, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and ICCA, coordinated the development of an e-learning course intended to bridge the information gap by improving accessibility to databases on industrial chemicals. In an interactive and engaging way, this course provides guidance on locating and using information on industrial chemicals in commerce. It also points out some of the barriers to identifying and using chemicals data and defines areas where more information is required. It also presents the key findings of the related study published by UNEP and the ICCA, upon which the course is based.

    The e-learning course on Industrial Chemicals Databases and Information Sharing was launched in April 2022 and can be found on the InforMEA platform[168] under the category Chemicals and Waste.

371. The ICCA also reported on the Long-Range Research Initiative's (LRI) mission to identify and fill gaps in understanding of the hazards posed by chemicals and to improve the methods available for assessing the associated risks. The LRI has become a unique source of scientifically credible information, tools, and methods for use by industry and regulatory bodies. The ICCA-LRI Research Portfolio funds over 100 projects within 3 priority areas: Innovating Chemical Testing; Understanding Everyday Exposures to Chemicals; and Translating Outcomes for Product Safety[169].

[165] https://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/chemicals-public-health-impact/en/
[166] https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/326499/9789241516198-eng.pdf?ua=1
[167] http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/Publications/SAICM_Policy_Brief_KnowledgeInfoSharing.pdf
[168] https://elearning.informea.org/
[169] https://icca-chem.org/focus/chemicals-management/long-range-research-initiative/

372. A Study on Industry Involvement in the Integrated Approach to Financing the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste[170] was developed to provide clarity with respect to the activities that could be undertaken, at various levels, to implement the industry involvement component of the integrated approach. The study also seeks to elaborate on the possibilities for monitoring industry involvement in conjunction with the framework/instrument for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, with a view to increasing international accountability in relation to industry involvement. The study does not aim to provide definitive answers about the scope of and the precise activities that constitute industry involvement. Instead, it aims to give helpful context and recommendations to support decision-making on industry involvement in preparation for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. It can also be used as input for the development of guidelines on implementing industry involvement. Additionally, the study can inform discussions on financing in relation to the framework/instrument for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The study was published in April 2022.

373. The website[14] of the Ozone Secretariat includes many features that facilitate access to information on ozone related issues. Initiatives/developments during the period 2020-2022 include the following:

- Ozone Secretariat educational portal[171], including the Reset Earth animation and game application: launched in 02 and designed to teach children the importance of protecting the ozone layer;
- Online courses[172] on Ozone treaties 'International legal framework on ozone layer protection': aims to introduce the international legal framework on ozone layer protection;
- Virtual exhibition for sustainable cold chains collects and showcases relevant cold chain equipment, information on sustainable cold chain technologies for policy and decision-makers and technology options.
- Technology and Economic Assessment Panel primer provides new delegates and members of the Panel with a concise description of the way the Panel operates in discharging its mandate under the Protocol.

In Addition, the Secretariat developed and improved access to digital information.

374. Health Care without Harm has organized multiple webinars, as well as prepared publications, case studies, and web articles, thus contributing to information access.

- Research conducted with 80 health care systems demonstrated that less than 30% of the respondents were aware of the GHS system of classification and labeling and those who were aware did not know how to use them for protecting health workers.
- Three Global Forums were organized with manufacturers of sustainable health products. Annual Clean Med conferences provide remote and in-person learning.
- Sustainable Health in Procurement Health Project (SHiPP) [173] case studies: A collection of 15 sustainable procurement success stories from around the world (See Annex III for the full list)

375. GEHA, an NGO based in Syria organizes awareness activities to reach out the largest number of citizens in the countryside and to explain the harmful effect of chemicals that are used for animals and cultivation.

376. EASD: Special attention was paid to the education of marginalized groups (Roma population), collectors of secondary raw materials, on hazardous properties of chemicals and the handling of hazardous waste. Example of information for all levels of society is EASD e-awareness raising campaign: attention to environmentally and health friendly waste management in corona virus pandemic related situation,

[170] Study on Industry Involvement in the Integrated Approach to Financing the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste - April 2022 (unep.org)
[171] https://ozone.unep.org/reset-earth-education-resources
[172] https://ozone.unep.org/launch-online-introductory-course-international-legal-framework-ozone-layer-protection
[173] https://noharm-global.org/issues/global/sustainable-health-procurement-project

Information related to CSO activity is available on the website[174]

377. Welfare Togo participated in an online web tv[175].

378. A number of countries have been active under this core activity (e). The complete list of answers submitted to the Questionnaire, which was prepared by the SAICM secretariat for the extended period 2020–2022, are presented in Annex IV. All submissions are also available online on the SAICM website[26]. A selection of results, actions and activities taken by governments relevant for the period 2020-2022 is provided in the paragraphs below.

379. Cambodia: Enhancing implantation Pollutant Release and Transfer Register System.

380. Colombia: Development of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Regiser System.

381. Costa Rica: Information offered to agricultural producers and civil society in general, for decision-making regarding the management of chemical substances and waste. Courses, workshops and presentations on chemical substances, mainly pesticides, microplastics, waste and metals are given annually.

382. Eritrea: Information and awareness regular programs about sound environmental management in general and sound chemicals and waste management in particular have been done since 2021 as well as information access is provided at the Department of environment.

383. Ethiopia: Ethiopia Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) website was created.[176]

384. Finland: An online service, KemiDigi, focuses on providing information on chemicals for both consumers and professionals including information on chemicals products on the market, substances, plant protection products and biocidal products approved in Finland.[177]

385. France: In the 2020-2022 period, France has launched a website and a mass media communication campaign, also presented internationally, centred on the first 1000 days of a child's life including a section on reducing exposure to chemicals in our daily lives. France is also involved in the European LifeAskREACH project[178] which helps consumers and companies to apply the “Right to Know” about substances of very high concern in consumer goods.

386. Gambia: The National Environment Agency has established a platform[179] that provides information on all activities relating to the environment and most particular issues related to chemicals and wastes.

387. Georgia: In 2021 the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture created an electronic registry of Extended Producer Responsibility where producers provide information on the amount of products placed in the market based on the specific streams such as tires, batteries and accumulators, oils and electric and electronic equipment and EPR organizations are obliged to provide information about members of producers, products placed in the market and waste management actions to reach the collection/recycling/energy recovery national targets for each waste streams.

388. Germany: The German Environment Agency has been involved in the Life AskREACH Project and in the Life APEX Project[180]. From 2017 to 2021, the Agency led the HBM4EU Project that is generating evidence of the actual exposure of citizens to chemicals and the possible health effects in order to support policy making.[181] The German Environment Agency is a partner in the PARC Project, that aims to develop next-generation chemical risk assessment to protect human health and the environment[182], and is part of the ZeroPM consortium that addresses the prevention, prioritization and removal approaches to reduce

[174] https://ambassadors-env.com/en/saicm-national-ngo-focal-point/; https://ambassadors-env.com/en/work-areas/waste-and-chemicals/; https://en.alhem.rs/projects/

[175] https://ecoconscience.tv/

[176] https://www.epa.gov.et/

[177] https://www.kemidigi.fi/

[178] https://www.askreach.eu/

[179] www.nea.gm

[180] https://lifeapex.eu/

[181] https://www.hbm4eu.eu/

[182] https://www.eu-parc.eu/

persistent and mobile substance pollution [183]. The UBA website provides information on pharmaceuticals in the environment[184] and the UBA staff provides training on pharmaceuticals in the environment and reduction measures using the materials developed in UBA projects. The biocides portal of the German Environment Agency is part of a comprehensive information system and aims to raise awareness of possible risks associated with the use of biocides.

389. Iraq: Adoption of unified systems for classifying chemicals and hazardous wastes and exchanging information between the relevant authorities. Workshops were held with participation of governmental sectors and NGOs.
390. Kenya: Awareness activities on phasing out the lead in paint and mercury risks, workshops on sound management of chemicals, Training on Air Pollution Source for the community and public health sector, and on the risk of pesticides and benefits of agroecology.
391. Kuwait: The Environmental Protection Authority promoted awareness of many of the chemical safety sectors day to day activities to enforce chemical safety standards and regulations for companies storage and disposal.
392. Kingdom of Lesotho: reports, information, education and communication materials.[185]
393. Montenegro: A national Help Desk provides information on issues in the field of management of chemicals and biocidal products. A Network of Aarhus Centers defines various forms of cooperation aimed at raising environmental awareness. Information on the state of the environment with data on the management of chemicals is available on the Agency's website[186].
394. South Africa: Conducted training, and awareness raising activities using appropriate local languages, to relevant government officials, farmers and the general public. A knowledge hub on emerging issues researched in the country is housed by the Water Research Commission.
395. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): A National Nanotechnology Network focuses on the design of training and dissemination of strategies in Nanotechnology at the National Level.
396. A few countries sent their responses outside the questionnaire. An extract of their responses that relates to core activity (e) is given in the following paragraphs.
397. EU:
    - Improved the dissemination of information via the website of the European Chemicals Agency and European Food Safety Authority.
    - Launch and further development of the SCIP database on the presence of substances of very high concern in products.
    - Action aimed at stakeholders outside EU:
        - ECHA learning sessions on implementation of Rotterdam convention in EU.
        - Support to GHS implementation projects.
        - eChem Portal (financial support).
398. Russian Federation: For the knowledge and information indicator, the following activities were reported (among others): Enhancement of the GHS implementation in 2020-2022, MAYAK, OECD testing methods implementation, State Information Resource "Federal Register of Potentially Hazardous Chemical and Biological Substances", the Federal Law "On Special Inspection of Working Conditions", Technical regulations on the safety of toys and products for children and teenagers, BAT and enhancement of the legislature related to BAT in 2020-2022, information on corporate investment programs related to the use of safer alternatives and cleaner production technologies (2020-2022), Chemical Footprint, Additional information on legislation related to BAT and Web sites references.

[183] https://zeropm.eu/
[184] https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/tierarzneimittel-in-der-umwelt-startseite
[185] https://environment.gov.ls/
[186] https://epa.org.me/

Looking beyond 2020

399. Actions in the activity area promote the application of preventative measures such as pollution prevention, aim to make available science-based standards, risk-management procedures, and information-sharing, and strengthen capacity at the national and regional levels for the exchange of relevant information aimed at the prevention and control of the illegal international traffic in chemicals and hazardous wastes.
400. Stakeholders are also invited to develop, identify, and share relevant information and databases with the SAICM Secretariat to contribute actively to the knowledge management activities of SAICM.
401. Stakeholders may wish to reflect on relevant milestones for achieving progress in this area beyond 2020.

3.6 Core activity (f) – Assess progress toward the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation, and prioritizing actions moving forward

Overall guidance

402. In order to secure the necessary level of political support and financing to achieve the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, it is essential to demonstrate credible and continuous progress at the national, regional, and international levels.
403. The Strategic Approach secretariat has performed periodic reviews on the implementation of the Strategic Approach by stakeholders for consideration by ICCM using the 20 indicators of progress agreed upon by the ICCM at its second session. A number of Strategic Approach stakeholders have made helpful contributions toward evaluating progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.

Reflections on progress

404. In line with ICCM Resolution IV/1, the secretariat has developed five reports on progress toward the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management since the inception of the Strategic Approach in 2006: 2006-2008 baseline report, 2009-2010 progress report (PR1), 2011-2013 progress report (PR2), 2014-2016 progress report (PR3), and 2017-2019 progress report (PR4). Due to the postponement of ICCM5 a fifth progress report, was necessary to cover progress also for the period 2020–2022. Therefore, this present progress report, PR5, is the combination of the 2017–2019 progress report, PR4, with inclusion of progress in the 2020–2022 period.
405. With regards to the 2017–2019 progress report, the stakeholder groups, including the World Health Organization, IOMC, IPEN, and ICCA, submitted progress reports for the period 2017-2019. These reports are available in the format that they were received on the SAICM website[187].
406. The Independent Evaluation of SAICM has looked at the progress reports until the end of second reporting period (i.e. 2011-2013) and provided an in-depth discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of the reporting mechanism of the Strategic Approach. In their evaluation, the Independent Evaluation benefited both from direct analysis of the online questionnaire which was used for submission of reports by the stakeholders, the progress report documents, and the multiple interviews with stakeholders.
407. The Independent Evaluation of SAICM indicated that there has been limited reporting over the years using the online questionnaire. In fact, the number of submissions via the online questionnaire significantly decreased over the years from 40 per cent government responses in the period 2009-2010 to 28 per cent for the period 2014-2016.

[187] http://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx

408. The Independent evaluation of SAICM looks at the shortfall of tracking the progress from two angles; (i) effectiveness of the 20 indicators in measuring the progress; and (ii) the effectiveness of the online questionnaire.

409. On the effectiveness of the 20 indicators as a basis for tracking progress, the Independent Evaluation discusses three aspects of the indicators: (a) methodology, (b) scope, and (c) results-based indicators.

410. (a) Methodology – Firstly, there is uncertainty on whether respondents were reporting on activities that had taken place in the relevant reporting period. This uncertainty was particularly acute for governments that did not report in all three reporting periods. Secondly, the indicators are designed to monitor the progress of states and less of the progress made by the private sector and NGOs. Thirdly, the activity-based indicators and questions asked are open to variability in responses depending upon who is completing the questionnaire, their interpretation of the questions, and their level of knowledge.

411. (b) Scope – The Independent Evaluation points out that, firstly, activities on compliance and enforcement of policy are not explicitly addressed in the indicators. For example, indicators 19 and 20 address illegal international traffic of chemicals and waste but do not address illegal international trade, such as through informal markets, which may pose significant challenges to meeting the 2020 goal. Secondly, the extent of national funding for chemicals management through government budgets and Official Development Assistance is not included in Indicator 18. Thirdly, indicator 1 focuses on alternative chemicals to support risk reduction, with no monitoring of policy or implementation relating to nonchemical alternatives and agroecological approaches.

412. (c) Results-based indicators – The 20 indicators are outputs based and, whilst a necessary condition for meeting the 2020 goal, may not be sufficient. There is a need for outcome and impact focused indicators to complement the existing indicators of progress, i.e. results-based indicators that measure tangible reductions in health and environmental impacts of chemicals use. The probable inclusion of chemicals management targets within many of the SDGs will also require more quantitative results-based evidence.

413. The online questionnaire for progress report submissions consisted of two sections of general information and contact information and then five sections, each covering one of the five Overarching Policy Strategy categories (including the five Strategic Objectives and the 20 indicators agreed by ICCM2)[188]. This online questionnaire has been used for reporting progress by SAICM stakeholders in implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) since 2009. Three progress reports (PR1 2009-2010; PR2 2011-2013; PR3 2014-2016) were prepared based on the information submitted by stakeholders through this online questionnaire and supplemented by international and other data sources.

414. Looking at the online questionnaire, the Independent Evaluation remarks that, in evaluating the effectiveness of the online questionnaire, some questions refer to the progress made during a certain period and some others are general progress that are not time bound. This complicates the evaluation of the progress made.

415. The Independent Evaluation discusses the effectiveness of the online questionnaire from three angles; (i) it was not certain whether respondents were reporting on activities that had taken place in the relevant reporting period. This uncertainty was particularly acute for governments that did not report in all reporting periods; (ii) there were challenges in integrating the contributions of nongovernment stakeholders due to stakeholders' own surveys and reports that were not fully reflected in the online submissions; (iii) the activity-based indicators and questions asked are open to variability in responses depending upon who is completing the questionnaire and their interpretation of the questions and their level of knowledge.

416. Multiple modifications to the indicators and their activities within the online questionnaire over the years also impact the analysis of the data. These modifications included changes to activities or addition of new

[188] The full list of the questions in the online questionnaire that was used for reporting in the period 2014-2016 can be found here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/18jiRzrn362oMHzxHlgU00x9z3A2HAa3J/view?usp=sharing

activities making it difficult to compare the results from one period to another. As a result of these changes as well as the lack of consistency of stakeholders submissions, certain indicators which showed progress between the first and the second progress reports, declined in the third progress report, making it extremely difficult to judge the true status of progress made.

417. Even though the data collection has been consistently done using the online questionnaire over three reporting periods, multiple inconsistencies complicate the comparison of the progress across the three reports. These inconsistencies include (i) the overall low response rate which even decreased further over the years; (ii) the regional variations in response rate. For instance, the very low response rate of the AFR region and the high response rate of the WEOG region result in skewed conclusions due to overrepresentation of the data of stakeholders from the WEOG region; (iii) the lack of consistency in country submissions over three reporting periods and a minority of countries that submitted data to all three progress reports (i.e. 30 countries out of 193 UN member states).

418. To further understand the underlying reasons of low reporting rates and the effectiveness of the online questionnaire, the SAICM secretariat prepared and circulated a survey to seek the stakeholders' perspectives.

419. The survey was sent to all SAICM stakeholders and was initially open for feedback from 7 March to 10 April 2020. Multiple reminders were sent during this period to all stakeholders via SAICM mailing list and Twitter account. The deadline for the feedback submission was extended until 30 April. A total of 52 responses were received. The response rate to the survey corresponds to roughly 25 per cent of government stakeholders who submitted at least one progress report. All responses are carefully analyzed by the secretariat and are included anonymously in the following sections.

420. The majority of respondents to the survey were governments (i.e. 63 per cent), followed by NGOs (i.e. 17 per cent), private sector, and Civil Society each with 8 per cent, and intergovernmental organizations with 4 per cent. All regions evenly responded to the survey as can be seen in Figure 25.

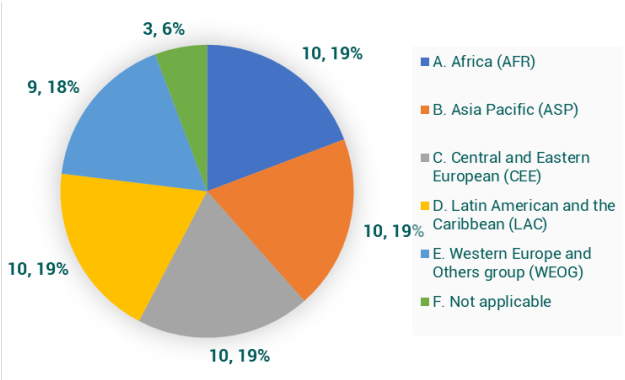


Figure 25: Regional distribution of respondents to the secretariat survey sent in 2020.

421. The stakeholders were asked why they stopped reporting or never reported. Out of four possible choices, 74 per cent noted that the resource constraints such as human resources were among the underlying reasons, and 26 per cent indicated that the questionnaire was time consuming (Figure 26).

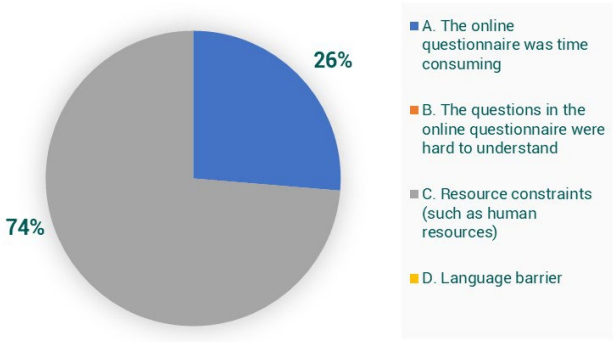


Figure 26: Underlying reasons for stakeholders never submitting a report or stopping to submit report.

422. Nevertheless, the overall experience of the stakeholders in using the online questionnaire for submitting their progress has been positive (Figure 27). 94 per cent of the respondents indicated that the online questionnaire accurately, or to some extent, captured their country's or organization's progress in SAICM implementation at that time period.

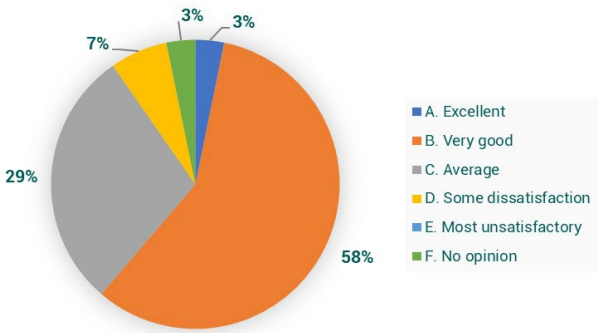


Figure 27 - Overall experience of the stakeholders in using the SAICM online questionnaire for progress reports submission.

423. When evaluating the effectiveness of the online questionnaire, a majority of the respondents (i.e. 58 per cent) indicated that the time spent to complete the questionnaire was appropriate while 21 per cent thought it was long. 71 per cent noted that the questionnaire had very good or good clarity whereas 14 per cent marked medium clarity or that multiple questions were unclear.

424. As for the future reporting mechanism, 96 per cent of respondents reaffirmed their preference for using an online questionnaire for report submissions in beyond 2020 mechanism. 52 per cent reported that they are willing to spend 1 to 3 hours in completing the online questionnaire to report their progress and a considerable group (29 per cent) responded that they would spend up to one hour for report submission (Figure 28).

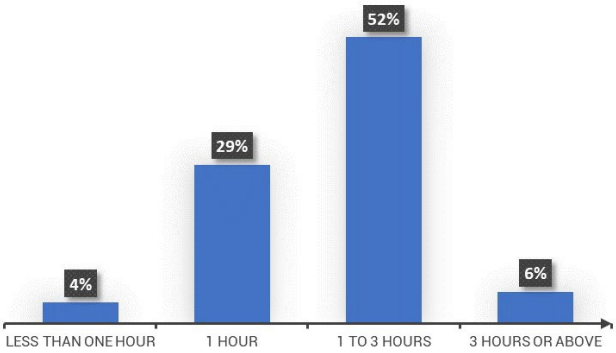


Figure 28 - Desired amount of time to be spent on the online questionnaire to report progress.

425. The respondents to the survey also provided some insight into the format of the future online questionnaire for beyond 2020 (Figure 29). An even distribution of responses indicated that questions in the future online questionnaire should be directly linked to either indicators, targets, milestones, or objectives. Another 22 per cent of the respondents preferred that the online questionnaire takes an activity-based approach, similar to the current questionnaire.

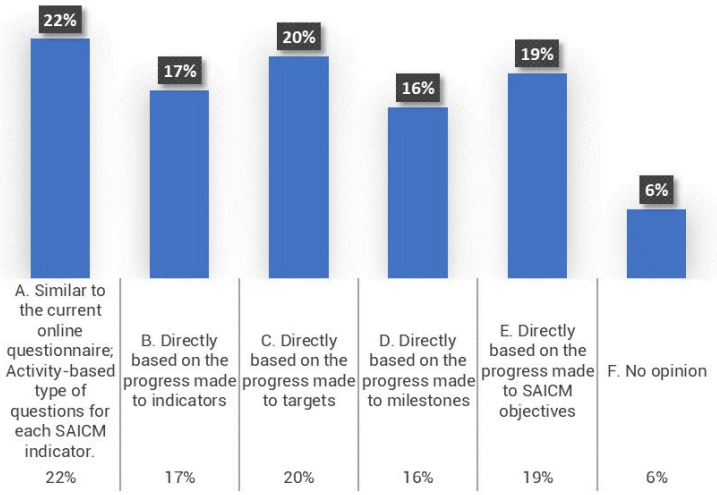


Figure 29: Basis of a future online questionnaire for beyond 2020 progress report submissions.

426. The total number of countries submitted response to the questionnaire for the period 2020–2022 was 51, of which 28% was from WEOG region, 7% from Africa region, 7% from GRULAC region and 6% from CEE region (Figure 30).

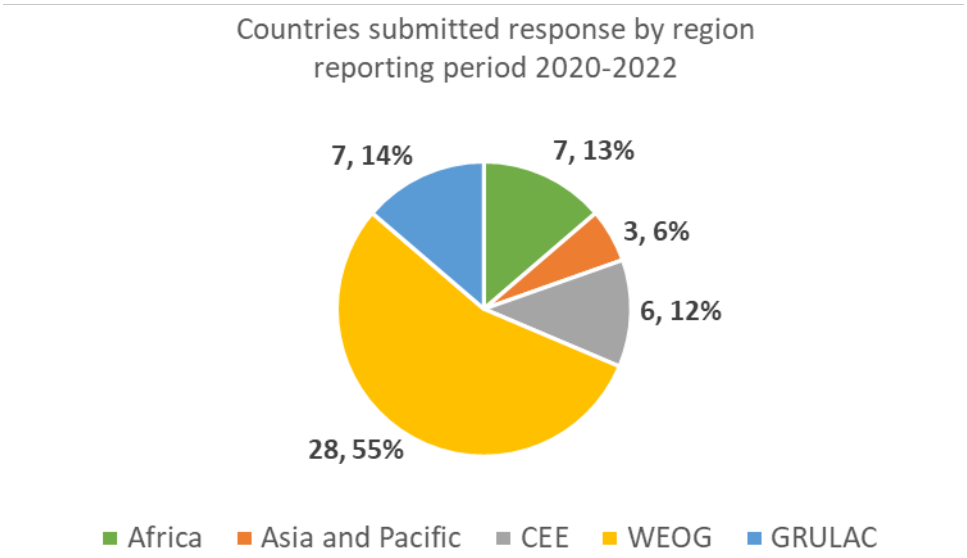


Figure 30: Regional distribution of countries submitted response to the questionnaire for the 2020–2022 period.

427. The total number of submissions for the reporting period 2020–2022 per representation type was 41 of which 27 Governments, 8 IGOs, and 6 NGOs (Figure 31),

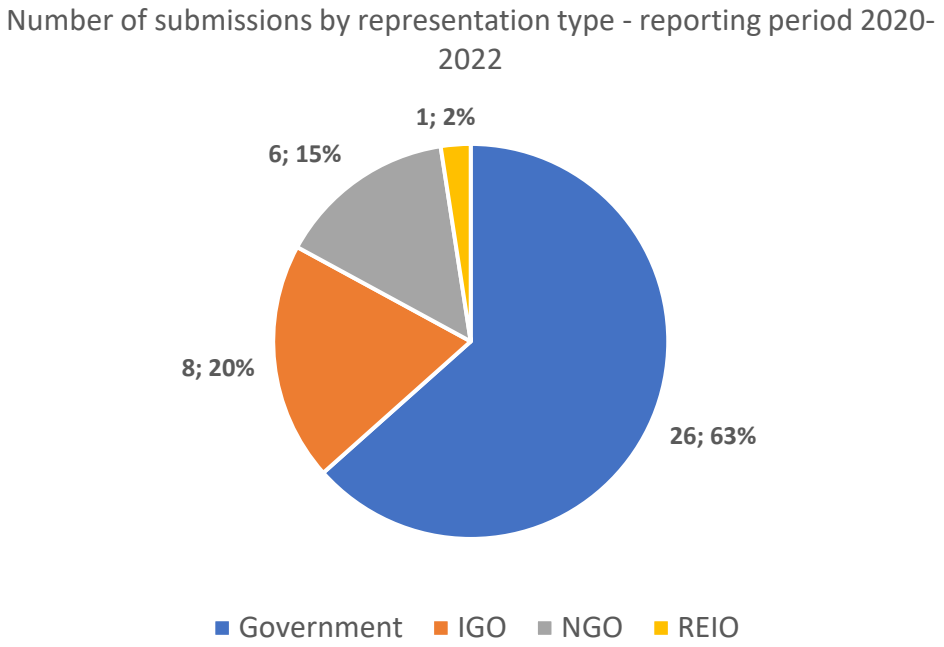


Figure 31: Number of submissions per representation type for the 2020–2022 reporting period.

428. In Figure 32 the gender distribution at the SAICM meetings from IP1 to IP4.2 is presented. With a total number of 386 participants, 204 females participated against 182 male participated in IP4.2.

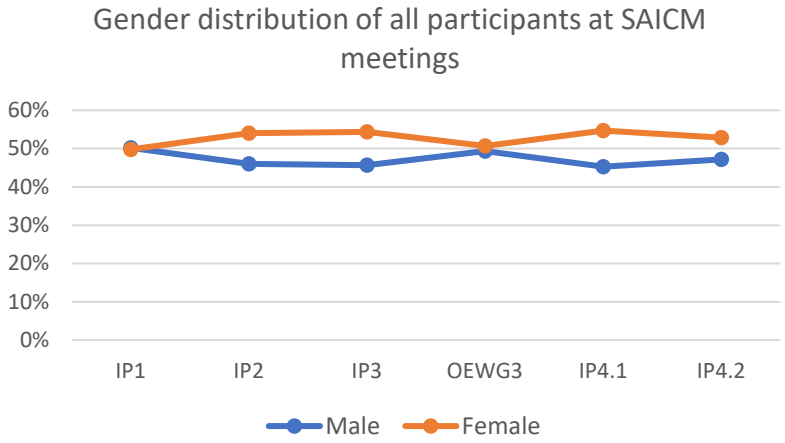


Figure 32: Gender distribution of participants as SAICM meetings.

Looking beyond 2020

429. Enhancing capacity to assess progress in the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 will support communication on efforts and of relevance, strategic decision-making, programming, and prioritizing moving forward.

430. As an outcome of the third meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, a Technical Working Group was established on targets, milestones, and indicators to support further work in this area before the fourth meeting of the intersessional process. The product(s) of this technical group are intended to support SAICM stakeholders to make progress on the development of the mechanisms to assess the progress in beyond 2020 instrument at the fourth meeting of the intersessional process.

431. The Technical Working Group was established with nominated representatives from the five United Nations regions, as well as industry, civil society organizations, health NGO representatives, labour NGO representatives and representatives from IOMC. Experts were nominated by representatives through the Bureau of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5).

432. The work on targets prepared by the Technical Working Group on targets, indicators, and milestones for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (SAICM IP.4/3) continued during the fourth meeting of the intersessional process.

433. Ninety-six per cent of the respondents to the secretariat survey expressed that an online questionnaire should be used to collect progress report submissions beyond 2020. The stakeholder responses to the secretariat survey provided more input for the reporting mechanisms beyond 2020:

a *"There should be a series of training and/or guidelines on filling the online questionnaire and progress report submissions; discussions on the results of the progress reports to improve the gaps between different regions and countries; provision of support to the local stakeholders in implementing the SAICM";*

b *"Have a page where the SAICM indicators, objectives, milestones are presented; It was difficult to report on the 'change' since the last report. It would be better to have cumulative achievements toward the targets. This will entail, for at least some indicators, data to be available by country to avoid double-counting. A country data profile would be useful";*

c *"Develop a kind of 'means of verifications' when evaluating indicators, targets, and milestones along with more frequent reporting";*

d *"Progress against key targets and the national implementation plan should be measured every 3 years and presented in a report to the International Conference along with any suggested recommendations to address identified gaps. All strategic objectives and national implementation plans should be reviewed on a rotational basis so that the entirety of the Approach is reviewed within a 9-year period. Where possible and helpful, the periodic review could be conducted together with evaluations of the relevant Conventions' National Implementation Plans. A periodic review system for reporting should be implemented that reports on actions in the National Action Plan and others including comments from stakeholders. An expert panel would review the reports and propose recommendations and countries could come up for review every three years. These reports could form the basis of SAICM2.0 effectiveness evaluation along with an assessment of financing, capacity building, and other important elements of the agreement. The operation of the periodic review system should include:*

i *Coverage of all countries equally, including the full involvement of each country with consideration given to its capacity-building needs.*

ii *Preparation of a national implementation report by each country under review.*

iii *Discussion of the national report on the country implementation of the agreement, information from UN agencies, and information from stakeholders.*

iv *An outcome report prepared by the periodic review working group in cooperation with the secretariat which summarizes the discussion including responses from the country under review along with recommendations for implementation.*

v *Review of each country once every three or four years."*

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

434. SAICM has achieved major success in several areas since its inception in 2006, thanks to both its governance structure and its holistic approach toward chemicals and waste management.

435. SAICM, as part of its holistic approach to chemicals and waste management, stresses that sex and gender shall be considered in assessing the implications of chemicals exposure[189]. The importance of gender mainstreaming and an equal share of men and women contributing to the chemicals and waste agenda is also reflected in the well-balanced gender representation at SAICM meetings as demonstrated in Figure 32.

436. The voluntary multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach of SAICM has enabled the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders and sectors at both the extended Bureau and ICCM levels. According to the Independent Evaluation:

> *"…The multi-stakeholder approach character of SAICM has been maintained since the initial meeting in Dubai in 2006. A particular strength has been the participation of non-government actors in the SAICM process, to the extent that they are represented in the decision-making bodies, allowing for their perspectives and priorities to be heard and considered as resolutions were framed and agreed. This participation has been made possible because of the voluntary nature of SAICM…".*

437. Representatives from the civil society (public interest groups represented by an IPEN participating organization since ICCM1) and the chemical producing industry (represented by ICCA since ICCM1) are members of the extended Bureau of SAICM.

438. The multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral structure of SAICM has also enabled close collaboration with the IOMC organizations. The IOMC organizations have taken the lead on the EPIs and the eight indicators

[189] http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/Publications/SAICM_Policy_Brief_Gender.pdf

covering various aspects of chemicals management. IOMC also played the role of executing agencies for many QSP projects. The governing bodies of some IOMC organizations have passed resolutions in support of SAICM.

439. Emerging Policy Issues were adopted at ICCM2. A collective effort, led by UNEP and WHO, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint comprising a partnership of governments, intergovernmental organizations, and NGOs has resulted in considerable progress in addressing Lead in Paint. By the end of 2019, 75 countries have adopted control measures for lead in paint.

440. Another major success of SAICM has been the generation and dissemination of knowledge and information on the sound management of chemicals and waste. One notable example is the recently released SAICM Knowledge Management Platform[190], which informs about SAICM emerging policy issues through resources, news, and opinion articles. The Platform enables people to be informed about events around the globe and to exchange with other people working on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Moreover, the Platform aims to showcase countries progress towards the implementation of SAICM, and the regulatory frameworks on chemicals and waste management on a section called "Country Profiles".

441. Since the inception of SAICM, there has been significant growth in the generation of information on Environmental, Health, and Safety dimension of chemicals management. The joint ICCA-UNEP study "Knowledge management and information sharing for the sound management of industrial chemicals" notes:

> *"…In addition, the report confirms that many gaps in EHS information have been reduced since the inception of SAICM in 2006. While nearly half of the 24 primary sources of EHS information pre-date the inception of SAICM in 2006, the largest and most comprehensive of them (e.g., The ECHA CHEM, USEPA CHEMVIEW and ACToR, Canadian Screening Level Assessments, Australia IMAP, EWG SkinDeep, ChemSec SIN List and GoodGuide databases were clearly established during the post SAICM era..."*

442. The QSP Trust Fund marks another great success for SAICM, having mobilized a total of over US$ 47.9 million (between 2006 and 2019) for 184 projects in 108 different countries. Analysing the focus of the projects against the SAICM objectives, the projects addressed all Strategic Objectives except for Objective E on illegal international traffic. The projects were well distributed among sectors (i.e. environment, agriculture, industry, labour and science, etc.) and covered all three strategic priorities of the QSP programme. A good regional balance was attained. Out of 108 countries that had QSP projects, 54 were Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and/or Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The collective achievements toward 2020 goal

443. Looking back at the progress of the stakeholders towards the Strategic Objectives and the indicators, great progress has been made since the inception of SAICM in 2006. As can be seen from PR1, most regions started off at a good level under Objective A on risk reduction, having completed close to 50 per cent of all activities in the online questionnaire.

444. Looking over the first three reporting periods, Objective B on knowledge and information has manifested the greatest progress between the first and third progress reports (between 2009 and 2016) by an average of 26 per cent growth in the number of activities that were completed in all five regions. Objective E on illegal traffic of chemicals stood second with progressive growth of close to 25 per cent in the average number of activities completed since the first progress report.

445. It is notable to recognize that the ASP, CEE, LAC, and WEOG regions made the largest progress towards Objectives A, B, and E (not in that order). The CEE region has demonstrated the greatest progress when

[190] https://saicmknowledge.org/

compared to the other regions towards Objectives A, B, and E. For stakeholders in the CEE region, the average number of completed activities increased to 82, 86, and 78 per cent under Objectives A, B, and E in PR3, respectively.

446. The ASP region made notable progress toward Objectives A and E by completing 75 and 85 per cent of activities respectively by the end of 2016 (i.e. in PR3). The LAC region completed on average 65, 60, and 55 per cent of the activities under Objectives A, B, and E, respectively by the end of 2016. Finally, the WEOG region completed on average 83, 80, and 77 per cent of the activities under Objectives A, B, and E, respectively, by the end of 2016.

447. The AFR region showed a comparable level of growth of about 8-10 per cent under Objectives B, E, and D on capacity building and technical cooperation. It is important to bear in mind that the data received from the AFR region is very limited (i.e. 18, 10, and 3 government stakeholders submitted reports to PR1, PR2, and PR3, respectively). Nevertheless, it is notable that the AFR region has done better than the other regions under Objective D. This objective has been a priority for the region and good progress has been made over the years.

448. Furthermore, a few indicators reached almost 80 per cent or above accomplishment of the activities set out in the online questionnaire. This includes completion of 85 per cent of all activities on average (of all stakeholder submissions) under indicator 9 on websites; an increase of more than 40 per cent since the first progress report. Indicator 2 on hazardous waste management arrangements and indicator 3 on mechanisms in place for setting priorities for risk reduction reached 84 and 83 per cent respectively. Several indicators including; indicator 1 on mechanisms to address key categories of chemicals, indicator 5 on activities that result in monitoring data on selected environmental and human health priority substances, indicator 6 on information according to internationally harmonized standards, 18 on regional cooperation on issues relating to the sound management of chemicals, and 19 on illegal traffic in chemicals reached more than 72 per cent completion of all activities by all respondents by the end of 2016. The number of SAICM focal points under indicator 10 has reached 181 as of 2016, and 205 by the end of 2019 which has been an important achievement. Attendance at SAICM related meetings and active engagement in SAICM activities both received substantial attention over the years; so much that more than 80 per cent of the respondents reported their participation.

449. The data on progress against IOMC indicators have provided complementary information on the implementation of SAICM 2020 goal both to PR3 and PR4. A vast majority of countries, 177 member states of FAO, have implemented pesticide legislation based on FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on pesticide management by the end of 2022, and law enforcement mechanism have been strengthened in many LMICs, making it one of the outstanding achievements toward sound management of chemicals in SAICM Beyond 2020 Process. FAO and WHO, together with UNEP, are exploring options to update the International Code of Conduct to better reflect and address issues of SAICM beyond the 2020 Process in Pesticide Management.

450. Furthermore, the number of parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions (i.e. 187, 161, and 183 parties, respectively) has been growing steadily over the years. The number of ratifications of the Minamata Convention has been increasing rapidly since its entry into force in 2017, reaching 116 ratifications by the end of 2019 and 139 in 2022.

451. GHS implementation is also among indicators with substantial growth since 2010. Forty-one countries had implemented GHS (full or partial) pre-2010, whereas this number has reached 74 countries by mid-2023. Even though a majority of countries have yet to implement GHS, there seems to be growing attention given to this area and countries will be prioritizing the implementation of GHS over the coming years.

452. The progress made by NGOs such as IPEN in the period 2017-2019 has been considerable including: (i) nearly 150 public interest organizations actively executed more than 450 activities in more than 70 countries across all five regions to contribute to the achievement of 16 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals; (ii) work toward implementing all five objectives of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy; (iii) and

205 of the 299 items (69%) in the Global Plan of Action, including the recently added items on nanomaterials and electronics. The IPEN Participating Organizations have actively engaged in all eight of EPIs and issues of concern: NGOs in all IPEN regions investigated chemicals in products; performed work to eliminate lead in paint; and highlighted hazardous chemicals in electronics. Another major area of work in almost all regions involved regulation and substitution of highly hazardous pesticides. Approximately half of the regions worked on endocrine disrupting chemicals and PFAS substances and at least one region also included activities on nano or pharmaceutical pollutants.

Areas to accelerate actions beyond 2020

453. Certain areas of chemicals and waste management have shown little progress or a slower rate of progress. The Independent Evaluation and the GCO-II concluded that the 2020 goal is not reached. The data collected via the online questionnaire also demonstrated that by the end of 2016, only 59 per cent of all the activities were on average completed. The progress has been slower for Strategic Objectives C on governance and D on capacity building and technical cooperation which only achieved the completion of 43 and 31 per cent of the activities by the end of 2016 (i.e. PR3). All of the above stresses the importance of identifying areas where concerted efforts and actions are required beyond 2020.
454. There is a major data gap on the implementation of the SAICM objectives and indicators for 39 per cent of UN member states who have never submitted a progress report. Decreasing stakeholders' participation in progress report submission has been an obstacle to accurately evaluating the progress. The stakeholder responses to the secretariat survey showed that 74 per cent of respondents stopped reporting or never submitted a report mainly due to resource constraints. Encouraging worldwide participation in reporting the progress towards beyond 2020 framework is worthy of receiving greater attention.
455. A few stakeholders, in response to the secretariat survey, proposed measures to improve participation to report submissions in beyond 2020 instrument, including; (i) highlight and discuss the use and benefits of the progress report submissions to the stakeholders; (ii) consider the progress submissions track in countries applications for funded projects; (iii) give greater visibility to countries that submit(ted) progress reports to encourage others to also participate.
456. The SAICM secretariat Knowledge Platform may be a helpful baseline and clearinghouse tool for SAICM stakeholders in reviewing country progress in the future. In its country profiles section that is being built, the platform highlights the progress of a number of countries towards achieving the SAICM objectives, chemical regulatory frameworks such as the status of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), number of progress submissions, number of poison centres, and SAICM focal point information.
457. The unique structure of SAICM has brought a wide range of stakeholders, such as NGOs and private sector, actively working toward the implementation of SAICM, to the decision-making table. Yet, according to PR2 and the Independent Evaluation, most of the activities in the online questionnaire target the progress made by national governments. The feedback collected through the secretariat survey also confirmed this conclusion. There is room for improvement in tracking the progress of NGOs and the private sector more systematically. This could include the development of indicators that are targeted toward the activities of these stakeholders in future reporting mechanism.
458. Part of the existing data gaps can be addressed through the development of a meaningful and effective reporting mechanism to track the progress beyond 2020.This issue is actively addressed through the development of impact-driven, measurable targets, indicators, and milestones by the Technical Working Group whose recommendations will be considered at the fifth session of ICCM5.
459. It is recommended that the future reporting mechanism systematically accumulates and stores the progress data submissions and displays them for each stakeholder individually. Stakeholders will be able to review progress made during each reporting period and account for any further progress or setback.

460. A few indicators fall behind in demonstrating solid progress since the first progress report. These include indicator 13 on providing resources (financial and in-kind) to assist capacity-building and technical cooperation with other countries, indictor 14 on identifying and prioritizing the capacity-building needs for the sound management of chemicals, indicator 15 on development assistance programmes (or National Development Plan) that include the sound management of chemicals, and indicator 16 on sound management of chemicals projects supported by other sources of funding (not QSP trust fund). The average number of activities completed by all stakeholders under these indicators remained below 30 per cent by the end of 2016. The above-mentioned indicators fall under Objectives D on capacity building and technical cooperation towards which all regions except for the AFR region demonstrated slow progress. Stakeholders may wish to give more collective attention to these areas in the future framework.

461. Moreover, indicator 10 on the commitment to the implementation of the Strategic Approach has improved from 33 per cent to 48 per cent on average by all respondents to PR1 and PR3, respectively. Commitment to implementing the Strategic Approach of fundamental importance in setting the foundation to achieve the SAICM Objectives. A worldwide readiness to commit to SAICM and to the sound management of chemicals and waste shall be encouraged beyond 2020.

462. Ninety-six per cent of the respondents to the secretariat survey expressed that an online questionnaire should be used to collect progress report submissions beyond 2020.

463. The findings from the secretariat survey are in line with those of the Independent Evaluation reinforcing the need for outcome and impact-driven indicators, i.e. results-based indicators that measure tangible reductions in health and environmental impacts of chemicals use.

464. As for the IOMC indicators, a few have observed slow growth over the years. The number of countries with National Profiles was 106 in 2010 and increased to 116 by the end of 2019. This marks a small increase of 10 additional countries with National Profiles over one decade. The number of countries with PRTRs increased from 39 to 53 between 2010 and 2022, with number of countries Party to the Protocol on PRTRs having increased from 27 to 38 in the same time frame. The number of countries with Poison Centres has not changed since 2010. In fact, some Poison Centres have been closed in the Americas, Europe, and South East Asia regions since 2010.

465. The gap between developing and developed countries seems to be widening according to the Independent Evaluation. This widening gap becomes clearer when looking at some of the IOMC indicators. For example, even though great progress has been made towards the control measures on Lead in Paint, there is a significant gap between developing and developed countries where 79 per cent of the countries in the Europe region reported the presence of controls over lead in paint but only 13 and 15 per cent of the countries in Africa and Western Pacific regions have similar controls. Another striking example is the number of poison centres: a majority of countries in the AFR, SEAR, and WPR regions do not have any poison centre; in fact, only 8, 6, and 9 member states have one or more poison centres in the AFR, South East Asia, and Western Pacific regions, respectively.

466. The SAICM focal points are mostly from the ministry of environment. Broader engagement of ministry of health, agriculture, labour, etc. are as important due to substantial interlinkages of chemicals and waste with these sectors. National governments may wish to consider engaging these ministries in the SAICM framework beyond 2020 including the nomination of focal points.

ANNEXES

Annex I Survey on the effectiveness of SAICM's online progress reporting questionnaire 1- Which SAICM Stakeholder group do you belong to?

A. Government
B. Intergovernmental Organization
C. Civil Society
D. NGO
E. Privat sector
F. Others, please indicate

2- Please indicate the UN region you belong to:

A. Africa (AFR)
B. Asia Pacific (ASP)
C. Central and Eastern European (CEE)
D. Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC)
E. Western Europe and Others group (WEOG)
F. Not applicable

3- Has your respective organization or government submitted a progress report via the online questionnaire?

A. Yes
B. No
C. I don't know

4- In which years (select multiple or none)

A. 2009-2010 B. 2011-2013
C. 2014-2016
D. never submitted a report

5- Why did you not submit a report, or why did you stop reporting if you had initially?

A. The online questionnaire was time consuming
B. The questions in the online questionnaire were hard to understand
C. Resource constraints (such as human resources)
D. Language barrier
E. Other (please specify)

6- How do you evaluate your overall experience with the SAICM online questionnaire for progress reports submission? A. Excellent
B. Very good
C. Average
D. Some dissatisfaction
E. Most unsatisfactory
F. No opinion

7- Did the online questionnaire accurately capture your country's or organization's progress in SAICM implementation at that time?

A. Yes
B. No
C. To some extent
D. Other (please specify)

8- Were the questions in the online questionnaire clear?
   A. Very clear
   B. Good clarity
   C. Medium clarity
   D. Multiple unclear questions
   E. Generally unclear questions
   F. No opinion
9- What should the questions in the online questionnaire be based on (choose more than one answer if needed) for SAICM beyond 2020:
   A. Similar to the current online questionnaire; Activity-based type of questions for each SAICM indicator.
   B. Directly based on the progress made to **indicators**
   C. Directly based on the progress made to **targets**
   D. Directly based on the progress made to **milestones**
   E. Directly based on the progress made to SAICM **objectives**
   F. No opinion
   G. Others, please indicate
10- How do you evaluate the time spent to complete the online questionnaire?
   A. Too long
   B. Long
   C. Appropriate
   D. Short
   E. No opinion
11- How much time are you willing to spend on an online questionnaire to report the progress of your country or organization. (Note: the time frames in the response options refer only to the length of time that the stakeholder is willing to spend filling their progress in an online questionnaire. This time frame is not considering the extensive time that is spent to collect the data and information, and the consultations). A. One hour
   B. Between 1 to 3 hours C. 3 hours or above
   D. I do not have time for online questionnaires and prefer to submit a free-format progress report.
   E. No opinion
12- Should the secretariat use an online questionnaire to collect progress report submissions in beyond 2020
   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. No opinion
   D. Other (please specify)
13- If you were the SAICM secretariat, what would you suggest for tracking the progress of stakeholders toward implementation of SAICM in beyond 2020.
14- If you have more comments on your overall experience with the online questionnaire, please share below. (what worked and what did not with the online questionnaire in your opinion. You can comment on the type, and length of, both multiple-answer questions and responses, or other aspects of reporting)
15- Section V.G of document (SAICM/IP.4/2 - Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, for consideration by the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management- click on the link below) includes a

proposal for a mechanism to take stock of progress beyond 2020. Do you have any comments on the text that is currently set out?
http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP4/Docs/SAICM_IP4_2_compilationrecommendations-SAICM-consideration-ICCM5.pdf

Annex II 20 indicators for reporting by stakeholders on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach

SAICM/ICCM.2/3 -Proposal on modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation

	Indicator	Notes on data to be collected
	Risk Reduction	
1	Number of countries (and organizations) having mechanisms in place for determining the chemicals used in their countries and for setting priorities for risk reduction	Data collection should take into account efforts to establish national inventories and improve customs information systems.
2	Number of countries with national legislation addressing key categories of chemicals	A selection of key categories of chemicals will be included.
3	Number of countries (and organizations) implementing agreed chemicals management tools	Data collection should take into account implementation of recognized tools prepared by participating organizations of the International Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, e.g., the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, guidance for establishing pollutant release and transfer registries and product stewardship programmes in industry. Tools would include those for pollution prevention.
4	Number of countries (and organizations) engaged in activities that result in comparable monitoring data on selected environmental pollutants and human health priority substances	Data collection should take into account environmental and biomonitoring efforts, including collaborative efforts, monitoring of human poisonings and chemical accidents. Data will take account of work being developed.
5	Number of countries (and organizations) with adequate hazardous waste management arrangements	Data collection should take into account inventories of waste, permit systems and policies and legislation for the environmentally sound management of waste.
	Knowledge and Information	
6	Number of countries (and organizations) actively working to improve the provision of information according to internationally harmonized standards	Data collection should take account of implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), labelling according to national guidelines and the availability of harmonized hazard information. Regional initiatives should be reported on by regional organizations.
7	Number of countries (and organizations) that have specific strategies in place for communicating information on the risks associated with chemicals to vulnerable groups	Data collection should include consultative processes and training directed at vulnerable groups such as women, children and the elderly.
8	Number of countries (and organizations) with research programmes addressing safer alternatives and cleaner production technology	Collected data should include the amount of research being funded.
9	Number of countries (and organizations) with websites where national partners can gain access to information about the sound management of chemicals	Collected data should include websites providing risk management information and details of relevant legislation.
	Governance	

10	Number of countries (and organizations) that have committed themselves to implementation	Data collected should include the commitments of governing bodies of intergovernmental organizations
	of the Strategic Approach through national policies and/or programmes	
11	Number of countries (and organizations) with a national coordinating mechanism in place for chemicals management	Collected data should include participation of specified stakeholders.
12	Number of countries (and organizations) with national policies and legislation in place to implement key international chemicals priorities	Collected data should include ratification of multilateral environment agreements, implementation of specified international agreements and other specified international instruments.
	Capacity-building and technical cooperation	
13	Number of countries (and organizations) with implementation plans for the Strategic Approach	Collected data should include plans made as part of broader initiatives and not only dedicated plans.
14	Number of countries (and organizations) providing resources (financial and in-kind) to assist capacity-building and technical cooperation with other countries.	Collected data should include assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
15	Number of countries (and organizations) that have identified and prioritized their national capacity-building needs for the sound management of chemicals.	Data collection should focus on plans that are publicly available.
16	Number of countries (and organizations) engaged in regional cooperation on issues relating to chemicals management.	Collected data should include regional cooperation on risk reduction, knowledge and information, governance, capacity-building and illegal international traffic.
17	Number of countries where chemicals management is included in official development assistance programming	Collected data should reflect perspectives of both developed and developing countries (donors and recipients).
18	Number of countries with capacity-building projects supported by the Strategic Approach's Quick Start Programme Trust Fund	Collected data should include information on the three strategic priorities of the Strategic Approach's Quick Start Programme.
19	Number of countries making applications for capacity-building assistance to other sources of funding	Collected data should include information on the three strategic priorities of the Strategic Approach's Quick Start Programme.
	Illegal international traffic	
20	Number of countries having legislation to prevent traffic in toxic, hazardous and severely restricted chemicals	Collected data should include legislation that implements relevant provisions of multilateral environmental and other agreements.

Annex III: Table with additional text from the responses submitted by NGOs and IGOs to the Questionnaire that was not included in the body of the report

Q1. Core activity a **Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement.**	
GEHA	In previous years, we carried out educational activities in order to get rid of the remnants of destruction and war, because nature has deteriorated over a decade.
Q2. Core activity b **Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation**	
Welfare Togo	Study on existing regulatory frameworks to identify gaps and challenges
GEHA	Our main goal is to ask all bodies and institutions for support in all material, moral and psychological directions, especially for the young generations as a result of the circumstances of the war.
Q3. Core activity c **Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes, and budgets**	
Q4. Core activity d **Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies**	
GEHA	As a non-governmental organization, we seek to find ways to enhance collective action to reduce the effects of chemical pollutants and the effects of natural disasters.
Q5. Core activity e **Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society**	
Health Care without Harm	Sustainable Health in Procurement Health Project (SHiPP) case studies (https://noharm-global.org/issues/global/sustainable-health-procurement-project) A collection of 15 sustainable procurement success stories from around the world: •Aarhus University Hospital (Denmark) •Bongani Regional Hospital (South Africa) •Catalan Agency for Health Information, Assessment and Quality - AQuAS (Spain) •China Environmental United Certification Center (China) •Club Noel Children's Clinical Foundation (Colombia) •E.S.E. Hospital San Rafael de Pacho (Colombia) •National Centre for Disease Control - NCDC (India) •Quality and Accreditation Institute, Health and Environment Leadership Platform (India) •Region Västra Götaland (Sweden) •Regional General Hospital R. Syamsudin (Indonesia) •Santa Casa da Bahia (Brazil) [Portuguese] •Sebokeng Hospital (South Africa)

	•Second Hospital of Jilin University (China) •Sociedade Beneficente de Senhoras Hospital Sírio Libanês (Brazil) [Portuguese] •Talca's Communal Department of Health (Chile)
IPEN	Toxic chemicals in the lifecycle of plastics In addition to the reports presented above, IPEN released as series of international reports in 2021 focused on the toxic chemical problem with plastics and plastic waste management hazards. The discussion and pressure for establishing an international treaty on plastics was on the global policy agenda in 2021. IPEN has established a sound scientific case and knowledge base among global NGOs, policymakers, and the media to ensure that toxic chemical additives are addressed in treaty negotiations. This included a series of reports, securing international and national media highlighting the toxic threats and harm caused by plastics. IPEN contributed content impacting the final text in two global UN reports, the UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur Report on the Plastic Pandemic, and the UNEP Plastic Pollution Report. This outcome is critical as negotiations for a new plastics treaty are focused on waste management IPEN investigate the recent increased investment in plastic waste-to-fuel processing, also known as refuse- derived fuel (RDF) in Australia. The mixed plastic waste in RDF has been shown to contain a range of toxic chemical additives. When burned as fuel RDF can generate highly toxic dioxins and furans that can contaminate local food chains. IPEN's partners in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines produced reports assessing each country's capacity to manage residual waste, including imports and the associated regulatory frameworks and legislation governing RDF. These reports show that the burden of RDF imports disproportionately and adversely impacts local communities, their environment and health. Mercury IPEN data, background research, and global studies deeply contributed to a groundbreaking report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights that exposes the human rights abuses deriving from the use of mercury in small-scale gold mining. Ocean pollutants and pollution Through online capacity building, policy dialogue and donor outreach, IPEN has raised awareness among NGOs and decision-makers on ocean pollutants issues and the impact on fisheries. A report on Aquatic Pollutants and Fisheries was released in 2021 and translated into French and Spanish. In addition, a study on the impacts to local communities of the release of plastics and chemicals from the shipping disaster of the fire on X-Press Pearl: A 'New kind of oil spill' outside Sri Lanka was published. Asbestos in talc In 2020, Johnson and Johnson (J&J) announced that it would stop selling its talc-based Johnson's Baby Powder in the United States of America and Canada. In response, IPEN and partners started calling on J&J to end sales of their asbestos-containing, talc-based baby products globally. About twenty IPEN members conducted talc research that identified J&J products with talc in their local markets and conducted media and public outreach campaigns. In 2022, IPEN's coordinated global efforts and the work of many groups around the world culminated in J&J's announcement that it would end production and global sales of talc-based baby powders. The company noted that demand for its tainted baby powder had fallen due to the widespread public health campaigns targeting the product.

	Data from UNECE PRTR Secretariat (2010-2016) and PRTR Global Map (2013-2016).
Q6. Core activity f **Assess progress toward the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation, and prioritizing actions moving forward**	
GEHA	During the period of 2020, we were and still are in a stage of war and destruction, where the basics of life are very weak. There is no good water, no electricity, no heating, as trees were cut down for heating, and the reason is the war and the lack of awareness and follow-up due to the circumstances.
Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development	In line with available information, Ministry of Environmental Protection will soon begin with the implementation of the project "Further Strengthening of National Capacity and Risk Management of Hazardous Substances throughout their Life Cycle", which will cover the topics of microplastics, nanomaterials, substances of global concern, and the education and raising the awareness of young people, school children as well as consumers and teachers on chemicals labels and safer handling of hazardous chemicals for general use and recycling, reuse and reduce of plastic waste. CSOs are committed to further activities. However, in reality these are projects related and subject of financial support.
Health Care without Harm	HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM SAICM Progress Report 2020 – 2022 SAICM progress report submitted on behalf of HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM and its network of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals in 82 countries in all regions. HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM is a global civil society organization working within the health-care sector whose vision is to mobilise healthcare's ethical, economic and political influence to create an ecologically sustainable, equitable and healthy world. The Mission of Health Care Without Harm is to transform healthcare worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. The mission is carried out through its network of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals with 1,700 members in 82 countries representing the interests of over 60,000 hospitals, health centers and health care professional organizations, trade unions and academic institutions. Safer chemical use is one of the primary goals of the network by substituting chemicals that pose a threat to human health and the environment. HCWH provides guidance documents, conference and workshops, webinars, checklists, policy recommendations and good practice examples to support the work. We work closely with WHO and UNDP to advance the sound management of chemicals and waste. During the reporting period, 2020-2022, HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM together with our partners have made significant progress in policy, capacity building and the development and dissemination of tools and resources to support the health sector to identify chemicals of concern, including those in health products, select less hazardous substitutes and reduce risks protecting patients, health workers and the environment. The HCWH publication: Chemicals of Concern for the Health Sector, 2020 (also in Spanish)includes a list of chemicals used by the health care sector and/or included in health products. In addition, the document includes case examples that demonstrate

	how hospitals have successfully substituted chemicals and chemicals in products with more sustainable alternatives. HCWH – Europe published in 2021, a new chemicals of concern criteria for European healthcare. Developed by Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe and leading European healthcare procurement organisations, this common phaseout list of chemicals of concern will enable procurement organisations across Europe to select safer alternative products for the healthcare sector. European healthcare's phase-out list for chemicals of concern. Will Clark, HCWH – Europe Executive Director said about the publication: "Our mission is to substitute chemicals that pose a threat to human health and the environment. This new phase-out list for healthcare consolidates current requirements and standardises criteria already in use by progressive healthcare institutions leading in this area. This will enable suppliers and procurement organisations to work together more efficiently to phase-out harmful chemicals." COVID-19 Protection without Pollution During 2020 – 2022, The COVID-19 pandemic produced a significant increase in the use of hazardous disinfecting chemicals and increased production of health care waste which threatened to undermine efforts for reducing toxic chemicals. Health Care Without Harm conducted research with health systems in all regions and produced a set of guidance documents: "Protection without Pollution" to support health systems to protect patients, health workers and public health from transmission and exposure to hazardous disinfectants. HCWH organized and facilitated a biweekly global streamlining covid-19 waste management technical support group which included WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, the International Solid Waste Association health care waste technical group, MSF and other international public health organizations to share resources, coordinate and harmonize responses to country needs. HCWH contributed to the group, a gap analysis for Covid-19 vaccination program waste management. https://noharm-global.org/documents/protection-without-pollution-guidance-sustainable-glove-purchasing. Lessons learned from a UNDP/WHO/HCWH Health care waste and mercury elimination project supported by the GEF in four African countries which developed technology transfer for local production of waste treatment technology to prevent Persistent Organic Pollutants contributed to the technical support provided to countries. Sustainable Health in Procurement Project (SHiPP) HCWH together with UNDP implemented a 5 year Sustainable Health in Procurement Project (SHiPP) from 2018 - 2022 in ten focus countries: Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Moldova, South Africa, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zambia with scale-up activities in 2 regions: Latin America and Southeast Asia. In 2020, two guidance documents: one for UN Agencies and government procurement officers and one for health systems were published and training provided to assist in implementation. A High Impact Procurement Opportunities (HIPO list) identified for sustainable procurement includes ten priorities on chemicals and chemicals in products and two for waste reduction and sustainable health care waste treatment. In 2021, The Sustainable Procurement Index for Health was developed as a key output for the project. This tool was jointly developed by Health Care Without Harm and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to help policy makers, manufacturers, suppliers, procurers, and health care facilities monitor greenhouse gas emissions, resource depletion, chemical / toxic impact on human and environmental health, and human rights, labor rights and gender equality. Four modules include questions that procurement officers ask suppliers during the tender process to assist in the evaluation and selection of more sustainable health products.

	• Greenhouse gas emissions, • Resource depletion (water, energy and material consumption), • Chemical / toxic impact on human and environmental health, and • Human rights, labor rights and gender equality. The Sustainable Health in Procurement Project organized three Global Sustainable Production in the Health Sector Forums during the period of 2020 -2022 where suppliers, manufacturers, policymakers, technical experts, academia, civil society organizations and others active in the global health sector came together explore the front-running sustainable consumption and production patterns and the latest innovations in the context of COVID-19 and beyond. https://savinglivesustainably.org/global-virtual-forum 2020 https://savinglivesustainably.org/global-virtual-forum-2021 https://savinglivesustainably.org/global-virtual-forum-2022 WHO Chemicals Roadmap contribution Health Care Without Harm was recognized for a contribution to the WHO Chemicals Roadmap with the implementation of the research project: SAICM 2.0 promoting safer disinfectants in the health-care sector. Health Care Without Harm – Europe led the research with over 80 health providers from 19 countries. The goal was to promote the use of safer and more environmentally friendly disinfectants without compromising hygienic and occupational health standards. The objective was to reduce the emission of hazardous substances in the environment, thereby contributing to implementation of the WHO Chemicals Road Map and the United Nations Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) process. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240036864 In 2022, HCWH Europe conducted interviews with a range of stakeholders involved in the sustainable management of pharmaceuticals. These stakeholders include national procurement agencies, representatives of pharmaceutical companies and representatives of pharmaceutical conglomerates. In 2022 the World Health Organization established the Alliance for Transformative Action for Climate and Health (ATACH) to realize the ambition set at COP26 using the collective power of WHO Member States and other stakeholders. As of May 2023, 65 countries - 22 of which are committing to net zero health systems - have joined ATACH, where Health Care Without Harm sits on the Steering Committee and chairs the Low Carbon Sustainable Health Systems Working Group. One of the implementation vehicles for the ATACH working group is the 2020 WHO guidance for climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities, to which Health Care Without Harm contributed and which includes content and a checklist on the sound management of chemicals and waste. In this way, Health Care Without Harm is making the linking between climate, chemicals and waste for actions that are synergistic to protect human health and the environment, people and the planet.

Annex IV: List of responses submitted by governments and the EU in answer to the Questionnaire prepared by the SAICM secretariat. The Table also includes an extract from submissions of governments that did not answer to the questionnaire (Mexico, Russian Federation, and Serbia).

Governments list	Q1. Core activity a Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement.
Armenia	Enhancing the responsibility of stakeholders regarding chemicals and wastes management is facilitated by inter-sectoral cooperation that is established by the functioning Steering Committee for implementation of Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions, as well as Steering Committee for implementation of Minamata Convention, which involve all concerned parties, including ministries, agencies, NGO, Academy, private sector. We emphasize the importance of an inter-sectoral, in particular with the participation of the health sector, and integrated approach for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes within the framework of obligations undertaken under the implementation of international agreements.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH) is a country with complex governmental organization. As such, it needs to improve actions that lead to better multisectoral engagement. In 2020-2023 countrywide strategy on environmental protection *ESAP 2030 (https://esap.ba/) was being drafted, resulting in engagement of different sectors (environment, health, industry, agriculture etc.). BH supports WHO Chemicals Road Map, and in 2021, with a support of WHO BH created a "Group of Experts" in health sector with a role to promote chemicals management in the health sector. More needs to be done regarding reinforcing multisectoral engagement. It has been promoted via different projects/workshops in health and environment (and there are legislative mechanisms in place that support it) but more significant engagement is needed from the labor, agriculture, industry, NGOs, academia in particular, with environment and health. The United Nations Environment Program (UN Environment) co-operates with the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS) in regard to the United Nations Project entitled "Chemicals and Wastes in Agenda 2030: Capacity Building for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and monitoring in countries in the development ".
Brazil	The National Chemical Safety Commission (Conasq) was created by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change through Ordinance No. 319, of December 27, 2000, amended by Ordinance No. 352, of September 8, 2003, and constitutes a relevant intersectoral articulation mechanism for the promotion of adequate management of chemical substances, which aims to create opportunities for the strengthening, dissemination and development of integrated actions related to chemical safety. Despite its importance as a multisectoral engagement mechanism, the Conasq was extinguished by Decree No. 9,759, of April 11, 2019, which extinguished and established guidelines, rules and limitations for collegiate bodies of the federal public administration. Thus, between 2019 and 2022, no meeting was held, weakening intersectoral articulation to promote the environmentally sound management of chemicals in Brazil.

	In 2023, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change developed a proposal to restore and strengthen the Conasq through a Presidential Decree, that was agreed with the main stakeholders which composes the Conasq, and sent to the Civil House to be signed by the President in June 2023.
Cambodia	Enhancing stakeholder's coordination and engagement
Colombia	The government of Colombia participates in several spaces for discussion and involvement in issues of chemical substances and hazardous waste, among them, can be highlighted: the Committee of Chemicals for Industrial Use, the Chemical Safety Table of the National Intersectoral Technical Commission for Environmental Health (CONASA), the Technical Advisory Commission on Technological Risks (CENARIT) and the National Committee on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment. In the period 2020 to 2022, various instruments and projects were developed or implemented aimed at promoting the involvement of different actors, both from the Government and the private sector, who have responsibilities in the proper management of chemicals and waste. Among others the following: A) Update and approval of the Environmental Policy for the integrated management of hazardous waste and its Action Plan 2022-2030. B) Policy regarding Asbestos Substitution C) POPs projects: progress or projects developed in the period 2020-2022
Costa Rica	One of the most important achievements at the national level is the creation of the Technical Secretariat for Coordination for the Management of Chemical Substances since 2006. The Secretariat is a support instance for the competent national authorities and focal points of the different conventions related to this matter (Stockholm, Rotterdam, Basel, Minamata), as well as other related authorities, in order to promote an effective and efficient conducting the issue of chemical substances at the national level. There are representatives from: the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Customs Services of the Ministry of Finance, Occupational Health Council, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) linked to the issue of chemical substances, Costa Rican Union of Chambers and Private Business Associations linked to the issue of chemical substances, the National Council of Rectors linked to the issue of chemical substances.
Dominican Republic	In the country, work has been done with emphasis on strengthening the institutional relations involved in the management of chemical substances. We have made a lot of progress on the subject, because we have an agreement signed with these institutions so that they give us support in expediting requests for the import of chemical substances and the export of hazardous waste. We need to further strengthen links with stakeholders and with multi-sectoral sectors to share and empower over responsibilities in the chemicals and waste sector We have a list of controlled chemical substances, but we still need to carry out a national inventory to know the quantity of chemical substances that we have available in the country and where they are found. In addition, we still do not have the Globally Harmonized System for the classification and labeling of chemical products.
Eritrea	a) A National Follow up Workshop on Chemicals (Rotterdam Convention) has been done with the participation of different stakeholders for four days with totally 35 participants from different ministries and organisations.

	b) National domestic wastes inventory has been done every year with a huge gap of accurate data. c) Proposal has been submitted for safeguarding and disposal of PCB and PCB contaminated equipment's to African Institute and got rejected. Then the proposal will be submitted to UNIDO in this
Ethiopia	•Awareness raising workshops on PCB chemical management were given to stakeholders, women and technicians •Public mobilization on urban and institutional hazardous waste management was conducted.
EU	Extract from the submission: • Adoption of the European Green Deal • Adoption of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability - Towards a Toxic-Free Environment • Adoption of a new Circular Economy Action Plan - For a cleaner and more competitive Europe • Adoption of the EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil' • Adoption of the Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system • Adoption of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives • Adoption of the EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027 - Occupational safety and health in a changing world of work • Transition pathway for the chemical industry • Development of legislation following the steering from the strategies and action plans, e.g. REACH, CLP/GHS, packaging, waste shipments, ESPR (product safety), single use plastics, sustainable use of pesticides, detergents, ozone depleting substances, mercury; Full answer available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Finland	In addition to EU answer, Finland would like report the following. Finland has an Advisory Committee on Chemicals that is a cooperation body appointed by the Government. It has members from different ministries, the relevant authorities to chemicals control, trade and industry as well as stakeholders from the civil society and private sector. Committee meets regularly and has sub-committees dealing with chemical products, biocides, international issues and cosmetics. One of the main tasks is to promote cooperation between different sectors and stakeholders. In 2022, a Chemicals Forum was organized for the first time. An idea of an open-ended multistakeholder forum arose from the process of renewal of the national Chemicals Programme. The Chemicals Forum is an annual meeting that brings together the chemicals experts from governmental institutions, civil society organisations, academia and private sector as well as the central employee organisations to discuss and share information on topical issues of safe and sustainable chemicals management. We have also made a voluntary agreement, Green Deal, on early childhood education and care. Deal is made between Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and procuring entities of big cities. The

	objective of the agreement is to reduce children's exposure to harmful substances in early childhood education and care environments through public procurement. In addition, it aims to increase the procurement of products and services that have been awarded e.g. the Nordic Ecolabel. The agreement creates common procurement criteria that the contracting parties will use in their future procurements
France	During the period of 2020-2022, France has continued working with all stakeholders to enhance their responsibility and promote public policies allowing to limit exposure of citizens and the environment to hazardous chemicals. In May 2021, France launched its 4th fourth national health and environment plan. This fourth plan is the result of a consultation carried out since since January 2019 with all the stakeholders within the framework of the Health and Environment Group (GSE). It has four ambitious objectives for the next five years: -allow everyone, young people, citizens, elected officials, professionals, to be better informed and to act to protect their health and that of their environment thanks to simple and easily accessible tools; -reduce environmental exposures and their impact on health and that of ecosystems; -involve communities more, so that environmental health is available in the territories (municipalities, public establishments for inter-municipal cooperation, departments, regions), as close as possible to everyone's needs; -thanks to research, better understand exposures throughout life and understand the effects of environmental pollution on health. In May 2022, in the framework of the French Presidency of the EU, France organized a ministerial conference on chemicals. These two days of conference were an opportunity to reaffirm, in the context of the current climate, health and geopolitical crises, common European ambitions to guarantee access to a healthy environment for all. On the first day, thematic round tables made it possible to deepen the priority objectives set by the European strategy for sustainability in the field of chemicals. The second day was an opportunity for the European Commission, the ministers of the Member States, as well as the stakeholders to exchange their visions and ambitions for European policy in the field of chemicals. The two days of meeting ended with the political and regulatory segment of the 4th Forum on endocrine disruptors of the European Commission, co-organized with the French Ministry of Ecological Transition. In 2022, France also took part in the high-level round table organized by the European Commission on safe and sustainable by design. These round tables make it possible to ensure the commitment of all the actors in the implementation of the European chemicals strategy for sustainability.
Gambia	With regards to chemicals management in The Gambia, our parent chemicals law; the Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides Control & Management Act 1994 and the amendment bill 2023 established a multisectoral Board that makes chemicals and waste decisions with the National Environment Agency. Institutions comprising this Board include those from the public and private sector.
Georgia	It is an established practice in the implementation of various projects or in the process of working on new legislation to form inter-agency working groups/steering committees with the involvement of all interested parties. These groups coordinate and supervise the effective implementation of the

	work process. Also, awareness raising activities with stakeholders are conducted regularly.
Germany	•German Centre for Micropollutants (SZB): Round tables on specific pharmaceuticals to develop measures to reduce their emission into the environment - water in particular - with various stakeholders, e. g. diclofenac or contrast-agents, i. e. pharmaceutical companies, academia, agencies, health-care sector, doctors, environmental NGOs, associations of drinking water supplier and sewage treatment facilities, public health insurances. •Cooperation with Public Health Insurance "AOK Baden-Württemberg" and other stakeholders to develop emission limit values for production facilities of pharmaceuticals to be considered in the procurement process - Cooperation with Health Insurance "AOK Baden-Württemberg" and other stakeholders to develop emission limit values for production facilities in the context of public procurement. AOK started extra discount agreement tender for 5 antibiotics, for the first time with specifications on environmental protection. Pharmaceutical producers remaining within or falling below defined maximum concentrations in water can get bonus awards for the contract. •Due diligence law: the German national law on due diligence in the supply chain (Gesetz über die unternehmerischen Sorgfaltspflichten zur Vermeidung von Menschenrechtsverletzungen in Lieferketten - Lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetz) from 2021 obliges German companies with more than 3,000 employees in Germany to check whether their suppliers comply with human rights and the MEAs such as the Minamata Convention and Stockholm Convention, and to report their findings to the German agency that is tasked with collecting and evaluating this information.
Iraq	1- Raising awareness of issues related to the sound management of chemicals and waste generated from there 2- The participation of the various sectors in finding appropriate solutions to the environmental and health problems resulting from chemical pollution and the implementation of national programs to reduce the negative effects of the use of chemicals. 3- Raising awareness among decision-makers and senior managements of chemical risks and pollution, which contributes to supporting the various sectors to promote sound management and develop operational plans and integrate them within the concerns of government and the private sector. 4- Pushing towards the contribution of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations in developing programs and plans for the sound management of chemicals and waste.
Kenya	The Kenya National Multisectoral Committee on Sound Chemicals Management was Establishment in 2020. The membership are from Government Ministries, key lead agencies and sectors, enablers, universities, civil society organizations and industry. The key roles of the committee are: i.Promote collaboration and partnership among the stakeholders. ii.Promote awareness and advocacy on sound chemicals management. iii.Promote data collection, analysis, information, best practices sharing and knowledge management to inform decision making. iv.Promote capacity building among the chemical management stakeholders. v.Prepare joint multi-sectoral project concepts and implementation of activities. vi.Evaluate and promote innovative solutions for sustainable sound chemical management.

	The committee capacity was through different trainings on IOMC Toolkit conducted by OECD. Technical support and training was also received by KEMI, and through UTC Program in Chemical and Risk Management. Health and Environment Strategic Alliance (HESA) adressing linkages between chemicals and health
Kuwait	As the chemical safety department is a subset of the Environmental protection authority as a whole, we are committed to ensure that any updates to emerging policies are implemented in a timely manner and reinforced using the Legislative Laws of Kuwait ("Environment protection law number (42) for year 201 4") which gives the environmental protection Authority the permitted authority in order to reinforce emerging policies, and as such we make it a national responsibility of all the nationwide stakeholders that we are in frequent communication with such as the Ministry of Oil, Kuwait Municipality, The Ministry of Health, The Ministry of Electricity and Water, The General Administration of Customs, and more in order to promote and reinforce commitment and multisectoral engagement.
Kingdom of Lesotho	During the reporting period, the Chemicals Management Committee, a multistakeholder and multisectoral committee which is the national coordinating mechanism, met quarterly every year to discuss chemical management issues
Madagascar	- Training members of the ChemObs Committee of Madagascar on the National management of chemicals - Brainstorming meeting on the mechanism for managing the application of pesticides in public health - Discussion meetings on the development of a draft law on pesticides - In 2020: establishment of an intersectoral Lead in Paint committee for the implementation of the project; - EXPLOI project, which aims to reduce plastic pollution in the Indian Ocean by creating the conditions for changing behaviors and stakeholder engagement; sharing the production of shared scientific knowledge; raising awareness and developing practices and innovations (reducing the use of plastics, using alternative products, changing the economic model).
Mexico	Full answer available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Montenegro	In order to improve the work of the National Help Desk and more efficient work in the management of chemicals and biocidal products, in cooperation with the University of Montenegro (Faculty of Metallurgy and Technology) and the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, 6 informative materials were prepared that can be found on the website Agencies, https://epa.org.me/help-desk/. In 2020 and 2021, 6 and 7 NGO projects were approved for the implementation of an educational campaign in the field of safe management of chemicals based on the Sectoral Analysis to determine proposals for priority areas of public interest and the necessary funds for financing projects and programs of non-governmental organizations from the Budget of Montenegro. In this way, the interest of NGOs in this area was stimulated and the inclusion of these important actors in communication with the public and particularly sensitive target groups. Montenegro, as a signatory country to international conventions in the field of chemicals management, is obliged to take care of the implementation of relevant tasks and obligations established by the accepted Conventions, as well

	as to regularly report to the sectarians of the conventions. Considering that these are international conventions in the same field, a synergistic approach to the management of chemicals and waste to which these conventions refer can improve efficiency in the execution of relevant obligations. In this regard, in the period 2022-2025. the project "Strengthening synergy between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions" will be implemented. with the aim of improving cooperation between ministries and agencies, industry, scientific institutes and civil society organizations in the field of chemicals and waste management. The expected results of this project include the establishment of a synergistic approach to the management of chemicals and waste in Montenegro through the improvement of the regulatory framework, capacity building and awareness-raising activities, as well as the establishment of an efficient national reporting mechanism regarding the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions. This project is financed by donor funds, by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
Panama	Work has been done in different contexts with the industry that manages hazardous waste, with the academy. As we do not have a large chemical industry, the related issues are not easy because you work with distributors who do not have the same interests or objectives as the industry.
Russian Federation	Full answer available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Serbia	Full answer available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
South Africa	Established a national multi-stakeholder committee on chemicals management (MCCM) with an annual workplan (contributions of activities for the year from all stakeholders), progress of which to be reported, monitored and assessed quarterly to the committee. Also established as and when needed MCCM technical sub-committee for specific projects or issues. MCCM is composed of all chemicals management stakeholders [academics, NGOs, chemicals industry, CroplifeSA, national departments: Water and Sanitation, Transport, Trade and Industry, SA Revenue with customs, Labour, Education, Agriculture, Health, and Environment].
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	In 2001, the Presidential Commission on Chemical Safety (CPSQ in Spanish) was established by Decree No. 1.246 of 13-03-2001, composed of representatives of the public and private sectors, whose objective is to advise the National Executive on the orientation and formulation of policies and strategies that allow intersectoral cooperation and integration for the control of production, use, distribution, management and disposal of hazardous chemicals.

Governments list	Q2. Core activity b **Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation**
Armenia	National legislation on chemicals and wastes management is constantly improved. The Law "On Mercury" has been adopted with by-laws prohibiting mercury-containing products
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2020-2023 BH, with a support of Swedish SEI drafted the countrywide strategy on environmental protection *ESAP 2030 (https://esap.ba/). This strategy was recommended by a EU Commission (EC), and BH recently gained status of a EU candidate. This document comprises both national and entities/district level priorities. The BiH ESAP 2030+ will provide a long-term planning framework, allowing for coherent environmental practices and actions across BiH. It will be a critical tool for relevant authorities to reach environmental sustainability and improved citizen health and well-being for current and future generations across BiH. Additionally, governmental organizations in BH, with the support of UNDP, drafted the legislation that will support better implementation of the Stockholm convention. There has been an improvement in chemicals legislation (its under the authority of the health sector) - both entities are working in aligning its legislation on chemicals among the BH entities (Republic of Srpska and Federation of BH) and with the EU legislation. Legislation on waste is in place and is being implemented within the entities. As a EU candidate, BH is working on aligning its legislation with the EU legislation. EC reported that there was a small progress in regard with aligning with the Chapter 27 of the EU acquies. BH needs to enhance the legal framework, strengthen administrative capacity and monitoring systems, and improve inter-institutional coordination, in line with the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and the 2050 climate neutrality target. Coherence of policies adopted at various levels of governance is a major challenge for Bosnia and Herzegovina with its four-level governance system. In the absence of an SDG comprehensive state strategy, regional support has been identified as key to the successful implementation of the objectives. https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/
Brazil	During 2016 to 2018, the National Commission on Chemical Safety (CONASQ) elaborated a new legislation with the view of promote the environmentally sound management of industrial chemicals in Brazil. The Draft Law - PL 6120/2019 - which aims to create the National Inventory of Chemical Substances with the aim of consolidating an information base on chemical substances produced or imported into Brazilian territory, is under analysis by the National Congress. The Draft Law establishes: a) The National Inventory of Chemicals produced or imported to Brazil, with information filled by the producers and importers such as: company and chemical general information, hazard classification (according GHS), recommended uses and quantities. b) Criteria for prioritization; c) Technical Committee on Risk Assessment to carry out risk assessments and propose risk management measures; d) Deliberative Committee to decide on the risk management measures; e) Rules for new substances; f) Transparency as the standard and rules to protect Confidential Business Information (CBI); g) Cost Recovery measures; h) Board of Appeal; i) Sanctions and penalties to non-compliance; j) Institutional responsibilities for the enforcement;

	k) Regulatory cooperation in order to facilitate the implementation of the law.
Cambodia	-building and strengthening institutional's capacity -strengthening regional coordination and establishing information sharing platform
Colombia	In the period 2020 to 2022, laws and regulations were issued to strengthen the management of various chemicals and wastes, such as lead, chemical pesticides for agricultural use, chemical substances for industrial use and waste electrical and electronic equipment. We highlight the most relevant legislation and regulations, below: • Law 2041 of 2020 The Colombian Congress issued Law 2041 of 2020, through which, a series of controls are established, as well as prohibitions related to the use of lead in various articles and products. • Resolution 480 of 2020 With the support and technical guidelines of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism regulated and implemented the Registry of Producers and Marketers of Electrical and Electronic Equipment — RPCAEE through Resolution 0480 of April 17, 2020. • Resolution ICA 75487 of 2020 "By means of which the provisions are established for the gradual implementation of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for the labeling of Chemical Pesticides for Agricultural Use (PQUA) Decree 1630 of 2021 Decree 1630 of 2021 established the Management Program for Chemical Substances for Industrial Use that has the purpose of protecting human health and the environment from the adverse effects associated with the use of industrial chemical substances, in a systematic way, through the implementation of 4 management instruments: 1 National inventory of chemical substances for industrial use, is a database of information on chemical substances manufactured and imported into the country, 2. The prioritization instrument that seeks, based on the analysis of inventory information, to prioritize the substances that will be subject to risk assessments and risk reduction and management programs (instruments 3 and 4 respectively). • Decree 1347 of 2021 During 2021, Decree 1347 was issued, through which the Major Accident Prevention Program (PPAM) was adopted in order to increase the safety of facilities, where hazardous chemicals are stored in quantities above the thresholds that were defined in the Decree. Similarly, it is intended to reduce the risk to which workers, the environment, infrastructure and society, in general, would be exposed to in the event of a major accident. Resolution 773 of 2021

	The Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection issued Resolution 773 of 2021, which defines the regulations for the application of the GHS at the workplace and is one of the regulatory standards of Decree 1496 of 2018 and Law 55 of 1993, among others, related to the management of chemical products at the workplace. Resolution 851 of 2022 Resolution 851 of August 5, 2022 was issued, which establishes the guidelines and requirements that must be met by the WEEE collection and management systems implemented by EEE producers and extended the regulation to all EEE for mass consumption that are marketed in the country, setting national targets for the collection and long-term management of WEEE, based on the principle of extended producer responsibility and taking into account the shelf life of the equipment.
Costa Rica	Costa Rica is an example of integrating all relevant stakeholders,including from agriculture into chemicals management coordination mechanism.- the Technical Secretariat on Chemical Substances (established by Executive Decree 33104). Recently, the Government agencies were engaged in the development of a joint 'National HHP Action Plan' in order to reduce the use as well as risks associated with the use of pesticides (more information here). Ongoing discussions within the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 process provide an opportunity to ensure wider stakeholder engagement (i.e., from the agriculture sector) in the future framework and encourage integrated chemicals and waste management for issues like HHPs.
Dominican Republic	In this period, Law 225-2020. General Comprehensive Law and Co-processing of Solid Waste was approved, which is currently adapting and preparing the regulations for its application. Regulation 0016-2020. The environmental technical regulation for the management of hazardous substances and wastes, was updated Regulation 0020-2020, The Regulation for Land Transportation of Hazardous Substances and Materials, was updated We are in the process of approving a resolution to support the international BRS conventions, in the prohibition of the substances annexed to said conventions. We recognize that we still need to improve on environmental contaminants, the monitoring of human poisonings and chemical accidents. We should also have a research program to determine the best alternatives to protect human health and the environment.
Eritrea	In general, it can be mentioned that the updating of National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP-E) document starting from late 2021. And more specifically a Directive for Hazardeous Waste Management and Other Wastes has been issued in the last of 2022. However, it can be said that there is no any national legislative activity established specifically to chemicals only.
Ethiopia	•A Regulation to provide for the registration and administration of industrial chemical presented to the council of Ministers for approval •Industrial Chemical Registration and Administration Guideline prepared •A directive issued to phase-out the use of polychlorinated biphenyls materials and polychlorinated biphenyl contaminated materials
EU	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Finland	In Finland the chemicals, including hazardous substances and waste legislation of the European Union is in force.

	The Nordic Countries share a long-running tradition of environmental cooperation. Finland is actively involved in Nordic cooperation. Nordic environmental cooperation is based on the Programme for Nordic Co-operation on the Environment and Climate, the vision adopted by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2019 and the sustainable development strategy of the Nordic Countries and the surrounding areas. The Arctic Council is an intergovernmental forum for promoting sustainable development and environmental protection. It has eight Member States: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Russia, Canada and the United States. In addition, six organisations representing indigenous peoples have status as Permanent Participants. The Arctic Council Working Groups produce research and reports, and Finland has contributed to strengthening the production of data and knowledge on chemicals and their impacts in the Arctic. Finland is actively participating and contributing to the cooperation of Helsinki Convention, HELCOM (the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area) which dates back to 1974. The Helsinki Convention seeks to protect the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution from land, air and sea, as well as to preserve biological diversity and to promote the sustainable use of marine resources. HELCOM has a special working group that produces data, assessments and policy recommendations to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from pollution by hazardous substances.
France	During the 2020-2022 period, France was very involved in the work to implement the European chemicals strategy. In particular, France has invested heavily in revising the CLP (relating to classification, labeling and packaging) and REACH regulations on chemical products. France has also been involved in the negotiations related to Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on chemicals and waste.
Gambia	The Government of the Gambia since 1994 has enacted several chemicals and waste legislation and regulation to enhance its enforcement towards chemicals and waste within and beyond its borders. Currently, two vital legislation are been approved by the cabinet; the Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides Control and Management Amendment Bill 2023, and the waste bill 2022.
Georgia	Georgia has signed and ratified the Association Agreement with the EU. According to this Agreement, the parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation on environmental issues, thereby contributing to the long-term objective of sustainable development. Policy objectives concerning chemicals management are included in the 2014 Association Agreement with the EU. Georgia is a party to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the field of chemicals and waste management. The policy making related to the management of chemicals in Georgia is influenced by the Strategic Approach to Sound Management of Chemicals – SAICM, which provides a policy framework of chemicals management to participating countries. The Minamata Convention "on Mercury" has been ratified by the Georgian Parliament by resolution N3005-XIმს-Xმპ "Regarding the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury" on May 31, 2023. The package of legislative changes arising from the convention ("On Amendments to the Law of Georgia on Environmental Protection", "On Amendments to the Code of Administrative Offences of Georgia" and "On Amendments to the Criminal Code of Georgia") were developed and approved by the Decree of the Government of Georgia dated February 21, 2023 N348 "regarding the submission of the "Minamata Convention on Mercury" and the attached draft laws to the Parliament of Georgia". The above-mentioned draft laws are submitted to the Parliament for the adoption.

	The Governmental decree N263 (13.06.2016) "on Rule of Import and Export of Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides and Implementation of Prior Informed Consent Procedure" is aligned with Rotterdam Convention and Regulation (EU) 649/2012 concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals (EU Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation). Decree sets rules and procedures for export notification and requesting of consent for the export of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides which are subject to the prior informed consent procedure and which are prohibited and strictly restricted in the territory of Georgia. According to this decree export and import of certain hazardous and banned chemicals, including pesticides is prohibited. - Resolution No. 593 of the Government of Georgia of December 3, 2019 was developed, amending the Resolution No. 263 of the Government of Georgia dated June 13, 2016 ""on Rule of Import and Export of Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides and Implementation of Prior Informed Consent Procedure" On the rules for export-import of individual hazardous chemical substances and pesticides and the procedure for prior informed consent". With this amendment This resolution has been brought into line with the decisions taken at the 2017 and 2019 by the Conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention in 2017 and 2019. The Governmental Decree N247 (23.05.2018) "On Adoption of the National implementation plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) for 2018-2022 years" is adopted in accordance with the requirements of the Stockholm Convention "On Persistent Organic Pollutants". Decree describes the current situation with persistent organic pollutants in Georgia and determines the measures to be implemented in 2018-2022. Update of the National Implementation Plan for inclusion of the newly added POPs is initiated with support of the GEF/UNEP global project. Within the framework of the GEF funded ongoing project "PCB-free electricity distribution in Georgia" the PCB inventory of the equipment in the electricity supply sector was carried out, a database was developed. Resolution N575 of December 15, 2022 of the Government of Georgia was developed and adopted, which defined the rules and safety norms for the management of equipment and oils containing polychlorinated biphenyls and their waste. In 2019-2020, a series of trainings were conducted in Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions on "Management of all phases of the life cycle of polychlorinated biphenyls". Chemical safety issues have an important place in the "National CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) Threats Reduction Strategy for 2021-2030 years", which defines measures for the prevention, identification, preparedness and response for specific threats. Pesticides Approved for Use and placing on the market in Georgia is regulated by the Order №2-29, of January 12, 2020, "on Approval of Official Catalogue of Pesticides Approved for Use in Georgia" in accordance With the Georgian law "On Pesticides and Agrochemicals". Rules for transportation of dangerous goods are set by the Governmental decree N89 (15.02.2019) "On Rules for Transportation of Dangerous Goods by Vehicles" (in accordance with ADR and UN Rules for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road in the Field of Road Transport). With the support of the Czech Development Agency, the draft law "On Chemicals and Mixtures" and draft by-laws ("On classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals and mixtures"; "On registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemical substances"; "On information in the supply chain") have been elaborated in accordance with the requirements of the EU regulations "Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals" (REACH) 1907/2006 and "Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Chemical Substances and Mixtures" (CLP) 1272/2008. During 2022, draft law reviews and workshops were held with different stakeholders, including the private sector.

	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture with support of the US State Department started implementation of "Institutional Capacity Building for Chemical Safety and Security in Georgia" project. This project will strengthen chemical safety and security legal frameworks and institutional capacities in Georgia in furtherance of national and international weapons of mass destruction (WMD) non-proliferation, counterterrorism, human health, and environmental safety objectives. The need for development of national modern chemical safety and security policy in line with requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and other non-proliferation and counterterrorism multilateral and bilateral agreements and arrangements is outlined in Georgia's 2021-2030 National Strategy for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Threat Reduction. Such objectives include creating an improved and harmonized legal framework on chemicals in line with EU regulations, increasing capacities at national stakeholder institutions to ensure sound management and security of chemicals, and developing capacities for effective monitoring and control systems, which are milestones to ensure chemical safety and security at national and local levels. In September 2022 the EU technical assistance project "Support to waste management and development of the circular economy in Georgia" was launched. The project envisages support for the implementation of extended producer responsibility; creation of integrated electronic databases for waste management; development and implementation of pilot projects related to EPR; Implementation of awareness raising measures in the waste management sector.
Germany	•National position on improving environmental protection in preparation of the EU Pharma Package 2023 (https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/improving-environmental-protection-in-eu) •Participation in the revision process on the guideline on the environmental risk assessment of human medicines and additions to the guidelines on the environmental risk assessment of veterinary medicines •Participation in training for risk assessors of human medicines in EU Member states or other regions, e. g. via the VICH outreach forum (https://vichsec.org/en/training/module-4.html); training network organized by EMA for Europe with presentations given by national experts •Further development of multilateral environment agreements et al. on chemicals: UN GHS: Germany is actively supporting the work of the "potential hazard issues informal working group" (PHI-IWG) under the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on GHS (UN SCE GHS), and their introduction into the GHS. These include new hazard classes and criteria for ED (HH and ENV), PBT/vPvB and PMT/vPvM. Germany volunteered to co-lead the work on PMT/vPvM. •German Biocide Law Implementation Ordinance (2021): content for example: sale of biocidal products is only allowed to persons of the authorised user group with the exemption of resellers; obligatory information to the general public at point of sale is necessary for the biocidal product types of film preservatives, wood preservatives, construction material preservatives, rodenticides, insecticides and antifouling products; sales personnel needs to be trained on these topics; self-service is prohibited for rodenticides, insecticides and antifouling products; the quantity of each biocidal product placed on the German market or exported from Germany needs to be registered annually via a website; https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/chembioziddv/index.html#BJNR370610021BJNE001200000 (in German) •German Law on Nature Conservation and Landscape Management: after the last update (2022), now, large-scale use of insecticides and spraying of wood preservatives is prohibited in conservation areas, national parks, national nature monuments, core areas and buffer zones of biosphere reserves, natural monuments and biotopes

	protected by law. Exemptions may be granted by authorities responsible for nature conservation if necessary for the protection of human or animal health. https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bnatschg_2009/__30a.html (in German)
Iraq	1- Approving the national strategy for chemical security in Iraq and the related implementation plans 2- Approving the pollution reduction strategy and defining the tasks assigned to each sector, whether governmental or non-governmental 3- Approving the controls for classifying hazardous chemical wastes 4- Updating the data on hazardous chemicals according to the (GHS) system and the security and health risks associated with them, and preparing lists of chemicals with limited circulation and chemicals that require a special permit to deal with them under government control. 5- Encourage various sectors to adopt the (GHS) system in identifying risks associated with the use of chemicals 6- Evaluating the work of institutions working in the field of chemicals and waste management through the Special Program Project
Kenya	The following policies, laws ad programs were initiated done within the period of 2020-2022 •Development of the Draft Chemicals Policy •Hazardous substances regulations (Chemicals Regulations) •Enactment of the Waste Management Act •Air quality regulations •Draft Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations •Dental amalgam regulations •Draft Deposit Bond Regulations •Review of the healthcare waste guidelines •Covid 19 waste management guidelines at the community level •Kenya is among the countries initiated the developing regional Highly Hazardous Pesticides risks reduction strategy •Kenya has developed guidelines on management of guanidinium thiocyanate •EAC guidelines on pesticides registration •Draft E-Waste regulations •The EAC standards for paints and allied products were revised with the inclusion of a legal limit of 90 ppm total lead content (to phase out lead paint across the East Africa region).
Kuwait	The work done by the different inhouse teams of the Environmental Protection Authority of Kuwait (EPA) follow and implements any changes or amendments to banned/restricted chemicals under the different international Conventions (Minamata, Stockholm, Rotterdam). These bans and restrictions are possible due to Kuwaits national legislative Framework and Laws specifically the "Environment protection law number (42) for year 201 4" as well as Kuwaits National Action plan which aids in the capacity of the EPA's capability to address and reinforce a standardized framework on sound management of chemical storage and waste, which in turn reinforces regional co-operation as well as provide Companies with the necessary understanding and information regarding the regulatory frameworks.
Kingdom of Lesotho	During the reporting period, the Department of Environment has been working with the Office of Parliamentary Council in drafting the Toxic and hazardous chemicals management bill. it is currently at the final stages of drafting.
Madagascar	- A national standard NMG 421-1 for "Paint Products"with a view to the protection of human health, in particular children and workers in the field concerned

	- Integration of the management of chemicals and public health pesticides in the new draft Health Code. - Proposal for the drafting of the national framework law on waste management and disposal - Proposal for the development of used tire import procedures. - Proposal for the development of a decree for the application of the national standard NMG 421-1 for "Paint products" with a view to protecting human health, in particular children and workers in the field concerned
Mexico	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Montenegro	Bearing in mind that the EU regulations on chemicals are subject to relatively frequent changes in order to harmonize with technical progress and scientific knowledge (such as those related to substances for which prohibitions and restrictions have been established, harmonized classification and labeling, the obligation to implement the prior notification procedure during import/export , substances that are not entered in the register, as well as test methods), the need for frequent updating of national regulations on chemicals in Montenegro is taken into account. This will prevent the occurrence of significant differences in the regulatory status of certain substances in Montenegro compared to the EU, where special attention should be paid to the status of prescribed prohibitions and restrictions. It is necessary to work further on harmonization with the provisions of the EU Regulation on mercury, namely in the part related to mercury waste, which will be taken over by a special by-law for which the basis for adoption will be given through the new Law on Waste Management, which adoption planned for 2023. In order to efficiently perform work tasks related to the implementation of the provisions of the regulations taken from EU chemicals and waste it is necessary that the employees in the tasks of managing chemicals and waste continuously exchange information and experiences with colleagues from EU countries. In this regard, this activity will provide an upgrade in terms of specific knowledge and experience through the participation of employees in trainings and meetings.
Panama	Politically it has been almost impossible to pass a law on substances and waste. Technically we have about 4 administrations presenting it and it does not go from the Executive to the Assembly of Deputies, because the sector that handles chemicals and waste does not allow it. Most of them are distributors of chemical substances. We have decrees that serve to regulate some more specific issues, but not a framework law.
Russian Federation	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Serbia	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
South Africa	The overall chemicals management Policy and the Bill were drafted but were never accepted by all relevant stakeholders. Specific Regulations have been developed especially to domesticate several MEAs that South Africa is a party to.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	The legal structure of Venezuela comprises the National Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, laws, regulations and specific rules regulating environmental matters, some of which are specific to chemical and agrochemical substances. National Constitution. Constitutional Law on the Environment. Constitutional Law on Security and Defense. Constitutional Law on Customs.

	Constitutional Law on the Prevention of the Work Environment. Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Environment Criminal Law. Law on Hydrocarbons. Decrees 263503-08-1998.Standards for the Control of Recovery of Hazardous Materials and the Management of Hazardous Wastes. 088912-09-1995. Customs Tariffs. 1847, relating to the General Regulation of Pesticides. 3129-1-94 Inorganic Chemicals - Requirements for Zinc Oxide. 3129-2-94 Inorganic Chemicals – Test Methods for Zinc Oxide. 2277-85 Lead and its Compounds-Occupational Health and Safety Measures. 3027-93 Mercury- Transport, Storage and Use - Occupational Health Measures. 2239-85 Flammable and Combustible Materials-Storage and Handling. 2466-87Chimneys and Ducts from a Fixed Source – Determination of Particle Concentration. 1106 Classification of Pesticides, 1995. 1160 Pesticide Labelling, 1995. 3059 Hazardous Materials. Material Safety Data Sheet. Resolution 230. Sanitary Standards for the Project and Operation of a Sanitary Landfill for Non-Toxic Solid Waste.

Governments list	Q3. Core activity c **Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes, and budgets**
Armenia	Chemicals and wastes sound management has been mainstreamed in strategy and policy documents; Action Plan for 2022-2026 was approved by the Government.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sound management of chemicals and waste needs more support in BH, governmental organizations need more activities and strong capacities - human, technical, financial in order to create plans, implement them and have sustainable budgets in place that will support risk reduction and better inter-sectoral collaboration. Workshops/projects assist these activities but are project/budget dependent.
Brazil	The Draft Law - PL 6120/2019 – was developed to mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda, and was guided by the need of collaboration within the existing federal regulatory institutions engaged in the sound management of chemicals and waste (environment, health, labor and industry). The governmental bodies responsible by the chemicals agenda will be part of the: (b) Risk Assessment Technical Committee to carry out risk assessment and propose risk management measures; and (c) Deliberative Committee to decide on the risk management measures. Other pillar of the national discussions was the need to promote industry responsibility, transparency and accountability based on closer interaction among government, private sector and the NGOs, looking for promote the risk assessment and management tools and raising awareness in the society to these issues.
Cambodia	Incorporating SMC into national development plan
Colombia	Colombia has a "Policy for the management of the risk associated with the use of chemical substances" approved in 2016. This policy has been implemented by different sectors of the national government and comprises 4 main components: - Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) - The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Hazardous Chemicals (GHS) - The Industrial Chemicals Programme - The Major Accident Program in Hazardous Facilities. With regard to the management of persistent organic pollutants, Colombia has made significant progress in updating national inventories of unintentional POPs, national reports on POPs have been prepared and sent to the Convention Secretariat, and PCB treatment capacities in the country have also been strengthened. identification and elimination of brominated flame retardants POPs and projects are currently under way to improve the management of new POPs (PFOS and short-chain chlorinated paraffins).
Costa Rica	In Costa Rica, the National Development and Public Investment Plan (PNDIP) refers to the guiding framework of Government policies for a period of four years, prepared under the coordination of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN) with the other institutions of the National Planning System (SNP) and citizen participation. The current PNDIP establishes the monitoring of compliance with the Law for the Comprehensive Management of Solid Waste in a way that reduces health costs, caused by epidemics and diseases derived from poor waste management. Also the strengthening of the Country Brand including the sustainable production of agro-landscape, making visible the actions undertaken that have eradicated deforestation and reduced Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, where now an efficient and profitable agriculture model, as well as low in emissions, will be promoted, promoting the responsible use of agrochemicals and at the same time generating

	minimal contamination in water sources. These actions will benefit all the producers of the country located in the different regions, which include both men as women, under a gender approach; likewise, the general population through agricultural production free of residues and innocuous products. We seek for the Implementation of Good Agricultural Practices that minimize the risk of non-compliance with the maximum limits of pesticide residues in vegetables that can affect national production and the implementation of actions within the framework of the Law 8839 and its regulations aimed at strengthening the circular economy and comprehensive waste management.
Dominican Republic	In D.R. We are already working with the VUCE platform, Single Window for Foreign Trade, to register imports of chemical substances, but we have not yet included the export of hazardous waste in this platform. Much has been achieved in this area, but we have not been able to incorporate Chemical Substances and waste management into the sustainable development agenda. With the national emergency plan and the national risk guide, we have promoted risk reduction with respect to chemical substances and waste, but there is still a need to further disseminate and promote risk management at all levels of the country's productive chain. We need to make more progress on budgeting for chemicals and hazardous waste management to achieve the sustainable development goals.
Eritrea	In Eritrea, every development has done with collaboration of different sectors like Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Public work, Labour and Social, Trade and Industry, Transport and Communicatio, Local Government etc through the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment. Therefore, mainstreaming is the main responsibility of the Department of Environment.
Ethiopia	• The government of Ethiopia has mainstreamed the SD (which chemical is a part) in its strategic and annual plan and accordingly implementing
EU	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Finland	The national Chemicals Programme was revised 2022. It sets targets and guidelines for developing and improving chemical safety until 2035. An ambitious chemical programme will ensure and promote health and environmental protection. The aim is to prevent, identify and combat environmental pollution caused by harmful chemicals from various sources and the hazardous exposure of the population and employees to chemicals. The aim is to move towards an environment where chemicals do not harm human health or deteriorate the good state of the environment, in line with the objectives of the European Chemicals Strategy for sustainability.
France	No actvities
Gambia	Our newly approved National Development Plan (2022 -2027) have inncoorperated provisions specific to hazardous waste management as a national priority. In addition, the National Environment Agency in collaboration with the UNDP is implementing a chemicals and waste project aimed at strengthening national efforts in sound management of chemicals and wastes. Other small scaled projects are currently being approved and implementations are in progress.
Georgia	According to the Waste Management Code (harmonized with directive 2008/98/EC), the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS) and National Waste Management Action Plan (NWMAP) were approved by the Government Resolution N160 of April 1, 2016. The NWMS for 2016-2030 is a major policy document. The strategy is based on the AA requirements, international and national waste management principles. The strategy defines the strategic vision, goals and objectives of the country. Accordingly, the goals and objectives of the strategy are formulated, on the one hand, to address urgent problems in the field of waste management, and on the other, to achieve the basic conditions necessary for a long-term vision. In order to effectively implement the existing challenges in the waste management sector and the obligations stipulated by the legislation, on August 9, 2022, by the resolution

	N414 of the Government of Georgia, changes were made in the national waste management strategy and the new national action plan for 2022-2026 was also approved. In accordance with the Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia and the requirements of the Association Agenda, Georgia gradually approximated the waste management legislation with the EU. Accordingly, the European Commission Framework Directive on Waste 2008/98 / EC and other relevant directives, including The Landfill Directive, 1999/31/EC are used in the preparation of all the technical regulations in this regard. The Framework Law of Georgia on Waste Management Code (WMC) was adopted on December 26, 2014 and came into force from January 15, 2015. The purpose of the law is to provide the legal conditions for implementation of measures aiming at prevention of generation of waste and increased re-use, environmentally sound treatment of waste (including recycling and extraction of secondary raw materials, energy recovery from waste, as well as safe disposal). WMC's main objective is to protect the environment and human health by preventing and reducing the adverse impacts of the generation of waste, by introducing effective mechanisms for management, etc. Code defines waste management hierarchy as following: prevention, reuse, recycling, recovery (including energy recovery), and disposal. It also introduces some major principles, such as Precaution, Polluter Pays, Proximity and Self-Sufficiency. Waste Management Code Sets the requirements for waste management planning frameworks at the national, municipal, and company levels. Furthermore, code defines roles and responsibilities of all the actors/competent authorities that are involved in the waste management, such as various ministries, municipalities, private sector, etc. According to the above-mentioned law, the competence of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture in the field of waste management shall be to: a) Develop and implement a unified state policy for waste management; b) Keep record of waste and maintain a database of waste; c) Develop a national waste management strategy and a strategy for municipal biodegradable waste management; d) Develop, coordinate and submit reports on the implementation of a national waste management action plan; e) Issue permits and carry out the registration of waste management activities; f) Facilitate the prevention, separation, pretreatment, re-use and recycling of waste; g) Exercise state control of waste management. The Ministry together with the Ministry of Finance of Georgia shall regulate transboundary movements of waste. The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia together with the MEPA regulates and supervises healthcare waste management. LEPL Land Transport Agency within the system of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia issues admission certificates for means of transport to transport the hazardous waste. The competence of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia in the field of waste management shall be to ensure the construction of, manage and close non-hazardous waste landfills and to ensure the construction of and manage waste transfer station (The powers defined in this paragraph has transferred to the state-owned Solid Waste Management Company established under the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure). The authority of municipalities in the field of waste management includes the management of municipal waste (including the development of a municipal waste management plan). The construction, operation and closure of non-hazardous waste landfills within the administrative borders of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara and the city of Tbilisi falls within

	the authority of the relevant bodies of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara and the Municipality of Tbilisi. The Code sets requirements for municipal and hazardous waste management, for landfilling and on permitting, registration and reporting of specific waste management activities. It defines administrative offenses and prosecution related to waste management and waste disposal in line with international law standards and European experience. The maximum amounts of financial sanctions and general rules applicable to all waste-related violations are set. Code introduces a very progressive element - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principle. It means that producers and persons who place on a Georgian market certain goods should take responsibility for their goods that in the end becomes specific waste. Specific waste streams means those types of waste that arise from products, which in view of their nature and extensiveness when becoming waste require particular management measures and special care. Specific waste streams are considered as follows: packaging, waste oils, tires, end of life vehicles, batteries, accumulators and electric and electronic equipment. The producers are obliged to ensure the separate collection, transport, recovery (including recycling) and environmentally sound disposal of waste generated by their products. Besides the framework legislation, such as the waste code, specific aspects of waste management are regulated by several governmental resolutions/ordinances and by orders of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture listed below: Technical Regulation "On Municipal Waste Collection and Treatment". (GoG resolution No. 159, effective since 29 April 2016), - stipulates the requirements and minimum criteria for collection and treatment of household and municipal waste. It establishes procedures and performance criteria for providing effective collection services to all municipal waste generators in a municipality to minimize impact on human health and the environment, sets measures to reduce the use of natural resources through recovery and recycling initiatives that displace the need for natural resources in manufacturing new products. Sets criteria and recommendations on the type of collection (including separate collection by streams), containers, vehicles, typical (average) generation index, and typical (average) waste density for Georgia. Technical Regulation "On Construction, Operation, Closure and After-care of Landfills" (GoG Resolution No. 421, effective since11 August 2015) - aims to prevent and minimize the negative impacts of landfills on environment, especially on surface water, groundwater, soil and atmospheric air (including greenhouse effect), and on human health, via establishing strict operation and technical requirements, measures and procedures for wastes and landfills, during the entire lifecycle of a landfill. Also, sets waste acceptance construction, operation, closure and post closure criteria and limit values for all types of landfills (hazardous, non-hazardous, inert). The Landfill Directive, 1999/31/EC is used in the preparation of the mentioned technical regulation. Technical Regulation "Procedure of Transportation of Wastes" (GoG Resolution No. 143, effective 29 March 2016). Specifies the requirements to vehicles and containers used for waste transportation. It is applicable to the transportation of wastes to waste storage and/or treatment facilities on the territory or through the territory of Georgia. Technical Regulation "Procedure and Conditions for the Registration of Collection, Transportation, Pre-treatment and Temporary Storage of Waste" (GoG Resolution No. 144, effective 29 March 2016) sets procedures and Conditions for Registration of Waste Collection, Transportation, Temporary Storage and Pre-treatment. Moreover, obligates all profit/ non-profit organizations including local municipalities generating certain amounts of non-hazardous and hazardous wastes to register through MEPA's online registry. Technical Regulation "On Special Requirements for the Collection and Treatment of Hazardous Waste" (GoG Resolution No. 145, effective 29 March 2016). Establishes special

	requirements: to collection and transportation of hazardous waste; Traceability of hazardous wastes from their source of origin to disposal facility; Requirements to packaging and labelling of hazardous wastes and for their temporary storage facilities; sets requirements for waste oils, asbestos, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) including waste containing PCBs/ PCTs etc. Technical Regulation "Form and Content of Waste Data Record Keeping and Reporting" (GoG Resolution No. 422, effective 11 August 2015) - and consequent Decree No. 2-11 of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (effective 09 January 2018) "On the Rule for Filling in Waste Inventory/Registration-Reporting Electronic Form" establishes the rule of waste data record keeping and reporting to MEPA. The main objective of waste data record keeping and reporting is to generate comprehensive and reliable information about waste management related activities, that can be achieved through the established procedure of electronic record keeping and reporting and through determining the obligations of those physical persons and legal entities which produce, collect, transport and/or are engaged in treatment of wastes. Technical Regulation "On Rules of Regulation Plastic and Biodegradable Bags" (GoG Resolution No. 472, effective 14 September 2018). The purpose of this regulation is to compostable plastic bags. This regulation specifies the general requirements for production; reduce the use of plastic bags in order to stimulate production of biodegradable and sales and import of some forms of plastic carrier bags and Oxo-degradable bags as well as the enhanced production, sales and import of biodegradable and compostable bags that comply with Standard EN 13432:2000. Technical Regulation "The List of Wastes and Waste Classification By its type and Properties" (GoG Resolution No. 426 of 2015) is totally in line with the European List of Waste and categorizes wastes based on a combination of what they are and the process or activity that produces them. The use of waste codes is a legal requirement of waste holders to take all the reasonable steps to ensure that waste is described in a way that permits its safe handling and management. GoG Resolution No.324, effective 25 May 2020, Technical Regulation on the Management of Used Batteries and Accumulators: Sets EPR requirements for producers (including importers, stakeholders) on the management of used batteries and accumulators, and establishes 2022-2032 annual separate collection and recycling targets. (In line with EU directive 2006/66/EC). GoG Resolution No.325, effective 25 May 2020, Technical Regulation on the Management of End-of-life Tires (ELTs): Sets EPR requirements for producers (including importers, stakeholders) on the management of ELTs, and establishes 2023-2032 annual recycling and recovery targets. GoG Resolution No.326, effective 25 May 2020, Technical Regulation on the Management of Waste Electronic and Electric Equipment (WEEE): Sets EPR requirements for producers (including importers, stakeholders) on WEEE management, and establishes 2023-2032 annual separate collection, reuse, recycling and recovery targets. (In line with EU directive 2012/19/EU). GoG Resolution No.327, effective 25 May 2020, Technical Regulation on the Management of Used Oils: Sets EPR requirements for producers (including importers) on the management of used oils, and establishes 2023-2032 annual recovery and regeneration targets. (In line with EU directive 2008/98/EC).

	Packaging Waste - Sets EPR requirements for producers (including importers, stakeholders) on packaging waste management, and establishes annual separate collection, reuse, recycling and recovery targets. Draft resolution has been elaborated (in line with EU directive 2018/852). End-of-life-vehicles - Sets EPR requirements for producers (including importers, stakeholders) on End-of life-vehicles management, and establishes 2023-2032 annual separate collection, reuse, recycling and recovery targets. Draft resolution has been elaborated (in line with EU directive 2000/53/EC). The research and assessment of the construction and demolition waste issues was concluded in 2022 and based on the recommendations - a new objective "Improvement of Inert Waste Management" was added to the National Waste Management Strategy and accordingly, concrete actions are defined in the draft version of the National Waste Management Action Plan. The regulations on end-of-life ships are not developed under the waste management provisions. The specific regulations on the sludges are not in place, but general legal environmental and waste/water management provisions apply. According to the Waste Management Code (harmonized with directive 2008/98/EC), the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS) and National Waste Management Action Plan (NWMAP) were approved by the Government Resolution N160 of April 1, 2016. The NWMS for 2016-2030 is a major policy document. The strategy is based on the AA requirements, international and national waste management principles. The strategy defines the strategic vision, goals and objectives of the country. Accordingly, the goals and objectives of the strategy are formulated, on the one hand, to address urgent problems in the field of waste management, and on the other, to achieve the basic conditions necessary for a long-term vision. The Strategy objectives are: 1. Waste Management legislation in harmony with EU requirements and International Conventions transposed, implemented and enforced; 2. Waste Management Planning system established and implemented nationally and locally; 3. An effective waste collection and transportation system developed and implemented; 4. Waste disposed in a safe manner for the human health and environment; 5. Waste prevented, reused, recycled and/or recovered; 6. Waste Management Costs fully covered in accordance with the "Polluter Pays Principle"; 7. Extended Producers Responsibility promoted and implemented; 8. Waste Data and Information Management system developed and implemented; 9. Capacities strengthened for the national and local public sector; Capacity building of private companies promoted and awareness of the general public raised. Taking into account the current situation and new challenges, a draft of changes and additions to the strategy has been prepared. In addition to the existing nine goals, there are 4 new goals: 10. Improvement of hazardous waste management; 11. Plastic waste prevention; 12. Establishment and introduction of biodegradable waste collection and treatment systems; 13. Improvement of Inert waste management. The National Action Plan outlines the measures related to the establishment of a modern waste management system in Georgia. The plan covers a 5-year period and includes the

	objectives and targets required by the National Waste Management Strategy of Georgia, including implementation deadlines, responsible state structures, estimated costs and potential funding sources. At this stage, a second national waste management action plan has been drafted. The national Plastic prevention program (NPWPP) was developed in line with the requirements of the Waste Management Code, the National Waste Management Strategy and the National Action Plan of Georgia. The NPWPP considers best international practices related to plastic management presented in the strategic documents, such as: the European Green Deal, an EU action plan for Circular Economy and a European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. Moreover, the NPWPP will support Georgia in meeting SDG goals for 2030. The draft of Strategy on Biodegradable Waste has been developed in line with the Waste Management code, Association Agreement (Directive 1999/31/EC) and considers in the long term efforts to reduce biodegradable waste disposal at landfills. In order to improve the municipal waste collection and treatment system, in accordance with the Waste Management Code, the National Waste Management Strategy and the National Waste Management Action Plan, all municipalities of Georgia have developed and approved a 5-year municipal waste management plan. The Governmental Decree N247 (23.05.2018) "On Adoption of the National implementation plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) for 2018-2022 years" is adopted in accordance with the requirements of the Stockholm Convention "On Persistent Organic Pollutants". Decree describes the current situation with persistent organic pollutants in Georgia and determines the measures to be implemented in 2018-2022. Update of the National Implementation Plan for inclusion of the newly added POPs is initiating. The fourth National Environmental Action Program of Georgia for 2022-2026 years (NEAP) is the country's main strategic document in the field of environment and natural resources management. It includes goals and specific tasks for waste and chemicals management as well as other sectoral environmental directions. The document also serves to fulfil the obligations assumed by Georgia under international agreements and to implement the best international practices in the country by deepening cooperation with international organisations and implementing specific actions in various fields of environmental protection. Research regarding efficacy of biocides is ongoing, microbiological investigation of biocides is conducted at NCDC microbiological laboratory in accordance with EU standards, national laboratory methods and SOPs, while identification of chemical substances will be performed continuously. For this purpose, a chemical risk factors assessment laboratory (CRAL) was established at NCDC in 2021. The main objective of the laboratory is to explore heavy metals and other toxic element sources, which have harmful effects on population health. Lab is equipped with : AAS, ICP-MS, GC/MS, Thermo Scientific Mass spectrometer and portable XRF devices, which will be used for detection and analysis of chemicals mixtures and other hazardous elements in various specimen (e.g. blood, water, soil, paints, biocides etc.). Nowadays NCDC is continually moving forward to obtain a GLP certificate for a chemical risk factor assessment laboratory in order to offer a high standard of GLP services. Requirements for the cosmetics and oral hygiene product manufacture, packaging and labeling, as well as toxicological, microbiological, clinical indicators of safety and their laboratory research methods, and the laboratory methods for analysis of the product composition in accordance with the "Cosmetics Manual" approved by the European Economic Union are defined by the order N307/n of the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia of 16 August 2001 "On approval of the production of oral hygiene products and perfumery-cosmetic products, quality and safety requirements". The regulation complies with Council Directive 76/768 / EEC of 27 July 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member

	States relating to cosmetic products and includes the LIST OF SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED IN COSMETIC PRODUCTS. Work is underway to prepare a revision and updated version of this Regulation in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009, with an estimated date of adoption in 2023. GLP requirements for cosmetics are not implemented in Georgia. The draft Law "on Chemicals and Mixtures" presents an umbrella legal act for adoption of other EU legislation standards for chemical management. The draft law implements two key EU regulations on chemical management – CLP Regulation 1272/2008 and REACH Regulation 1907/2006 and includes introduction of GLP systems as well as substance and mixture testing requirements for all chemical groups (industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals, veterinary medical products, pesticides, food additives, feed additives, cosmetics, biocides). The law envisages elaboration of the bylaw on "Good Laboratory Practice" and its approval is planned after the adoption of the law. The Law of Georgia on Waste Management Code is in force since 15 January 2015. The Code is in compliance with the requirements of the EU Directives (Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives) provided by the AA, The Code introduces waste management general principles such as: Precaution, Polluter pays, Proximity, Self-sufficiency.
Germany	• Climate protection: The German Environment Agency published in 2023 a background document on the potential trade-offs of ambitious climate protection policies on other policy areas, including the sound management of chemicals and waste. Further information here. • Monitoring of selected pharmaceuticals in surface water and groundwater in the context of the Water Framework Watch list and the groundwater Watch list under the Ground Water Directive • Promotion of national and European approaches to include the environmental dimension of AMR in the OneHealthApproach, among others "G7 Conference "From the G7 Health Communiqué to Action: Integrated Surveillance Systems (*AMU & **AMR), Berlin, December 2022, main responsibility Ministry of Health" • Sustainable use of plant protection products: The German Environment Protection Agency supports the political discussion on the SUR with the Scientific Opinion Paper "Towards a sustainable plant protection" published in October 2022. Recently, UBA complemented the Scientific Opinion Paper with a fact sheet to further underline the adjustment of the use and risk indicator with exemplary calculations based on German sales data. • UBA-Initiative "Sustainable Control of Harmful Organisms in the Twenty-First Century" (SCOTTY): the goal of the SCOTTY-initiative is to provide a broad portfolio of different efficacious options to control harmful organisms. To achieve this goal, since 2021 UBA is: (i) researching and funding research to support innovative practices for the management of harmful organisms, (ii) a hub for national and international stakeholders wanting to discuss questions on the sustainable control of harmful organisms, (iii) connecting different stakeholders involved in this topic, (iv) reaching out to communicate the results to all relevant stakeholders and the general public. https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/chemicals/biocides/sustainable-control-of-harmful-organisms-in-the • OECD Working Group on Biocides: on initiative of UBA, the document 'TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOCIDES' was compiled, describing the common understanding of the OECD WGB on what sustainable use of biocides could entail. It serves as a guiding principle for the OECD WGB when projects are planned that are supposed to support sustainable use of biocides and describes different possible aspects of sustainable use: an optimised use of biocides and substitution options of biocidal active substances or the products containing them. The goal of this document is to provide ideas for OECD members about what could be

	done within the countries to strive towards a sustainable use. See https://one.oecd.org/document/ENV/CBC/MONO(2021)4/en/pdf
Iraq	1-Adopting the environmental approval system and obtaining a prior permit in producing, importing, handling and transporting chemicals and hazardous wastes 2- Approval of prior authorization for the sectors operating in the field of treatment and destruction of hazardous chemical waste, whether they are government agencies or the private sector. 3- Continuous monitoring of stores of chemical materials and assessment of the environmental and health requirements necessary for storing these materials in accordance with the legal legislation in force.
Kenya	Draft Chemical Policy 2022 • Budgetary allocations specific for chemicals and waste-eg. There are provisions in the EPR (Collections of fees has been proposed) • Clinical waste management -installation of microwaves to manage Health Care Waste. There is a budgetary allocation for this project. Implemented in 25 counties • Promotion of Responsible Care Programme in collaboration with Kenya Association of Manufactueres • Health and Environment Strategic Alliance (HESA) previuosly received budgetary allocations
Kuwait	The Environmental Protection Authority of Kuwait has established a Chemical Safety Department (specifically the chemical production and trading sector as well as the chemical lisencing sector. whos role is to validate the proper storage and sound management of chemical storage, environmental impacts as well as work in tandem with other departments to ensure chemical disposal of any industrial companies wanting to import / manufacture any form of chemicals, which in turn promotes the importance of the sound management of chemicals , health and labor as well their weight in chemical safety frameworks as a whole.
Kingdom of Lesotho	No activities
Madagascar	- Promotion of Best Available Technologies and Best Environmental Practices for the management of medical waste: installation of smokeless incinerator, autoclave, microwave - Promotion of the circular economy in the health sector - Minimization of the use of impregnated mosquito net packaging in order to reduce pesticide waste to be treated - Some studies and research in progress
Mexico	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Montenegro	The project "Comprehensive environmentally friendly management of PCB waste in Montenegro" was completed in December 2022, and through the said project, about 640 tons of PCB waste and equipment were identified, 475 tons of PCB waste and equipment were removed and permanently disposed of, 80 tons of PCB transformers were decontaminated and returned into use, 1,050 tons of PCB-contaminated soil removed and one warehouse reconstructed to meet the requirements for the storage of hazardous chemicals. www.pcbmontenegro.com
Panama	Some specific issues of pesticides and hospital waste management have been incorporated into the national agendas. It remains to work more with the labor sector on risk aspects, although some meetings have been held to raise awareness of chemical risks. Activities have been coordinating between Occupational and Environmental Health to organize topics to reduce occupational risk due to exposure to chemicals.
Russian Federation	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Serbia	Full submission available on the SAICM website:

	https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
South Africa	Our Constitution, the National Development Plan (NDP) and the annual MCCM workplan facilitate mainstreaming of the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda management.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	The Sustainable Development Goals are part of our national policy, which is currently being considered in the revision and updating of the National Chemical Safety Profile, an action that is being developed with the institutions participating in the Presidential Commission on Chemical Safety (CPSQ). specifically in the Subcommittee on Compliance with International Conventions. It should be noted that a request for financial support was made for the update of the aforementioned profile in 2019, from which no response was received.

Governments list	Q4. Core activity d **Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies**
Armenia	Information sharing on emerging risks related to chemicals handling is constantly done, trainings are held for enforcement authorities (customs, environmental, health inspectors), as well as awareness-raising campaign for vulnerable groups.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Emerging policy issues have been discussed in BiH ESAP 2030+. BH set the goal (among others) to promote multisectoral collaboration in chemicals and waste management by developing and implementing a protocol that will define activities for all sectors including the promotion of educational activities. BH confirms that there are many gaps that remain and obstacle in implementation of environmental conventions. Aligning with and implementing the EU legislation (which is very complex and needs strong capacities) serves as a strong solid template that should lead to better risk reduction and more transparent activities in the future. Action plan for the strategy will be drafted after the official adoption of the BiH ESAP 2030+. Risk reduction is being implemented trough implementation of legislation on waste, chemicals, Rotterdam and other conventions but, as the EC and other BH progress report state - BH needs to do significant improvement of its horizontal and vertical legislation, monitoring/enforcement and coordinated activities.
Brazil	The emerging policy issues, not addressed in existing agreements, are discussed in specific groups stablhished under Conasq with the participation of the main stakeholders envolved in the issue.
Cambodia	-organizing regular meeting with all relevant stakeholders -sharing information through SMC platform
Colombia	Manufactured nanomaterials Nanotechnology is a science that is evolving rapidly, offering a wide range of applications and positioning itself in different sectors of the economy. Nanotechnology as a science presents an interesting duality, since on the one hand it has contributed to the development of environmentally friendly technologies, through the use of applications for water treatment, catalysts for the control of atmospheric emissions or for the storage of energy from renewable sources. And on the other hand, the impacts associated with its use are undeniable, due to the emission of nanoparticles that can put health and the environment at risk. Currently, the country does not have an environmental policy that focuses on the evaluation of impacts associated with the production, use and waste management of nanomaterials or that presents alternatives for managing the risk of these chemical substances throughout their life cycle. Colombia is currently participating in the OECD Working Group on Manufactured Nanomaterials and considers it is important to continue promoting all initiatives that can strengthen the rational management of these substances, as well as raising awareness in society about their safe use. Medical-related waste management In recent years, Colombia has strengthened the management of pharmaceutical waste through the implementation of an initiative called "Management Plans for the Return of Post-Consumer Products of Expired Pharmaceuticals or Medicines", which was regulated through Resolution 0371 of 2009 and awarded, during the year 2021, as a successful policy worldwide in the Special Awards category of the Future Policy Award 2021, which recognized the best protection policies in the world against hazardous chemicals.
Costa Rica	The Secretariat is effective in the exchange of information on emerging issues and its members, such as the National Nanotechnology Laboratory (Laboratorio Nacional de Nanotecnología, LANOTEC) and the Regional Institute for Studies on Toxic Substances (IRET),

	adopt these topics in their undergraduate and postgraduate courses and in their research projects, in addition to being relevant topics in their extension activities and training.
Dominican Republic	The country has a national emergency plan and a national risk guide, these documents were developed for a special program project, it was very successful. These documents have been disseminated and disseminated throughout the country, but we have yet to develop the action protocols for each of the provinces that make up the country. the plan was only developed for government institutions. A good strategy has not been developed that is effective for the exchange of this information with all the sectors involved, so that they are aware of the risks The country has strategies to detect the illicit traffic of chemical substances and waste, but they must be strengthened since there are still weaknesses in the system. Since many times we know of cases of a chemical substance that is prohibited and at the same time is in use in the country and the import records do not appear in the General Directorate of Customs.
Eritrea	No activity has been done in case of emerging policy issues, but information sharing efforts have been planned to be done in this year (2023).
Ethiopia	• Create national chemical registration data base – the database registers and all imported and locally produced chemicals and give permission to import and produce. It also service as plate form to share information with all major stakeholders • National inventory of PCB containing transformers has been conducted. And PCB registry Data base created. • The data base is good tool to effectively implement the Rotterdam Convention and other chemical related multilateral agreement in which Ethiopia is a party
EU	Extract from the submission: • Promoting innovation by developing the concept of 'Safe and Sustainable by Design' chemicals and materials, including development of draft criteria and conduction of test cases in public-private collaboration • Restriction proposal to ban all PFAS submitted (not yet adopted) Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Finland	The Chemicals Forum was established as a measure of the Chemicals Programme, and it will involve stakeholders and researchers more extensively in developing and influencing decision-making. In the dialogue, representatives of business life, research and financial institutions and the public authorities will have access to new research data and set common goals. Within the framework of the cooperation, steering instruments and innovations will be developed to facilitate the achievement of the objectives. New chemical issues and challenges arising from them, such as endocrine disruptors, nanomaterials, combined effects of chemicals or chemicals related to the circular economy, will be brought up in the discussion at the Chemicals Forum. Cooperation enables the identification and resolution of problem areas in a preventive manner and, at best, helps to weigh the risks and benefits in a new way. Dialogue will also help to achieve the structural change caused by the circular economy, which will enable innovations and inventions as well as new operating methods, while at the same time improving people's health and the state of the environment.
France	During the 2020-2022 period, France continued its action on emerging risks. On nanomaterials, France is working to improve the quality of the data in the mandatory declaration register of nanomaterials placed on the market and distributed in France each year. The national health security agency Anses is working on the use of this data to better characterize the exposure of populations and the environment to these forms of substances.

	France has also invested heavily in work to revise the definition of nanomaterials existing at European level so that it can take into account the latest scientific advances. France also plays a leading role in endocrine disruptors. Between 2020 and 2022, France continued to implement the second national strategy on endocrine disruptors. This strategy aims to reduce the exposure of the population and the environment to endocrine disruptors through the deployment of training and information, the reduction of risks at source and the promotion of research. In this context, France has notably contributed a great deal to European work on the definition of endocrine disruption in the CLP regulation.
Gambia	Chemicals and waste management activities and projects in the Gambia are geared towards the enforcement of strategies and policies formulated to minimize exposures and effects to humans and our fragile ecosystem. The implementation of those policies is done through capacity-building and information sharing approaches.
Georgia	According to a law "On the control of military and dual-use products" and Governmental decree N394 (13.06.2014) "On approval of lists of military and dual-use products" certain materials are subject to state control.
Germany	• In the beginning of 2020 the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) started a campaign with the aim to inform the public concerning the proper disposal of unused medicines (https://www.bmu.de/richtigentsorgenwirkt/). For increasing awareness, the German disposal advice given in the package leaflet has been updated. Besides the standard information that pharmaceuticals should not be disposed of via wastewater, it additionally includes advice now to not dispose pharmaceuticals via sink or toilet. See www.bfarm.de/arzneimittelentsorgung • Discussions on the EPI "manufactured nanomaterials" have been involved towards a discussion which is not limited to a size-based boundary of materials under scrutiny (≤100nm) but highlights the complexity of advanced materials which my give raise for concerns regarding safety and sustainability implications not yet appropriately covered by risk assessment of risk management of chemicals. The following initiatives aim at awareness raising and promoting exchange, but also providing early support on challenges identified for advanced materials, including manufactured nano materials, similar and also beyond those of manufactured nanomaterials: - As part of the project "Thematic Conferences on Advanced Materials" an international stakeholder dialogue on advanced materials in the form of three thematic conferences was organized which ran from 2019 -2021. It aimed at initiating a dedicated discussion on advanced materials, with manufactured nano materials being the starting point, and their potential implications for chemical safety and sustainability by the affected stakeholder. The first thematic conference was dedicated to discussing the field of advanced materials in general for getting an overview. In addition, some exemplary advanced materials were introduced. At the two online conferences constituting the second thematic conference, the discussions were about, amongst others: the relevance criteria, aspects about the circular economy of advanced materials, particular concerns about advanced materials and identification of advanced materials of which concerns are already identified. At the final conference, conclusions were drawn from the preceding discussions and questions about the governance of advanced materials were discussed. A respective discussion paper by the German Higher Federal Authorities was the basis of the discussions. See Advanced materials | Umweltbundesamt and Thematic Conferences Advanced Materials | Umweltbundesamt - Advanced materials, including manufactured nano materials, have the potential to provide technical solutions for pressing global challenges, i.e. for energy revolution, digitalisation, or health care. However, it is currently difficult to derive which advanced materials will be actually used in the future and to what extent the existing legal frameworks or other measures are suitable to address their safety as well as other aspects of sustainability along their life cycle. The joint perspective of the German agencies UBA, BfR and BauA on advanced materials focused on the aim of establishing good governance of advanced materials to ensure their responsible development and design, use and end of life phase, considering

	human and environment safety. See Risk Governance of Advanced Materials | Umweltbundesamt - The Dutch RIVM together with BAuA, BfR and UBA developed the so-called "Towards Safe and Sustainable Advanced (Nano)materials: A proposal for an early awareness and action system for advanced materials" (Early4AdMa). The purpose of Early4AdMa is to assist in systematically identifying action on advanced materials that may be needed with regard to human health, environment, sustainability and to regulatory issues. The system includes a description of relevant potential follow-up actions that can inform decision makers, policy makers and regulators in order to allow initiation of timely actions towards better safe
Iraq	Exchanging information and data on the risks associated with chemicals and the hazardous waste sector, especially in critical issues of concern such as pesticides, lead in dyes, the pharmaceutical sector and industries that use high-risk chemicals 2- Promoting concepts related to the international chemical conventions Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam and Minamata and working on participating in the implementation of these conventions by various sectors.
Kenya	• Promotion of the circular economy concept (chemical recycling). KEBs has developed standards for recycling of PET. • Chemicals in Products Lead in Paint - Paint standards with a mandatory requirement of maximum total lead content of 90 ppm. The paint manufacturers are compliant with the paint standards and allied products by not adding lead compounds/pigments/during manufacturing processes • Lead-acid batteries and other waste batteries: Participating in the drafting of the updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries that are contained in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/12. In addition, participated in the drafting of the Table of Contents for the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of other waste batteries, as contained in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/13. • A cohort study Characterizing household air pollutant and lead exposures and infant neurodevelopment from 2021-2025 • Mercury in dental amalgams, bulbs- KEBS taken measures (standards developed and published) to address mercury in lighting bulbs. Kenya has developed Minimum Efficiency Performance (MEP) standards for lighting bulbs to eliminate mercury in bulbs. • GHS- Labelling requirements. HHPs GHS guidelines developed in 2019 • HHPs- HHP's-Developed community awareness communication material for prioritized areas • National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance • The ChemObs project initiated the remediation of a contaminated site in Kitengela
Kuwait	As mentioned above, any initiatives taken by the international conventions regarding emerging policy issues are implemented in the Executive regulations in the environmental protective law which gives the Environmental protection authority of Kuwait the ability to regulate the different chemicals that are manufactured or imported in the country. This is also enforced by the law written in "The Laws of environmental protection #42 in the year 201 4" Article 21 which dictates that "Production or handling chemical substances specified in the Executive Bylaw of this law is prohibited unless the necessary license is obtained from the competent authority upon the approval of the Authority. The Authority may cease the activity or file an application for cancelling the license from the issuing authority if the product is proved to be hazard to environment or health. In all cases, approval of the Authority for the product is a pre-requisite prior to its marketing or importing ". This article is used in tandem with communication points between the national stakeholders are used to address the sound management of the complete life cycle of chemicals that are imported, exported, or manufactured inside the country.

Kingdom of Lesotho	We have been engaged in awareness raising activities which covered human health and workers safety to increase risk reduction. We have worked with the Ministry of health and the Ministry of Labour on the initiatives.
Madagascar	Publication of the air quality newsletter in Antananarivo (Ministry of Transport, Tourism and Meteorology, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Public Health) since the end of 2020 to date.
Mexico	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Montenegro	When defining the goals, the new strategy for chemicals management brought by the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, i.e. the European Green Deal and the accompanying EU strategies, was taken into account, and the goals and accompanying activities determined by this strategy reflect the aspiration to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment and address ambition towards zero pollution. This strategy encourages innovation in safe and sustainable chemicals and the introduction of circular economy principles and contributes to safe recycling and waste reduction. In addition, by improving the communication of relevant risks from hazardous chemicals and measures for their elimination or reduction, with the participation of all interested parties, this strategy contributes to the education necessary for ecological transition, reduction and prevention of pollution, while encouraging better use of resources.
Panama	Several online conferences on endocrine disruptors have been held under the coordination of the University of Panama and CIIMET, in coordination with the Ministry of Health. Although they are still in the awareness phase, some national research has already been carried out on mothers' placentas, and publications are being prepared. Work has been done to establish the regulations for dangerous pesticides and it is under discussion with the distribution associations and the international chemical company in the framework of Rotterdam, an evaluation is being made to establish the impact of artisanal mining that is illegal in Panama but that It does not imply that it does not have an impact. A GEF project is about to start for the implementation of the Stockholm and Minamata Convention.
Russian Federation	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Serbia	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
South Africa	Established an Academic Researchers Forum to strengthen science-policy interface not just on international but also local emerging policy issues. We have not yet progressed as we would like since we are still catching up with addressing the already nominated emerging policy issues through developing a national implementation plan. Once done, we shall move on to others not yet addressed in existing MEAs.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Work is currently underway on the development of a national instrument which will concentrate the different actions carried out by all those institutions that have competence in the matter, issues that are discussed within the framework of the CPSQ

Governments list	Q5. Core activity e Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society
Armenia	Increasing accessibility of scientific-research information used for decision-making, as well as information dissemination / sharing among different layers of society.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	More organizations in BH linked legislation and other important information (project calls, publications, new etc) on their web site and certain information is being published via social media. Better cooperation is needed with chambers of commerce/trade unions/industry, civil society, NGOs. A lot more activities is needed to promote information access. The legislation on public consultations is uneven across the country, and meaningful and systematic consultations remain to be ensured. While the overall legal and regulatory framework governing establishment and functioning of civil society organizations is broadly in line with the EU acquis, much remains to be done for public institutions to ensure an enabling environment for civil society.
Brazil	The Law No. 12,527/2011 regulates the constitutional right of access to public information. This rule came into force on May 16, 2012 and created mechanisms that allow any person, natural or legal, without the need to provide a reason, to receive public information from bodies and entities.
Cambodia	Enhancing implantation PRTR
Colombia	Development of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Registration System - PRTR Within the framework of the OECDs' commitments established in Law 1950 of 2019, the Escazú Agreement approved by Law 2273 of 2022 and CONPES 3868 of 2016 on the Risk Management Policy Associated with the Use of Chemical Substances, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and the National Environmental Licensing Authority (ANLA), have been working since 2016 jointly, and articulating through the Technical Working Group (GTT) and the National Advisory Committee for Sustainable Development (CCN) of the PRTR, in the establishment and implementation in Colombia of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR).
Costa Rica	Within the framework of the Secretariat there is a Communication and Awareness Subcommittee that promotes access to information, both for civil society, especially for high school students from scientific and academic schools and Customs. The National University has research and extension projects which objective is to offer information to agricultural producers and civil society in general, for decision-making regarding the management of chemical substances and waste. Courses, workshops and presentations on chemical substances, mainly pesticides, microplastics, waste and metals, are given to different strata of society, for instance: Pesticides, Health and Environment Course offered annually to students of careers such as Geography, Forest Engineering, Agronomic Engineering and Environmental Engineering, as well as to professors from the National Institute of Learning, Chamber of Tourism of Costa Rica, Associations of producers of various crops and organized groups, among others.
Dominican Republic	The means to promote access to information on the management of chemical substances have not been very effective, since we previously developed a platform with this objective, but with the change of authorities, everything changed and the digital platform presented problems to incorporate it into the new network. for this reason we still do not have this tool. We recognize that we are missing this point, since it should have been in operation to have this information at all levels of society.
Eritrea	Nothing much, but information and awareness regular programs about sound environmental management in general and sound chemicals and waste management in particular have been done since 2021. Also information access has been provided at the department of environment and its zonal branches for everyone.

Ethiopia	• Ethiopia Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)website has been created and it is believed to be accessible to all interested segment of the society. The web avails all efforts done by the government in line with chemical management. • EPA uses social media to disseminate environment related issues
EU	Extract from the submission: • Adoption of a regulation on statistics on agricultural input and output • Improved dissemination of information via the website of the European Chemicals Agency • Improved dissemination of information via the website of the European Food Safety Authority • Recognition of the need for information on chemicals in articles, by launching and further development of the SCIP database on the presence of substances of very high concern in products. • Action aimed at stakeholders outside EU: O ECHA learning sessions on implementation of Rotterdam convention in EU O Support to GHS implementation projects O eChem Portal (financial support) Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Finland	Kemidigi is an online service focusing on chemical information. It provides information on chemicals for both consumers and professionals. Companies can submit different statutory notifications to the authorities through KemiDigi. These include chemical notifications related to dangerous chemicals and notification of annual sales volumes. Information on chemicals products on the market, substances, plant protection products and biocidal products approved in Finland can be retrieved from these public registers.
France	During the 2020-2022 period, France has launched a website and a mass media communication campaign centered on the first 1000 days of a child's life. This site and this campaign include a section on reducing exposure to chemicals in our daily lives. This work has been presented several times internationally. The approach adopted is original because it makes it possible, thanks to very educational tools, to make as many people as possible aware of the risks posed by chemical products. In 2020, France adopted a law aimed at reducing waste which includes a provision obliging product marketers to inform consumers about the presence of dangerous substances (including endocrine disruptors) in these products. France is also involved in the European LifeAskREACH project which resulted in the development of: - a database providing, for article barcodes, the possible presence of substances of very high concern; - an application that allows consumers to query the database by scanning the barcodes at the time of the act of purchase or once returned home.
Gambia	The National Environment Agency has since established its website (www.nea.gm), this platform is meant to provide information on all activities relating to the environment and most particular issues related to chemicals and wastes.
Georgia	Legal Entity of Public Law - Environmental Information and Education Centre (EIEC) under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia was established in 2013. The main priority of EIEC is to achieve the following goals: ● Promote environmental and agricultural education among Georgian society and raise public awareness ● Support public participation in decision-making process ● Ensure access to the environmental and agricultural information

	● Introduce and implement integrated information technology policy of the ministry EIEC promotes sustainable development through encouraging education related to environmental components and by accessing comprehensive information. The "VET Excellence Award" has been awarded to the Environmental Information and Education Centre (EIEC) The winning program, "Environmental and Agricultural Education at School," was identified as a result of public voting within the "European Vocational Skills Week 2022," organised by the European Commission. Also, in the scope of different projects the awareness raising activities with stakeholders are conducted regularly. In 2018 the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia launched an electronic system on waste management, where operators (whose waste management activities are subject to registration) fill/submit hazardous waste transportation forms, present the company's waste management plans, submit and approve the application on activities subject to registration, and submit the annual waste accounting/reporting forms (including annual reports of waste generation, waste disposal on landfills, waste collection, and treatment). In 2021 an electronic registry of Extended Producer Responsibility was created. The producers provide information on the amount of products placed in the market based on the specific streams such as tires, batteries and accumulators, oils and electric and electronic equipment; EPR organizations are obliged to provide information about members of producers, products placed in the market and waste management actions to reach the collection/recycling/energy recovery national targets for each waste streams. The MEPA is obliged to prepare and make available publicly the annual report/achievements of the EPR waste streams management on the official web page.
Germany	• Information about substances of very high concern in consumer products (LIFE AskREACH): The German Environment Agency has been one of 20 partners involved in the Life AskREACH Project. The project aims at raising consumer awareness about SVHC in articles, enabling consumers to make responsible purchasing decisions, raising supplier awarness of their obligations under REACH, and improving supply chain communication with the aim of substituting SVHC with safer alternatives. Further information here. • Systematic use of contaminant data from apex predators and their prey in chemicals management (LIFE APEX): The German Environment Agency has been actively involved in the Life APEX Project. The project aims at improving systematic use of chemical monitoring data from apex predators and prey for protecting human health and the environment.It involves making better and more cost-effective use of chemical monitoring data from the large, valuable but under-used resource of environmental samples in Europe's Environmental Specimen Banks, Natural History Museums and other research collections. Further information here. • Coordinating and advancing human biomonitoring in Europe (HBM4EU): The HBM4EU Project is a joint effort of 30 countries, lead by the German Environment Agency from 2017 to 2021. HBM4EU is generating evidence of the actual exposure of citizens to chemicals and the possible health effects in order to support policy making. Further information here. • Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC): The German Environment Agency is a partner in the PARC Project. The project aims to develop next-generation chemical risk assessment to protect human health and the environment. It supports the European Union's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and the European Green Deal's “Zero pollution" ambition with new data, knowledge, methods and tools, expertise and networks. Further information here. • Zero Pollution of Persistent, Mobile Substances (ZeroPM): The German Environment Agency is part of the ZeroPM consortium. The ZeroPM project addresses the prevention, prioritization and removal approaches to reduce persistent and mobile substance pollution. It will establish

	a framework which will guide policy, technological and market incentives to minimize use, emissions and pollution of entire groups of persistent and mobile substances. Further information here. • PHARMS Database (https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/database-pharmaceuticals-in-the-environment-0), also available at IPCHEM • Information sharing on pharmaceuticals in the environment on the UBA web site and development of teaching materials to be used for veterinarians, pharmacists, doctors, and in schools for technical staff with the aim to inform about the issue and to show measures to reduce the emissions. https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/tierarzneimittel-in-der-umwelt-startseite https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/bildungsangebote-zu-tierarzneimitteln-umwelt?parent=60165#Tierarzneimittel%20in%20der%20Umwelt - Arbeitsplan zur Verankerung der Thematik Arzneimittelrückstände in der Umwelt in der Lehre medizinischer und pharmazeutischer Berufe | Umweltbundesamt - Schmerzgel – Fragen und Antworten | Umweltbundesamt • Teaching at university courses and on-the-job training on pharmaceuticals in the environment and reduction measures by UBA staff or cooperation partners using the materials developed in UBA projects. • Biocides Portal (continously updated): The aim of the Website is to provide qualified information for using biocidal products in certain situations. In the interest of health and the environment, the aim is to raise awareness of possible risks associated with the use of biocides. In particular, information is provided on preventive measures and biocide-free alternatives that can be used to minimize or completely avoid the use of biocidal products. The biocides portal of the German Environment Agency (UBA) is part of a comprehensive information system
Iraq	1- Exchanging information on interesting issues in the field of chemicals and waste through joint committees between different sectors 2- Adopting unified systems for classifying chemicals and hazardous wastes and exchanging information between the relevant authorities 3- Holding workshops with the participation of various governmental and non-governmental sectors and beneficiaries
Kenya	• Awareness raising campaigns and workshops on sound management of chemicals were conducted in the year 2021. • Awareness creation materials and stakeholder /community engagement programs were developed in partnership with the Chemical Observatory. • Targeted awareness activities on phasing out the lead in paint have been carried out during the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action which occurs annually. • Participated in the SAICM: Lead in Paint Community of Practice on Compliance with Lead Paint Laws • Community and Public Health Sector: Training on Air Pollution Source Awareness and prioritization • Development of the national chemicals portal which gather all information on chemicals in the country. • Awareness forums on mercury risks • 100 farmers trained in the Lake Victoria region on the risk of pesticides and benefits of agroecology. • Pest Control Products Board evaluated four (4) molecules of concern and shared results of the assessment for public comments
Kuwait	The environmental Protection Authority of Kuwait has set out to promote awareness of many of the chemical safety sectors day to day activities such as, the regular investigatory outings to enforce chemical safety standards and regulations for companies storage and disposal as

	well as information brochures in Arabic warning the local populus of the hazardous effects of certain chemicals such as mercury or pesticides and more.
Kingdom of Lesotho	We post reports, information, education and communication materials on the departmental website www.environment.gov.ls
Madagascar	¬ Development of a bank of messages for the authorities or managers of establishments located near the Antananarivo landfill site in order to facilitate the awareness of schoolchildren, scavengers and site workers on health risks and health preservation measures to adopt. ¬ Broadcasting on the radio (via the Feon'ny fahasalamana platform) of prevention messages and behaviors to adopt in the face of the health risks associated with the use of chemicals at the domestic level Since 2018, Madagascar has participated annually in the celebration of the international week for the prevention of lead poisoning in paints;
Mexico	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Montenegro	In 2018, Montenegro established a national Help Desk within the AZŽS, in order to provide information on issues in the field of management of chemicals and biocidal products, which is in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the EU regulations REACH and CLP, as well as BPR. The website of the helpdesk currently contains information on the documentation required for certain administrative procedures, as well as several brochures that were published in the previous period. Informing the public is provided in accordance with the Law on the Environment and the Law on Free Access to Information, through the publication of information through electronic databases or through the media, as well as based on requests for access to information about the environment sent to the administrative body. By 2019, 5 Aarhus Centers have been opened in Montenegro. The purpose of the Network of Aarhus Centers in Montenegro is to define various forms of cooperation aimed at raising environmental awareness, i.e. providing closer information to the citizens of Montenegro in the area of the environment, support in participation when making decisions related to this area, and enabling the realization of the right to legal protection when it comes to the environment, as well as the popularization of the Aarhus Convention with the aim of strengthening the role of citizens and civil society organizations in environmental issues. Information on the state of the environment with data on the management of chemicals is available on the Agency's website - https://epa.org .me/informacij e-o-stanjuzivotnesredine On the Agency's website, all issued licenses for the free movement of chemicals (import and export), decisions for carrying out activities of transport, use and storage of biocides, as well as decisions on registration in the Provisional List of Biocidal Products, are published, link: https://epa.org. me/permissions-and-solutions/
Panama	This is an issue that is still pending.
Russian Federation	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Serbia	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
South Africa	We have been conducting training, and awareness raising activities using appropriate local languages, to relevant government officials, farmers and the general public. There is also a knowledge hub on emerging issues researched in the country housed by the Water Research Commission; we need to improve its accessibility as the public do not know about it.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Venezuela has a National Nanotechnology Network since 2009, focused on the design of training and dissemination of strategies in Nanotechnology at the National Level.

Governments list	Q6. Core activity f **Assess progress toward the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation, and prioritizing actions moving forward**
Armenia	Priority setting for further actions: • to prevent and reduce risks and adverse effects; • to maximize the benefits of chemicals through sustainable production and use • to increase knowledge and awareness on chemicals of concern • to avoid the most dangerous substances and practice their replacement with alternatives • to enhance implementation through multisectoral planning involving all stakeholders, knowledge management and capacity building • to develop general social approaches to reduce the risks associated with chemicals and waste.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Legislation that supports sound management of chemicals and waste management is in place in BH, stronger capacities are needed for its full implementation. UNDP BiH held a series of trainings on the management and disposal of the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), within the project "Environmentally Sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Industrial and Hazardous Waste Sectors", which is funded by the Government of Sweden. The goal of these trainings is to strengthen institutional capacities in the country to advance the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs, which Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified in 2010. Project Environmentally Sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Industrial and Hazardous Waste Sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, that was supported by the UNDP aimed for reducing risk for people's health and the environment through the prevention of unintentional POPs (U-POPs) releases, shifting from POPs toward non-POPs chemicals in the plastic industry, and sound destruction of at least 50 tons of POPs waste. This project engaged a significant number of stakeholders in BH, and was used in drafting strategic goals in BiH ESAP 2030+. In October 2021, BH along with other Western Balkan partners endorsed the Action Plan for the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, which aims at reflecting the European Green Deal and contributing to the sustainable socio-economic development and the green recovery of the region after the pandemic. BH made some or limited progress in the green agenda and sustainable connectivity cluster, where the country is at an early stage on energy, environment and climate change. Poison Control Centre is needed as well as more proactive approach from academia and civil society. Minamata convention ratification is recognized as a priority in BiH ESAP 2030+.
Brazil	Among the attributions of Conasq was the improvement of regulations and the chemicals management in Brazil, with the objective of broadly structuring the legislative, administrative and institutional framework of the country in line with the guidelines of SAICM and other international Conventions related to the matter, to ensure that, by 2020, products chemicals are produced and used, in order to significantly minimize the negative impacts
Cambodia	Understanding the gap and prioritizing actions
Colombia	Evaluation of the Implementation of RESPEL policy action plan The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development carried out, during 2020, an evaluation of the implementation and results of the Environmental Policy for the integral management of hazardous waste (issued in 2005), for the period 2007-2017, in order to compile the progress and results achieved by the different actors involved (public and private sector), as well as to identify aspects of improvement and obtain recommendations for updating the policy, a process that was carried out during 2021-2022.
Costa Rica	In Costa Rica, projects are being implemented to comply with the commitments of international agreements, taking advantage of funds to achieve the objectives of reducing the adverse effects of chemical substances on systemic health. The Secretariat generates

	technical data on chemical substances such as pesticides, which are used to build Executive decrees on the restriction and prohibition of this type of substance, especially those considered HHP. From the SAICM project "HHP: phase out and alternatives in Costa Rica" an important result was obtained in a document on the "National Plan of Action on HHP" that includes the diagnosis of the use of pesticides in various crops, alternatives to HHP and pesticides that they should be restricted and prohibited as a national policy. Please, note that the questionnaire was also made with the support from Dr. Fernando Ramírez Muñoz, Director a.i from the Regional Institute of Studies on Toxic Substances, National University, pone number (+506) 22773584), framirez@una.ac.cr
Dominican Republic	We could say that the goals were achieved in the country, because there were many achievements in this period and we have worked very hard; as we have mentioned above: Achievements: 1. We have a national mechanism for the coordination of the management of Chemical Substances. 2. We have a rational law for the environmentally sound management of solid and hazardous waste, 3. We have national legislation, even with weaknesses, because we need to further strengthen national laws to categorize. 4. We have a policy and governance for the management of chemicals and waste. 5. We have implementation plans Gaps in implementation: 1. We are implementing the monitoring program for cases of environmental pollutants and cases of poisoning and accidents with chemical substances that affect human health and the environment. 2. The country has legislation to prevent the traffic of dangerous chemical products, but even so, it must be reviewed to strengthen it. 3. We have prioritized national needs for capacity building for the sound management of chemicals but it needs to be updated. Future actions: The following is still missing: 1. implement the EMS, 2. develop a national inventory of chemical substances and have roadmaps for them, 3. develop a risk plan for each of the chemical substances handled in the country . 4. We need to carry out a research program to find other alternatives that are more respectful of the environment. 5. We need to create a real platform that serves to access information on the rational management of chemical products.
Eritrea	Considering the stage of development and capacity of Eritrea, a rough assessment has been done on minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment, and the progress can be assessed as fine, but still at the beginning stages with more of awareness achievements. The gaps in implementation are related to finance, transport, inadequate infrastructure and development etc.
Ethiopia	n/a
EU	Extract from the submission: • The strategies and action plans listed under question 1 are based on assessments and are used to identify achievements and gaps and prioritize actions moving forward • More and better regulations implemented • Recognition of sound management of chemicals and waste as essential to contribute to addressing the triple planetary crises through the European Green Deal and various political declarations adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Finland	n/a
France	The various actions mentioned in the previous questions contribute to achieving the objective.

	We can also cite France's commitment to reduce the exposure of citizens and the environment to pesticides with work carried out between 2020 and 2022, by national expertise agencies, to identify alternatives to hazardous substances and/ or very massively used and having a significant impact on the environment/landscapes (example of work carried out on alternatives to glyphosate). In 2018, France also adopted a law including an article prohibiting, since January 1, 2022, the export to third countries of hazardous pesticides banned in the European Union. This provision aims to protect biodiversity and health at the global level, in line with the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on toxic substances and human rights. France has been working since 2020 to extend this measure at European level.
Gambia	A mechanism to monitor exposure and effects of chemicals and wastes to human health and environment is currently not place in the country. Although through a GEF/ FAO & Gambia Government project; GCP/GAM/033/LDF with a GEF Project ID: 5782, the National Environment Agency Chemicals and Pesticides Program has been supported with instruments (laboratory) to help enhance our institutional capacity to monitor chemicals in environmental matrixes.
Georgia	There is no framework law on the management of chemicals in Georgia since the Law 1998 "on Hazardous Chemicals" was abolished in 2010. However, the rules for the classification of dangerous chemical substances, the list of dangerous chemical substances, the production, use and export-import of which are prohibited or strictly limited in the territory of Georgia, etc., are valid pursuant the by-laws of the law. Also, a list of chemicals substances which are not allowed to be used in the production of household, perfumery and cosmetic products, synthetic raw materials and materials is adopted. Draft Law "on Chemicals and Mixtures'' and draft by-law "On Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Chemicals and Mixtures'' has been elaborated in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP) and is aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UNGHS). The draft Law "on Chemicals and Mixtures'' presents an umbrella legal act for adoption of other EU legislation standards for chemical management. The draft law implements two key EU regulations on chemical management – CLP Regulation 1272/2008 and REACH Regulation 1907/2006 and includes introduction of GLP systems as well as substance and mixture testing requirements for all chemical groups (industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals, veterinary medical products, pesticides, food additives, feed additives, cosmetics, biocides). The law envisages elaboration of the bylaw on "Good Laboratory Practice" and its approval is planned after the adoption of the law.
Germany	• UBA on behalf of BMUV has been commissioning several research projects with the aim to develop OECD Test Guidelines and Guidance Documents for reliable testing of environmental fate and behaviour of nanomaterials. Inter alia based on this work, the following nano-specific OECD Test Guidelines and Guidance Document have been approved and published in the timeframe of 2020 to 2022: OECD GD 318 (for the testing of dissolution and dispersion stability of nanomaterials and the use of the data for further environmental testing and assessment strategies), OECD GD 342 supporting the testing of nanomaterials using OECD TG 312 on leaching in soil columns as well as OECD TG 125 on nanomaterial particles size and size distribution of nanomaterials. Further OECD TG are under way, e.g. on solubility and dissolution rate as well as abiotic transformation of nanomaterials in simulated environmental media. • A further topic is to understand the fate and behaviour of advanced materials to be able to derive appropriate test methods. Such methods are critical to understand environmental hazards, to make adequate risk assessment possible, and to implement regulatory requirements. Research and development projects on nanomaterials | Umweltbundesamt.
Iraq	1- There are several legal and institutional gaps that have been identified by assessing institutional performance and legislative and legal frameworks by taking advantage of the Special Program project and the implementation plan of the Stockholm Convention and (NIP) and the preliminary report of the situation of mercury in Iraq, where implementation plans have been developed to enhance the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste

	2- Identifying a number of gaps in the management of some interesting issues through studies and field surveys of high-hazard pesticides (the report of high- hazard pesticide management in Iraq) and the first report of lead-containing dyes in Iraq
Kenya	• Trainings on Health Care Waste management- Reports to be included • Gender Dimensions of Chemical and Waste Policies Assessment done by CEJAD. • There is need to fast track enactment of pending regulations and laws on chemicals management. • The need for Sound management of plastics in agriculture • Advancing a Non-Toxic circular economy: Reducing no-circular plastics and advancing circular economy plastic production, collection and recycling in Kenya.
Kuwait	Wide strides have been taken towards the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment, examples of such achievements include the ongoing process to implement the "National Action Plan Of Kuwait" (article 24) which includes implementing a standardized, unified system that deals with the entire lifespan of chemicals imported / manufactured within the country, a successful national inventory regulation system detailing any and all IDed industrial chemicals being stored in the country which provides us with a national inventory, many of the now restricted/banned chemicals that are now prohibited from entering the country thanks to the work of local teams representing the international conventions such as Minamata, Rotterdam, Stockholm which have banned hazardous chemicals such as Mercury. We'll be prioritizing keeping up with any changes with any changes to the conventions policies moving forward from all international conventions to ensure the sound management of chemicals nationwide.
Kingdom of Lesotho	n/a
Madagascar	Improvements in the manufacture and sale of lead paints have been made, and further reductions can be expected. These primary prevention achievements easily translate into measurable reductions in lead exposure for future generations, and these, in turn, translate into reductions in the number of children with lead poisoning. However, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) did not implement in the developing countries like Madagascar in order to control the traffic illicit of chemicals and wastes.Not only the GHS includes criteria for the classification of health, physical and environmental hazards, as well as specifying what information should be included on labels of hazardous chemicals as well as safety data sheets but also to protect the biodiversity. Beyond 2020, SAICM should seek to develop and implement action plans to address other Emerging Policy Issues and other Issues of Interest that can also help achieve measurable results of risk reduction aimed at reducing the harmful effects of chemicals and waste on human health and the environment, in particular by reducing threats to biodiversity . SAICM will be a contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For this purpose, it is necessary to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions (environmental, societal and economic).
Mexico	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Montenegro	Montenegro currently preparing new Strategy for chemicals management 2024-2026 and new Waste Management plan 2024-2028 in order to prioritize actions moving forward.
Panama	One of our problems is to establish a diagnosis of the effects on the health of people and the environment due to exposure to chemicals and their waste. We do NOT have toxicologists, what is more, there are very few toxicologists in the Central American sub-region. To overcome this in coordination with the CIIMET Center for Investigation of Drugs and Toxics, Regional Center of Stockholm and Basel conventions located at the University of Panama we work in the process to have a Master degree that now are in the final phase of the first graduation in

	the Master of Toxicology with an emphasis on Occupational Toxicology , Environmental Toxicology and Forensic Toxicology. Clinical Toxicology is pending. we need to prepare techcnically our health personnel to make a clinical diagnosis and we need a clinical toxicology lab too. An assesment of the pensum of Medicine career in order to evaluate if Chemical matters and thier effect is included is pending too.
Russia	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Serbia	Full submission available on the SAICM website: https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/Reporting/tabid/5462/language/en-US/Default.aspx
South Africa	We have identified all the chemicals and waste targets in all the SDGs, assigned responsible departments or institution or industry, and facilitate implementation of the identified activities to realize the targets, and assess progress.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Venezuela has an institutional and legal framework that makes it possible to coordinate actions aimed at the rational management of chemical substances and wastes. In this context, there is control of companies handling hazardous substances, materials and waste, through a register and a biannual authorization in which 11,332 companies have already registered.

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Capacity-building and the sound management of chemicals and waste: Key messages and recommendations for a capacity-building strategy for the new framework instrument

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted and developed by the SAICM Secretariat, working in coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), "*Capacity-building and the sound management of chemicals and waste: Key messages and recommendations for a capacity-building strategy for the new framework instrument*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received, without formal editing.

Annex

Capacity-building and the sound management of chemicals and waste: Key messages and recommendations for a capacity-building strategy for the new framework instrument

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1. Introduction

Various hazardous chemicals, as well as waste associated with their production, manufacturing, handling, and disposal, are accumulating in nature and adversely affecting ecosystems and human health.[1] For example, pesticides have been detected in surface water, groundwater, soils, air,[2] and even human breast milk.[3] Pesticide use is also known to impact ecosystem services, including pollination and soil function,[4] and lead to environmental incidents such as the poisoning of birds, fish, and honey bees.[5] Similarly, more than 770 pharmaceuticals and associated metabolites have been found in the environment globally, and they can accumulate in food and drinking water.[6] The size of the global chemical industry is expected to double by 2030, with the rapid increase in consumption and production patterns worldwide.[7] This scenario poses a number of risks for nature.[8] However, it also presents several opportunities for governments, the private sector, and other SAICM stakeholders (hereinafter referred to as "stakeholders") to step up efforts towards promoting more sustainable practices in managing chemicals and waste.[9]

According to UNEP's Global Chemicals Outlook, voluntary instruments and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) – such as 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, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (BRS conventions) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury – have significantly reduced the risks posed by certain chemicals and waste over the past years. Still, progress has been uneven across countries, regions, and actors.[10] In this context, *developing capacities* to eliminate, prevent, reduce, remediate, and/or minimize risks associated with chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle is crucial for enabling all stakeholders to effectively manage these substances for a beyond 2020 agenda.

Capacity-building has been a relevant component of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) since its inception.[11] At the first session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1), held in 2006 in Dubai (United Arab Emirates), ministers, heads of delegations, and representatives of stakeholder groups expressed a commitment towards bridging the capacity gaps between developed and developing countries and strengthening the capacity of the latter for the sound management of chemicals and the development of safer alternative products and processes through partnerships, technical support, and financial assistance.[12] The SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy[13], adopted at ICCM1, included nine objectives directed at promoting capacity-building and technical cooperation. These included, *inter alia*, increasing capacity in all countries for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and developing and implementing sustainable capacity-building strategies in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.[14]

Since then, capacity-building has been an important area of work in implementing SAICM's Global Plan of Action[15] and in pursuing the overall objective of achieving "*the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the*

[1] UNEP, *Making Peace with Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity, and pollution emergencies* (Nairobi, UN Environment Programme, 2021).
[2] UNEP, *Synthesis Report on the Environmental and Health Impacts of Pesticides and Fertilizers and Ways to Minimize Them* (Nairobi, UN Environment Programme, 2022).
[3] See, for example, Seblework Mekonen and others, "Exposure of infants to organochlorine pesticides from breast milk consumptions in southwestern Ethiopia", *Scientific Reports*, Vol. 22053, No. 11. (November 2021).
[4] FAO, *Pesticides and environmental incidents: Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade* (Rome, FAO, 2022).
[5] UNEP, *Global Chemicals Outlook II: From legacies to innovative solutions* (Cambridge, UN Environment Programme, 2019).
[6] For more information, see the Pharma in the environment portal (https://pharmaenvironment.org/#about).
[7] Idem.
[8] Idem.
[9] For instance, see UNEP, *Green and sustainable chemistry: Framework manual* (Nairobi, UN Environment Programme, 2020).
[10] UNEP, *Global Chemicals Outlook II: From legacies to innovative solutions* (Cambridge, UN Environment Programme, 2019).
[11] For more information about SAICM, see *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management* (United Nations publication, 2018)
[12] Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex I.
[13] SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II.
[14] Overarching Policy Strategy, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II.
[15] Global Plan of Action, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex III.

minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment."[16] The independent evaluation of SAICM for the period 2006 to 2016 found that the majority of stakeholders (70%) perceived the implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy's objectives on capacity-building as having had "some success" or having been "very successful."[17] It further noted that this success was largely attributed to the Quick Start Programme (QSP) and capacity-building programmes delivered by United Nations (UN) agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the chemicals industry. However, the independent evaluation also concluded that "*the extent and reach of these programmes has not been sufficient to address the capacity constraints within developing countries*" due to a number of factors, including the *ad hoc* nature of the approach to capacity-building under SAICM.[18]

With the SAICM's mandate coming to an end in 2020, the International Conference on Chemicals Management, at its fourth session (ICCM4), initiated an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (SAICM beyond 2020).[19] Due to the pandemic, the process of developing a new framework instrument has been extended, involving additional intersessional process meetings. Parallel to that, the Conference adopted the Programme of Work and Budget 2021-2023[20] for the secretariat of the Strategic Approach (hereinafter referred to as 'secretariat') via silent procedure on 7 December 2021.[21] The Programme of Work highlighted proposed activities for the secretariat for 2021-2023 based on the activities contained in the Overarching Policy Strategy.[22] It included a separate section on capacity-building with four proposed activities, encompassing developing "*a draft capacity building strategy, including elaboration of the capacity building activities discussed at a number of intersessional meetings, if decided by the Bureau in consultation with their respective constituencies*."[23]

The fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), where a new framework instrument for the sound management of chemicals will be discussed, will take place in September 2023. It is clear from the intersessional process leading up to ICCM5, including the exchanges in thematic groups,[24] that capacity-building will be an important component for the achievement of the strategic objectives and targets of the new framework instrument.

1.1. Scope and approach

At the request of the secretariat, this document was prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and seeks to inform the discussions relating to the development of a capacity-building strategy for the new framework instrument. It is organized as follows:

(a) Section 2 introduces concepts, approaches, and modalities of capacity-building.

(b) Section 3 provides an overview of the current experience on capacity-building under SAICM, highlighting key mandates and decisions, relevant institutional programmes, and examples of projects and initiatives led by stakeholders of the Strategic Approach.

(c) Section 4 highlights key messages from the stakeholder consultations, which aimed to explore capacity-building gaps, needs, and priorities for a beyond 2020 agenda.

(d) Section 5 provides examples from other international *fora* of mechanisms and instruments developed for the delivery of capacity-building, which might be useful in informing the next steps for the new framework instrument.

(e) Section 6 draws on the earlier sections to outline key recommendations for a more coordinated approach to capacity-building for the new framework instrument.

[16] Overarching Policy Strategy, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II.
[17] Interim Report for the Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 – 2015, SAICM/IP.1/5.
[18] Idem.
[19] Resolution IV/4: The Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, SAICM/ICCM4.15, Annex I.
[20] SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/4.
[21] SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/Report.
[22] SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II.
[23] SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/4.
[24] For example, see SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1/Add.4.

The present document was based on a literature review of capacity-building resources and a desk review of publications, tools, evaluation reports, and other internal (e.g., final reports from ICCM sessions and Bureau meetings) and external resources (e.g., policy briefs from stakeholders). The final list of references was agreed with the secretariat. The literature and desk reviews were supplemented by the analysis of information collected during stakeholder consultations conducted between February and June 2023. Twenty-eight stakeholders identified by the secretariat on the basis of regional and sectoral representation provided their inputs through semi-structured interviews, which were conducted online and in-person during the resumed fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, held in Nairobi, Kenya. The list of stakeholders included representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), secretariats of MEAs, UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholder groups. Participants were explicitly informed that the data gathered would be kept confidential and their anonymity would be assured. The consultations informed the development of section four, as well as the preparation of draft elements for a future capacity-building strategy, which is to be presented as an information document to ICCM in its fifth session.[25]

[25] SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/5

2. Background on capacity-building

In the landscape of international development, the concepts of capacity-building emerge as a crucial foundation for facilitating effective policy implementation and nurturing sustainable development. The below section explores this multifaceted concept, revealing its components, encompassing its brief history, terminology, and key features. Understanding these facets not only demonstrates the essence of capacity-building but also provides entry points to empower stakeholders in harnessing their potential for catalysing positive transformation across different levels: individual, organizational and enabling environment.

2.1 Brief history of capacity-building and its application in the United Nations System

The evolution of the "capacity-building" or "capacity development" concepts can be traced back to the development discourse in the 1990s as a tool to improve the impact of development interventions. Since then, development organizations have started to underscore the significance of capacity development within their strategies. For a number of these entities, capacity development has also taken a central role as the principal objective of their support provision.[26]

Within the United Nations system, capacity-building is understood as a fundamental function and has been referenced in General Assembly resolutions for the preceding twenty years.[27] For instance, through its resolution 50/120, the General Assembly decided in 1996 "*that the objective of capacity-building and its sustainability should continue to be an essential part of the operational activities of the United Nations system at the country level, with the aim of integrating their activities and providing support to efforts to strengthen national capacities in the fields of, inter alia, policy and programme formulation, development management, planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring, and review*."[28] The themes present in General Assembly resolutions concerning capacity-building have remained consistent for the past two decades, including sustainability of capacity-building, national development strategies ownership, use of national expertise and systems, and emerging technologies.[29]

In 2005, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) formed an Inter-Agency Task Team on Capacity Development.[30] This initiative aimed to redefine the contributions of UNDG members in the realm of capacity development and to offer direction to UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in their assistance of national capacity-development strategies. Additionally, it sought to elucidate the role of UNCTs in enhancing capacities within developing nations, particularly considering the rise of novel aid approaches. [31]

2.2 Terminology

There has not been a universal consensus on the definitions of capacity-building or capacity development to date. Nevertheless, their crucial role in facilitating the execution of policies and legal structures is widely acknowledged.[32] This acknowledgment extends to voluntary instruments such as the Strategic Approach.[33] Whereas evaluations and assessments of capacity-building delivered under specific programmes of the Strategic Approach have taken place, none of these explicitly define the term 'capacity-building.' However, as noted above, various other UN processes have formulated and put into use several definitions.

The term *capacity* assumes a multidimensional connotation and is understood as "*the ability of people, organisations, and society as a whole to manage their affairs successfully*."[34] *Capacity-building* can be

[26] Angela Bester, *Capacity development: A report prepared for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review* (New York, ECOSOC, 2015).
[27] Ibid
[28] A/RES/50/120.
[29] Angela Bester, *Capacity development: A report prepared for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review* (New York, ECOSOC, 2015).
[30] Ibid.
[31] UNDG, *UNDG Capacity Assessment Methodology, User Guide for national capacity development* (February 2008).
[32] Angela Bester, *Capacity development: A report prepared for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review* (New York, ECOSOC, 2015).
[33] For more information about SAICM, see *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management* (United Nations publication, 2018)
[34] UNDG, *UNDG Capacity Assessment Methodology, User Guide for national capacity development* (February 2008).

defined as the process of developing and strengthening the skills, abilities, processes, and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world.[35] In recent years, there has been a shift towards the term capacity development in certain contexts. For instance, various definitions of capacity development exist in the literature[36] in the context of development agencies.[37] The UNDG defines *capacity development* as "*the process whereby people, organizations, and society as a whole unleash, strengthen, create, adapt, and maintain capacity over time*."[38] At the country level, this involves support to national and subnational entities "*in developing their capacities to lead, manage, achieve and account for their development priorities*." [39]

Amid the absence of multilaterally agreed definitions, the terms "capacity-building" and "capacity development" emerge as key conduits for channelling the potential of enhancing capabilities at different levels. Both terms enjoy interchangeable usage, particularly within the Strategic Approach context, underscoring their shared essence in nurturing adaptive and sustainable growth.[40] For the purposes of this document, the term "capacity-building" will be used while describing instruments and initiatives under the Strategic Approach and the new framework instrument.

In addition to the term "capacity-building," two additional distinctions are relevant for this document: the one between capacity-building approaches and modalities and the one between functional and technical capacities.

(a) *Capacity-building approaches* refer to the manner in which capacity-building interventions are planned to achieve a desired outcome(s). Examples of capacity-building approaches include encouraging national capacity-building, promoting partnerships and networking, peer-to-peer learning, and technical cooperation to review legislation and policies. On the other hand,

(b) *Capacity-building modalities* are the delivery methods employed to achieve specific capacity-building goals. As a rule, the selection of capacity-building modalities is informed by the target audience and their needs, as well as the approaches in which the modalities will be embedded. For instance, stakeholders mentioned during the consultations a wide range of modalities used to successfully deliver capacity-building in the context of the Strategic Approach. These include technical assistance for reviewing and drafting legislation, establishing new bodies and institutions, regional workshops and information exchange, awareness campaigns, eLearning courses provided in different languages, case studies, on-site visits, and guidance documents and materials.

(c) *Functional capacities* can be defined as broad, all-purpose skills (including soft skills) needed to uptake and sustain the objectives of the new framework instrument. They include cross-cutting capacities relevant to individual and organizational effectiveness, such as capacities needed to formulate, implement and review policies, strategies, programmes, and projects; capacities to create, access, manage, and exchange information and knowledge; capacities to create and maintain networks, alliances, and partnerships; strategic planning and leadership; budgeting, marketing, and resource mobilization.

(d) *Technical capacities* are those associated with particular areas of expertise in given sectors and/or areas. These encompass capacities to carry out technical tasks related to the sound management of chemicals and waste and the implementation of the new framework instrument.[41]

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[35] For more information, see the United Nations Academic Impact page dedicated to capacity-building (www.un.org/en/academic-impact/capacity-building).

[36] See, for example, Kempe Ronald Hope, "Capacity Development and Good Governance" in *International Development Governance,* Ahmed Shafiqui Huque and Habib Zafarullah, eds., vol. 19 (Milton Park, Routledge, 2009); Farhad Analoui and Joseph Kwadwo Danquah, *Critical Capacity Development* (Cham, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017); Müller et al, "Capacity Development" in *Protected Area Governance Management*, Worboys et al, eds (Canberra, ANU Press, 2015).

[37] European Parliamentary Research Service, *Understanding capacity-building/capacity development: A core concept of development policy* (Brussels, European Parliamentary Research Service, 2017).

[38] UNDG, *UNDG Capacity Assessment Methodology, User Guide for national capacity development* (February 2008).

[39] Idem.

[40] See the outcomes of ICCM1, including the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, and the SAICM Global Plan of Action.

[41] For more information on concepts of capacity-building approaches and modalities, as well as functional and technical capacities, see https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/0ab8/2d14/07d2c32c7c92ee730c6e3e58/sbi-03-inf-09-en.pdf.

2.3 Key features of capacity-building

Capacity-building has many key features, including its demand-driven, context-specific, and long-term nature. Capacity-building approaches aim to bring about change in the long run across various levels as follows:

(e) *Enabling Environment*: This level focuses on the connection of societal norms, rules, laws, and the power dynamics governing civic engagement. It underscores the policy framework to synergistically tackle economic, political, environmental, and social elements, including economic growth, social developments, political context, the legislative environment, and cultural aspects. Within the capacity-building frame, this emerges as the overarching context that forms how capacity-building unfolds, providing the enabling conditions for capacity-building.[42]

(f) *Organizational Level*: Here, the focus shifts to the institutional level, assessing internal guidance and policies, procedures, partnerships, leadership, and additional structural elements. These internal components can potentially ameliorate the organization's capacities and improve its efficacy and effectiveness. This level also provides the organization's trajectory for future capacity development.[43]

(g) *Individual Level*: This sphere focuses on improving capacities at the personal level, including developing formal and non-formal individual skills, knowledge, and performance through information, training, and enhancing competencies and learning experiences, motivation, and incentives adapting to evolving circumstances and the particular needs for personal and professional growth.[44]

In order to successfully bring about change across the enabling environmental, organizational, and individual levels, capacity-building modalities, programmes, and plans need to be designed taking into consideration local contexts and needs as well basic programming principles.[45] UNDG, for instance, outlines a set of suggested common principles for developing capacity-building interventions. These include ensuring coherence in capacity development efforts; developing and applying quality standards for capacity development (e.g., relevance and strategic focus, effective, efficient, sustainable); developing indicators for measuring capacity development and ensuring they address aspects relating to human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability; building data systems and conducting baseline and follow-up assessments; and using evidence to inform programming decisions.[46]

Similarly, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) enumerates a series of basic principles for its approach to support capacity-building. Such principles encompass supporting national ownership, adapting to local conditions, addressing power relations, and recognizing capacity-building as a long-term process, *inter alia.*[47]

[42] UNDG, *Capacity Development: UNDAF Campanion Guidance* (New York, 2017).
[43] Ibid.
[44] Ibid.
[45] A comprehensive list of guiding principles for capacity-building can be found in the annex to the Draft Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). See Resolution 10/2022 of the ITPGRFA Governing Body.
[46] UNDG, *Capacity Development: UNDAF Campanion Guidance* (New York, 2017).
[47] UNDP, *Supporting capacity development: The UNDP approach (New York, UNDP, 2015).*

3. Current experience regarding capacity-building under the Strategic Approach

Having established an operational definition for capacity-building and setting the scene for analyzing activities and interventions, it becomes essential to delve deeper into the practical experiences associated with capacity-building under the Strategic Approach. This section thus provides an overview of the main resolutions and guiding documents delineating a mandate for delivering capacity-building under the Strategic Approach (see box 1). Then, it goes on to describe the most relevant institutional programmes that have historically supported the delivery of capacity-building activities and interventions, namely the Quick Start Programme (QSP) and the special programme (SP). It also describes examples of funding disbursed through the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Lastly, it provides examples of capacity-building projects, programmes, and initiatives developed by stakeholders in support of the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Approach. The aim is to provide the context on which further discussion of capacity-building for the new framework instrument can be based.

Box 1: Examples of key guiding documents and resolutions relating to capacity-building under the Strategic Approach

- ✓ Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management (SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex I);
- ✓ Overarching Policy Strategy (SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II);
- ✓ Global Plan of Action Global Plan of Action (SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex III);
- ✓ Inclusion of new activities relating to the environmentally sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.3/24, Annex II);
- ✓ Modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation (SAICM/ICCM.2/15, Annex III);
- ✓ Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM/ICCM.3/24, Annex V);
- ✓ Proposal enabling the ICCM5 to adopt decisions during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic via the silent procedure Decision 3: Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for the period 2021-2023 for the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/4);
- ✓ Resolution I/4: Quick Start Programme;
- ✓ Resolution II/8: Health aspects of the sound management of chemicals;
- ✓ Resolution III/4: Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach;
- ✓ Resolution IV/1: Implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal.
- ✓ Resolution IV/4: The Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

3.1. Resolutions and guiding documents relating to capacity-building

ICCM and its Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG)[48] have considered the issue of capacity-building several times in the past and have embedded capacity-building into the programme of work of the Strategic Approach as a guiding element. At its first session, the Conference adopted the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management ("Dubai Declaration"),[49] the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS),[50] the Global Plan of Action,[51] and resolution I/4, establishing the QSP.[52] These documents formed the basis for the functioning and framework of the Strategic Approach and set out relevant provisions relating to capacity-building.

The Dubai Declaration underscored a high-level commitment to the Strategic Approach and its implementation. Through the Declaration, ministers, heads of delegation, and representatives of stakeholder groups also committed to working "*towards closing the gaps and addressing the discrepancies in the capacity to achieve sustainable chemicals management between developed countries on the one hand and developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the*

[48] II/6: Establishment of an open-ended working group, SAICM/ICCM.2/15, Annex I.
[49] Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex I.
[50] Overarching Policy Strategy, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II.
[51] Global Plan of Action, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex III.
[52] I/4: Quick Start Programme, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex IV.

other by addressing the special needs of the latter and strengthening their capacities for the sound management of chemicals and the development of safer alternative products and processes, including non-chemical alternatives, through partnerships, technical support and financial assistance."[53]

The Overarching Policy Strategy outlined the scope, objectives, principles, approaches, and implementation arrangements for the Strategic Approach. The OPS listed capacity-building and technical assistance as essential elements for successfully implementing the Strategic Approach, recognizing a need for enhanced cooperation, and developing national capacities.[54] It also set out the promotion of the strengthening of national chemicals management capacities as a function of ICCM (paragraph 24 (g)). Additionally, paragraph 17 of the OPS established nine specific objectives for capacity-building and technical assistance, including:

> (a) Increasing capacity for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle;
>
> (b) Narrowing the widening gap in capacities between developed countries and developed countries and countries with economies in transition;
>
> (c) Establishing or strengthening partnerships and mechanisms for technical cooperation, maximizing synergies with the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building[55];
>
> (d) Developing and implementing sustainable capacity-building strategies in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, promoting cooperation between all countries;
>
> (e) Enhancing transparency and accountability through the coordination of and access to information on capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals;
>
> (f) Including capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals as a priority in social and economic development strategies; and
>
> (g) Encouraging stakeholders to assist with capacity-building programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as to create and promote programmes on chemical safety.[56]

The Global Plan of Action was structured around work areas and related activities to be undertaken by stakeholders on a volunteer basis to meet the commitments and goals expressed in the Dubai Declaration and OPS.[57] The plan contained two summary tables, which described possible work areas and their associated activities, actors, targets/timeframes, indicators of progress, and implementation aspects.[58] They outlined *fourteen* work areas addressing capacity-building and technical cooperation[59] with *fifty-four* proposed activities under this thematic area. Suggested activities encompassed, for instance, the development of sustainable capacity-building strategies in developing countries and countries with economies in transition (Activity no. 213), the establishment of programmes for scientific and technical training for personnel, including customs officers (Activity no. 218), the establishment or strengthening of national infrastructure (Activity no. 221), and the provision of training on interlinkages between trade and environment (Activity no. 251), among others.[60] According to the plan, proposed capacity-building measures could "*include training of personnel in order to provide the necessary skills to support the*

[53] Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex I.
[54] Overarching Policy Strategy, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II.
[55] UNEP's Governing Council, at its twenty-third session, adopted the Bali Strategic Plan. The Plan consists of an inter-governmentally agreed framework that seeks to strengthen the capacity of governments in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to achieve their environmental goals, targets, and objectives, and environment-related internationally agreed development goals, inter alia. See UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1.
[56] Overarching Policy Strategy, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II.
[57] Global Plan of Action, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex III.
[58] Idem.
[59] Namely: capacity-building to support national actions; formulation of preventive and response measures to mitigate environmental and health impacts of emergencies involving chemicals; cleaner production; remediation of contaminated sites; lead in gasoline; children and chemical safety; risk assessement, management, and communication; implementation of GHS; trade and environment; protected areas; occupational health and safety; Information management and dissemination; social and economic Considerations; and waste management. See: Overarching Policy Strategy, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II.
[60] Global Plan of Action, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex III.

systematic implementation of the Strategic Approach at the local, national and regional levels in a coordinated way and across the full range of chemical safety needs, including strategic planning, risk assessment and management, testing and research and control of illegal traffic."[61] The plan was updated at the third session of ICCM, and a new activity relating to public and private sector partnerships for the environmentally sound management of manufactured nanomaterials was added.[62]

It is important to note that the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)[63] submitted to ICCM in its fourth session an analysis of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action based on activities involving one or more IOMC organizations.[64] It concluded that progress toward the implementation of the plan could be made when some or all of the following conditions existed: a strong mandate from an appropriate body or instrument; the engagement of various organizations on a given topic but working collaboratively in their fields of competence; the progressive development of technical and guidance materials supplemented by pilot projects, if possible; and strong input from other stakeholders.[65] The analysis also pointed out that it could be useful if other stakeholders undertook a similar exercise of reviewing and analyzing their contribution towards achieving the plan and identifying gaps and how they could be addressed.[66]

The Quick Start Programme (QSP) was also established at ICCM1 through resolution I/4. The QSP aimed to support initial capacity-building activities for the implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Approach.[67] Throughout the previous two decades, the QSP was one of the backbones for delivering capacity-building activities and interventions under the Strategic Approach. Its achievements and challenges are described in detail in section 3.2.1 below. Suffice it to mention that the appendices to resolution I/4 laid out the strategic priorities, institutional arrangements, and terms of reference for the programme.

Since ICCM1, several elements relating to capacity-building were further elaborated in resolutions and guidance documents from the Conference. These include annex III to the meeting report from ICCM2, which outlined examples of twenty indicators that could be considered in developing questionnaires.[68] Six out of the twenty indicators focused on capacity-building and technical assistance (indicators 13 to 18). Examples encompass the "*number of countries (and organizations) providing resources (financial and in-kind) to assist capacity-building and technical cooperation with other countries*" (indicator 13) and the "*number of countries (and organizations) that have identified and prioritized their capacity-building needs for the sound management of chemicals*," (indicator 14) *inter alia*.[69] The progress reports from the Strategic Approach, which use these indicators, are available on the SAICM website and provide an interesting overview of the progress achieved in implementing activities under the Global Action Plan. The data shows that there was limited progress in four out of five indicators for capacity-building. [70]

ICCM2, through its decision II/8 on the health aspects of the sound management of chemicals, acknowledged "*the critical importance of building capacity at the local level to recognize, monitor and mitigate the impacts of chemicals on human health, with the development of indicators; this may include but not be limited to the development or strengthening of centres and networks of expertise, to share information and experience gained by countries that have successfully promoted effective actions*."[71] A few years later, ICCM3 adopted the strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.[72] The latter had six specific objectives, which included

[61] Global Plan of Action, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex III.
[62] Inclusion of new activities relating to the environmentally sound management of nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials and hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products in the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach, SAICM/ICCM.3/24, Annex II.
[63] The IOMC is a cooperative agreement among FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank and OECD.
[64] See SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/7.
[65] Idem.
[66] Idem.
[67] I/4: Quick Start Programme, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex IV.
[68] Modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation, SAICM/ICCM.2/15, Annex III.
[69] Idem.
[70] See SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.9/7.
[71] II/8: Health aspects of the sound management of chemicals, SAICM/ICCM.2/15, Annex I.
[72] III/4: Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, SAICM/ICCM.3/24, Annex I.

building "*the capacity of stakeholders in the health sector to undertake preventative actions, especially by increasing the amount, quality and relevance of information disseminated to the sector on the human health aspects of chemicals management*."[73]

Through its resolution 1/5 in 2014, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted the terms of reference for a special programme to support the implementation of the BRS and Minamata conventions and the Strategic Approach.[74] Through the same resolution, UNEA also welcomed an integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and waste.[75] The approach has three components, namely, mainstreaming, industry involvement, and dedicated external finance. See section 3.2.2 below for more information on the special programme.

In 2015, ICCM4 endorsed the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals.[76] Through its resolution IV/1, ICCM4 encouraged all stakeholders to take the necessary action to support the integrated approach to finance and its implementation.[77] ICCM4 further encouraged "*all stakeholders to establish or strengthen partnerships and mechanisms for technological cooperation and the provision of appropriate and clean technology to and among developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as reflected in the capacity-building and technical cooperation objective of the Overarching Policy Strategy*."[78] The overall orientation and guidance also provided an update on the progress in implementing the OPS, underscoring the contributions from the QSP, international cooperation, and IOMC, among others.

Of note is that all ICCM resolutions and guiding documents cited in this section underscore the centrality of capacity-building for the achievement of the objectives of the Strategic Approach and, consequently, for the sound management of chemicals and waste. They also lay the foundations for promoting the design and delivery of capacity-building activities and interventions by governments and other stakeholders. However, to date, there is no single strategy, action plan, or implementation plan that provides a specific framework for a coordinated and integrated approach for the delivery of capacity-building interventions under the Strategic Approach.

[73] Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, SAICM/ICCM.3/24, Annex V
[74] 1/5. Chemicals and waste, UNEP/EA.1/10, Annex I.
[75] Idem.
[76] Overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, SAICM/ICCM.4/6.
[77] IV/1: Implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal, SAICM/ICCM.4/15, Annex I.
[78] Idem.

Box 2: Capacity-building in the intersessional processes

Capacity-building has been one of the central discussion themes during the intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, which was initiated in 2015 and concludes in 2023. The issue of capacity-building was considered during the thematic and working group discussions and as part of the Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 – 2015.[79] It is relevant to note that the co-facilitators of the thematic group on financial considerations at the third meeting of the intersessional process developed proposed draft capacity-building principles as an outcome of the discussions,[80] which were integrated into document SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1.

Despite the prominence of capacity-building as a cross-cutting theme during the negotiations, proposals for building a common framework for the role of the new framework instrument in delivering capacity-building were notably absent from the draft intersessional process consolidated document (version of July 2023).[81] Capacity-building is currently mainly addressed in section VIII, in the form of a "capacity building platform" or an "online [matching/support] platform."[82] Other references in the text include:

- ✓ Strategic Objective A: "[Countries have] [Stakeholders have] the **capacity**, legal framework and institutional mechanisms in place to [support] [achieve] the [integrated] [sound] management of chemicals and [associated] waste [throughout the life cycle]."
- ✓ Target E4: "[Opportunities to further countries implementation of chemicals and waste are routinely] [[Funding] Gaps between developed and developing countries [in] [for the] the [implementation [and financial support for] [of]] sound management of chemicals [and [their] waste] are] identified [and narrowed] [rationalized considering the need for **capacity building**].]"
- ✓ Financial considerations: " (…)Adequate, predictable and sustainable financing, technical assistance, **capacity building**, and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, are essential to achieve the objectives and targets of the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, [and the [related] goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development] [and beyond]. The participation of representatives of all involved stakeholders and sectors at national, regional and international levels should be ensured in the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste."

3.2. Institutional programmes for the delivery of capacity-building activities and interventions

In line with the mandate outlined above, the sections below explore the two most significant initiatives that addressed capacity-building under the Strategic Approach, namely, the Quick Start Programme and the special programme, while also referencing the Global Environment Facility (GEF) which provides financial support to projects focusing on the sound management of chemicals and waste, some of which include capacity-building components. This will include a discussion of the outcomes or progress of projects based on their mid-term or end-of-project impact evaluations, as well as an analysis of strengths and weaknesses to inform future capacity-building efforts.

3.2.1 Quick Start Programme

The QSP was established in 2006 through ICCM Resolution I/4 to "*support activities to enable initial capacity building and implementation in developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition."*[83] for implementation of the Strategic Approach's objectives as set out in section IV of the OPS.[84] The QSP included a voluntary, multi-donor trust fund administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and provided funding for initial capacity-building projects led by governments or civil society organizations (CSOs). The programme was overseen by the Quick Start Programme Executive Board (EB) and Quick Start Programme Trust Fund

[79] SAICM/IP.3/INF/3.
[80] See SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1.
[81] SAICM/IP.4/11, Annex: Intersessional Process Consolidated Document.
[82] Idem.
[83] Resolution I/4: Decision adopted on 6 February 2006 by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first session, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 4-6 February 2006.
[84] 1/7 Overarching Policy Strategy, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II.

Implementation Committee.[85] It concluded in December 2019 with 184 projects receiving funding across 108 different countries.[86]

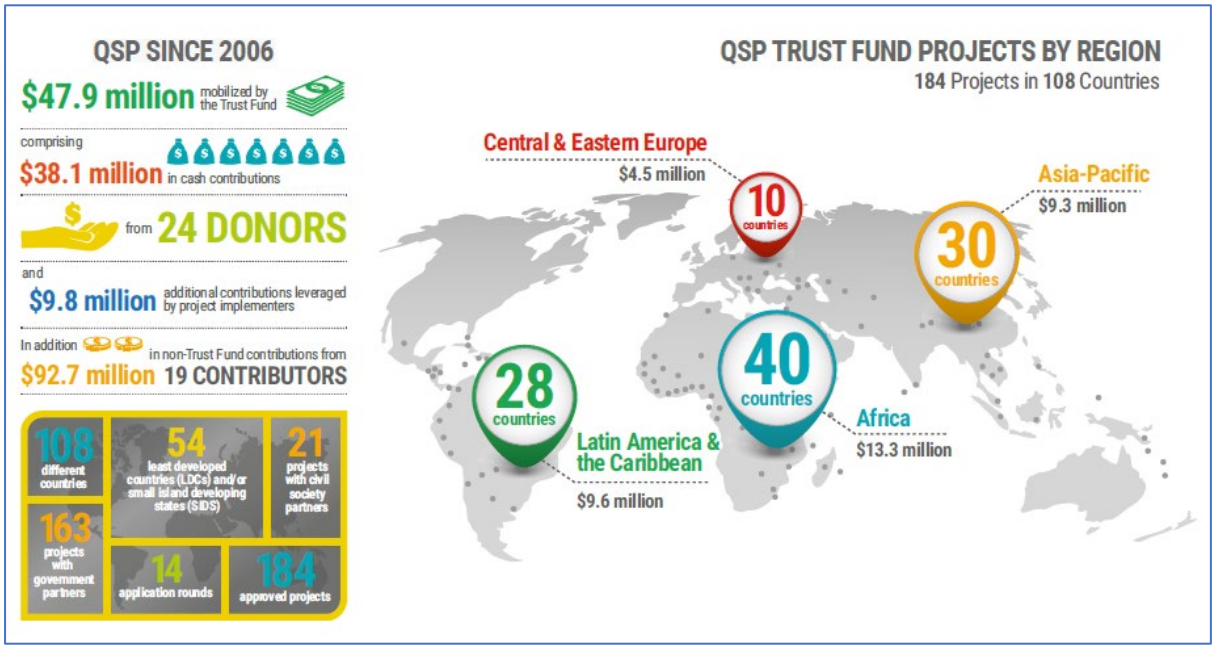


Figure 1. Quick Start Programme in numbers, available at https://www.saicm.org/portals/12/Images/QSP-2020.png.

The strategic priorities for the QSP were: (a) developing or updating national chemical profiles and identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals management; (b) developing and strengthening national chemical management institutions; (c) mainstreaming chemical management into national legislation, policies, and institutions.[87] An impact evaluation carried out in 2015 concluded that the QSP had successfully met, and in many cases exceeded, its project objective of establishing enabling environments for the sound management of chemicals. Key outputs across the three strategic priorities were largely achieved, with the majority of projects successfully addressing priorities (a) and (b), while a smaller but significant number of projects addressed priority (c).[88]

The success of the QSP was attributed, in part, to the involvement of diverse sets of stakeholders, with most projects also engaging industry partners. The QSP was also acknowledged for improving collaboration and coordination between various stakeholders. Many non-government respondents interviewed as part of the impact evaluation reported enhanced trust and improved relationships between government, civil society, and the private sector for sound chemicals management. Partnerships between CSOs and governments resulted in particularly high-impact projects and were very effective at ensuring the long-term sustainability of these benefits.[89] Most key stakeholders, especially high-level decision-makers in government, reported large improvements in awareness and understanding of the risks of chemicals, the importance of sound chemicals management, and the tools available to manage risks among decision-makers in government.[90]

Despite major achievements in stakeholder engagement and awareness raising, the impact evaluation also identified weaknesses in the design and implementation of the QSP. The latter could be useful for informing future capacity-building initiatives and projects under the new framework instrument. While the QSP was generally successful at raising awareness amongst high-level decision-makers in

[85] UNEP & SAICM, *The Quick Start Programme: 13 years of advancing sound chemicals management* (2019).
[86] Ibid.
[87] Resolution I/4: Decision adopted on 6 February 2006 by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its first session, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 4-6 February 2006.
[88] Nurick et al (2015). Quick Start Programme Impact Evaluation Final Report. SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/5.
[89] Ibid.
[90] Ibid.

governments, the issue of high turnover in key heads of divisions, deputies, and ministers was frequently reported by programme recipients as a barrier to long-term capacity-building. Furthermore, most training and capacity-building were directed at government staff, whereas evidence for improved awareness at the grassroots and chemical user levels was less clearly demonstrated.[91] Future capacity-building programmes under the new instrument could consider including more grassroots and chemical user stakeholders in capacity-building activities to enhance programme impacts and the long-term sustainability of projects.

Despite the high impact of CSO-led projects, relatively few were funded, with only fourteen CSO-led projects receiving funding from the QSP Trust Fund, compared to 101 government-led projects at the time of the impact evaluation.[92] Furthermore, only a small minority of projects adequately included gender considerations in project design, and most that included were CSO-led projects. For example, the Argentine Society of Doctors for the Environment (AAMMA) received funding from the QSP Trust in 2008 to carry out a project focused on the minimization of mercury from domestic sources through community-based interventions to protect children and women's health.[93] Given their high impact and successful inclusion of gender considerations, future capacity-building programmes for chemicals management should ensure funding is available for CSO-led projects.

The impact evaluation found that, while many projects were able to establish sources of funding for the continuation of QSP projects, this funding was generally from external funding sources, such as Global Environment Facility (GEF), UN agencies, NGOs and donors, and very few countries were able to allocate resources from national budgets or promote industry participation for financing for chemical management.[94] This was further reflected in the lack of evidence for integrating chemical management into national development plans and budgets due to a lack of prioritization by governments.[95] Finally, the impact evaluation noted a clear scarcity of quantitative data on the health and environmental impacts of chemicals across most recipient countries, and systems for regular monitoring of such information are largely absent, which could be addressed in future programmes.[96]

Overall, the QSP is regarded as a good example of the successful delivery of capacity-building under the Strategic Approach, establishing enabling environments for sound management of chemicals through the engagement of a diverse set of stakeholders, facilitating effective stakeholder collaboration, and raising awareness on issues surrounding chemical management amongst key stakeholders. See Box 3 for a summary of the main features of the QSP.

3.2.2 Special Programme

The Special Programme was established through UNEA resolution 1/5 to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementing the BRS conventions, the Minamata convention, and the Strategic Approach.[97] The programme is managed by UNEP's Economy Division, Chemicals and Health Branch. In 2015, the Special Programme Trust Fund was set up based on voluntary contributions from several donor countries, and an Executive Board and Secretariat were established to oversee implementation.[98] Only national governments from developing countries, particularly least developed countries, small island developing states, and countries with economies in transition, are eligible to receive funding from the Special Programme Trust Fund. Since its inception in 2015, the Special Programme has processed six rounds of applications and funding has been approved for 75 projects in 65 different countries.[99] It is currently in its seventh round of applications.

[91] Nurick et al (2015). Quick Start Programme Impact Evaluation Final Report. SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/5.
[92] Ibid.
[93] Report on the status of projects funded under the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund as of October 2015 SAICM/TF.18/5.
[94] Nurick et al (2015). Quick Start Programme Impact Evaluation Final Report. SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/5.
[95] Ibid.
[96] Ibid.
[97] Resolution 1/5: Resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session on 27 June 2014.
[98] Activities of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management SAICM/IP.4/INF/12/Rev.1.
[99] UNEP *Special Programme Projects database,* available at https://apps1.unep.org/sps-projects/dist/.

A mid-term evaluation was carried out for the Special Programme in 2019.[100] At this time, several countries had made important progress towards drafting and enacting laws, designing chemical databases, setting up multi-sectoral committees, and implementing policies to achieve sound chemical management. The authors of the evaluation concluded that the Special Programme was on track to achieve its expected outcome to strengthen the capacities of national institutions to implement commitments and plans under the chemicals and waste cluster of multilateral environmental agreements and voluntary instruments.

A key strength of the Special Programme lies in the high-country ownership of projects in recipient countries, with all projects reporting strong government support and leadership by ministries. Overall, special programme projects were successful at enabling the active participation and involvement of key stakeholders, including government ministries, customs officers, academia, industry, and NGOs to achieve desired outcomes. The Special Programme benefited from strong management and good supervision through the secretariat of the programme and a high-quality project design, drawing from lessons learned through the GEF and QSP.[101]

Alongside project strengths, the mid-term review also identified a number of weaknesses. Most countries surveyed as part of the evaluation reported a lack of national funding available for continued financing of project activities. They stated that they would require further international financial assistance to ensure the sustainability of these projects. Overall, there was also insufficient inclusion of gender and human rights considerations in project design and implementation. Evaluation of lists of participants in project activities revealed that the participation of women was low in some countries, while none of the proposals that have been approved for funding by the Special Programme Trust Fund to date have specifically mentioned outreach involving Indigenous Peoples.[102] Furthermore, during the consultations convened by UNEP-WCMC, many stakeholders expressed dissatisfaction with the eligibility criteria for the programme. More information about the consultations is available in section 4.

The Special Programme shows strong potential for building institutional capacity for chemical and waste management at the national level. Still, it will require some modifications to ensure financial sustainability beyond the project timeframe and the inclusion of gender considerations in future application rounds. To address financial sustainability limitations, authors of the mid-term evaluation recommend countries establish cost recovery measures as a potential mechanism to develop sources of national funding for chemical and waste management activities. The report suggests including a section on gender, human rights, and Indigenous Peoples in the application form for future application rounds to better mainstream gender and human rights considerations in Special Programme projects.[103] See box 3 for a summary of the main features of the special programme.

[100] Choong Kwet Yive et al., 2019. *Mid-Term Evaluation of the UN Environment Project 515.2 "Operationalization of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management".* Evaluation Office of UN Environment.
[101] Ibid.
[102] Ibid.
[103] Ibid.

Programme	Quick Start Programme	Special programme
Managing Organization	UNEP	UNEP
Status	Complete	Active
Eligibility	Developing countries and countries with economies in transition and on an exceptional basis; representatives of civil society networks	Developing countries and countries with economies in transition
Number of projects	184	75
Achievements	Established enabling environments for the sound management of chemicals ● Development of national chemical profiles ● Identification of capacity needs for the sound management of chemicals ● Development and strengthening of national chemical management institutions ● Mainstreaming chemical management into national legislation, policies and/or institutions ● Engaged multiple stakeholders ● Enhanced trust between government, civil society, and the private sector partners ● Improved awareness amongst high-level decision-makers in government ● High impact of CSO-led projects.	Satisfactory delivery of project outputs and mid-term targets ● Progress towards targets for outcomes on (a) drafting and enacting laws, (b) designing chemical databases, (c) setting up multi-sectoral committees, and (d) implementing policies for sound chemicals management ● High country-ownership ● Effective stakeholder engagement ● Robust management and supervision ● High-quality project design.
Main Challenges in Implementation	High turnover rate in high-level decision-makers ● Lack of evidence for improved awareness at the grassroots and chemical user level; most training and capacity-building targeted government staff ● Low levels of funding for CSO-led projects ● Majority of projects did not include gender considerations in project design ● Lack of national funding sources for the financing of activities beyond project timeframe ● Absence of quantitative data on environmental and health impacts of chemicals or systems for monitoring ● Lack of prioritization of chemical management in national agendas ● Lack of capacity for inter-departmental coordination required for chemicals management.	Lack of funding available for civil society or community-based projects ● Lack of national funding sources for the financing of activities beyond project timeframe ● Insufficient inclusion of gender and human rights considerations in projects' design and implementation.

Box 3. Overview of the Quick Start Programme and the Special Programme.

3.2.3. The Global Environment Facility and the sound management of chemicals

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides support to projects tackling biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and threats to land and ocean health in developing countries.[104] The GEF administers the GEF Trust Fund, as well as the Least Developed Countries Trust Fund (LDCF), the Special Climate Change Trust Fund (SCCF), the Adaptation Fund, the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) and the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF).[105] There are five focal areas under the GEF, one of which is 'Chemicals and Waste' and aims to finance the elimination of most harmful chemicals, covered by the Stockholm Convention, the Minamata Convention, and the Montreal Protocol to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and supports the work of the Strategic Approach to promote chemical safety.[106]

[104] "The Global Environment Facility: Who we are," available at: https://www.thegef.org/who-we-are (9 August 2023).
[105] " The Global Environment Facility: Funding Overview"available at: https://www.thegef.org/who-we-are/funding (9 August 2023).
[106] " The Global Environment Facility: Brochure on Chemicals and Waste," available at: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/GEF_Chemicals_Waste_2022_03.pdf (9 August 2023).

Box 4: Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM

The project "Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM" aims to "*accelerate the adoption of national and value chain initiatives to control Emerging Policy Issues and contribute to the 2020 SAICM goal and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*"[107] The Project is being implemented by the UNEP Economy Division, executed by the secretariat, and financed by GEF. Project activities commenced in 2019 and are still ongoing.[108] The GEF project is being implemented by over twenty-five partners, which include a diverse set of stakeholders, from IGOs to NGOs, National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), and academia.[109] The project aims to address two Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs): restricting the use of lead in paint and encouraging stakeholders to track and control chemicals in products while also tackling the need for stronger knowledge management and information exchange to ensure coordinated action across all EPIs through the creation of a Knowledge Management Platform and Communities of Practice (CoP).[110]

The project focused on building capacity through regional workshops on lead in paint for government officials and other stakeholders, providing technical assistance to small and medium enterprises on paint reformulation processes and organizing summer-school courses on USEtox® modeling fundamentals.[111] A mid-term review conducted in 2021 concluded that the project was on target to deliver its target outputs and outcomes.[112] Many countries were passing, or in the latest stages of adopting, lead paint legislation. Twenty-two small-medium enterprises had taken part in technical demonstrations for paint reformulation, and a total of five guidance reports on chemicals in products had already been produced by the project mid-point. In the case of its work on knowledge management and stakeholder engagement, the project has already realized its end-of-project targets, developing the SAICM Knowledge Management platform through which stakeholders can access information, tools and guidance related to EPIs, while also providing a forum for interactive discussions and exchanges of best practices among SAICM stakeholders through four SAICM CoPs on EPIs.[113]

From the pilot phase of the GEF up to March 2022, projects within the 'Chemical and Waste' initiative have received over $2 billion from the core GEF Trust Fund.[114] In most cases, projects or programmes must be government-led to be eligible for GEF funding.[115] However, civil society and community-based organizations can access funding through the GEF Small Grants Programme which was launched in 1992 and has provided over $32 million in funding to 1,051 projects focusing on chemicals and waste.[116] As part of GEF's work on chemicals and waste, GEF provides funding for capacity-building initiatives to create enabling conditions and environments for the safe management of hazardous chemicals and waste in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.[117] Since GEF-5, a small funding envelope has been dedicated to activities supporting the objectives of the Strategic Approach.[118] Box 4 provides an example of a project financed by the GEF in support of the implementation of the Strategic Approach, and box 5 provides more details of a successful capacity-building initiative delivered under the project.

Box 5: SAICM Communities of Practice

Between 2020 and 2022, the Strategic Approach, in partnership with the University of Capetown, established four Communities of Practice (CoPs) as part of the GEF project 'Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM.' These CoPs provide forums for discussions and the exchange of knowledge

[107] Update on the Strategic Approach Global Environment Facility Project 2019 SAICM/IP.3/INF/13
[108] Update on the Strategic Approach Global Environment Facility Project 2019 SAICM/IP.3/INF/13
[109] Ponziani, 2021. *Mid-Term Review of the UNEP/Global Environment Facility project: "Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)"* UNEP Economy Division
[110] Update on the Strategic Approach Global Environment Facility Project 2019 SAICM/IP.3/INF/13
[111] Ponziani, 2021. *Mid-Term Review of the UNEP/Global Environment Facility project: "Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)"* UNEP, Economy Division
[112] Ponziani, 2021. *Mid-Term Review of the UNEP/Global Environment Facility project: "Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)"* UNEP, Economy Division
[113] Ponziani, 2021. *Mid-Term Review of the UNEP/Global Environment Facility project: "Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)"* UNEP, Economy Division

between experts and interested stakeholders on four Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs): Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), Chemicals in products (CiP), Lead in paint (LiP), and Chemicals and the sustainable development goals (CSDG). The outcomes of the exchanges, including detailed discussion summary digests, presentations, and session details, are available for download at the SAICM Knowledge platform <https://saicmknowledge.org/communities-practice>.

During the interviews conducted by UNEP-WCMC for the preparation of this document, stakeholders largely praised the CoPs as a successful example of capacity-building delivered under the Strategic Approach, and one that should be continued under the new framework instrument. Due to the success and interest in these EPI-focused CoPs, the secretariat is in the process of developing an overarching CoP for all discussions relating to beyond 2020 with the aim to launch this in 2023.

3.3. Examples of contribution from stakeholders to the delivery of capacity-building activities and interventions

As indicated in the previous section, a wide range of activities under the Strategic Approach was financed through the QSP, special programme, and GEF. Nonetheless, many stakeholders have financed, co-financed, and delivered capacity-building initiatives beyond the framework of these three mechanisms. It is worth noting that paragraph 2 of the OPS provides for the involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders in the implementation of the Strategic Approach. The following are listed as key in achieving its goals: (a) governments, (b) regional economic integration organizations, (c) IGOs, (d) NGOs, and (e) individuals involved in the management of chemicals throughout their lifecycles from all relevant sectors, including, but not limited to, agriculture, environment, health, industry, relevant economic activity, development cooperation, labor, and science. This subsection explores examples of how these various stakeholders have not only contributed financially but have also played pivotal roles in designing and executing capacity-building initiatives and projects.

(a) *Capacity-building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries*: The programme "Capacity-building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries" (ACP MEAs programme) is a partnership between the European Union (EU), the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – two IOMC Participating Organizations. The programme seeks to build country capacities in these three regions and support them in fulfilling their obligations under various MEAs and voluntary instruments. It is divided into three phases (from 2009 to 2014, 2014 to 2017, and 2020 to 2024).[119] Outcomes of the second phase of programme included the development of training opportunities, educational initiatives, manuals, technical guidance documents, Pesticide Registration Toolkits, and databases for country partners, which had clear positive impacts on working practices and capacities in pesticide registrations.[120] The project also led to the establishment of networks for pesticide regulators amongst target countries, enabling South-South Cooperation for the sound management of pesticides.[121]

(b) *International SAICM Implementation Project*: The International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP) was launched by the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) in 2010 to support civil society organizations in implementing the Strategic Approach.[122] One of ISIP's objectives was to increase the capacity of developing country NGOs to engage in chemical and policy discussions at all levels.[123] The programme provided financial and technical support to over 100 implementation activities in 50 countries.[124] Several of these projects involved capacity-building activities, including awareness campaigns, workshops and training sessions, multistakeholder conferences, and providing guidance documents, resource

[119] See "Strengthening Environmental Governance and Supporting Multilateral Environmental Agreements In the Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific regions", available at https://www.acpmeas.com/.
[120] "FAO: Building capacity related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries". Project code: GCP/INT/153/EC. Available at https://www.fao.org/3/CA3573EN/ca3573en.pdf.
[121] Ibid.
[122] SAICM/ICCM.3/INF.8.
[123] IPEN-ISIP, available at https://ipen.org/sites/default/files/t/2012/09/IPEN-ISIP-poster.pdf (9 August 2023).
[124] 'International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)' available https://ipen.org/projects/international-saicm-implementation-project-isip (9 August 2023)

materials, and technical assistance to a diverse set of stakeholders on various topics related to chemical and waste management.[125]

(c) *eChemPortal*: The eChemPortal: Global Portal to Information on Chemical Substances was launched in 2007 and provides information on the properties, hazards, and risks of chemicals found in products and the environment. Governments and other stakeholders can search reports and datasets by chemical name and number, chemical property, and Global Harmonized System classification.[126] The portal features over 800,000 substance records from 34 databases of authorities and internal organizations on chemicals, pesticides, and biocides.[127] The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is responsible for the maintenance and development of the eChemPortal in collaboration with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)[128]

(d) *UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity-Building Programme*: UNITAR and ILO are the focal points on capacity-building to the ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). In response to growing requests from countries, both organizations launched in 2001 a Global GHS Capacity-Building Programme.[129] The objectives of the programme include raising awareness of the GHS at the global and regional level, mobilizing actions across sectors and processes to implement the GHS, and better understanding the challenges developing countries face in the implementation of the GHS.[130] It supports various initiatives, particularly at the national level, and provides educational, awareness-raising, resource, and training materials regarding the GHS.[131]

(e) *Information toolkits*: Similarly, a series of toolkits has been developed by a wide range of stakeholders to support countries with different aspects of chemical management. These include the FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit,[132] OECD Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit,[133] ICCA Regulatory Toolbox 2.0,[134] IOMC Internet-based Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management,[135] the UNIDO Innovative Approaches for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Chemical Waste Toolkit,[136] the UNIDO Green Chemistry Toolkit,[137] and UNEP Toolkit for establishing laws to eliminate lead paint.[138]

In addition to capacity-building initiatives and projects such as those described above, it is also worth mentioning a number of informal and formal partnerships among stakeholders that successfully built (and build) capacities for the sound management of chemicals and waste. These include, for instance:

(a) *The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint* (Lead in Paint Alliance): The Lead in Paint Alliance is a voluntary partnership formed by UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote the phase-out of paints containing lead.[139] It is guided by an Advisory

[125] IPEN-ISIP, available at https://ipen.org/sites/default/files/t/2012/09/IPEN-ISIP-poster.pdf (9 August 2023).
[126] See "eChem Portal: The global portal to information on chemical substances," available at https://www.echemportal.org/echemportal/ (06 December 2022).
[127] "eChemPortal News" available https://www.echemportal.org/echemportal/content/news (9 August 2023).
[128] OECD (2023), eChemPortal Guidance for New Participants, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD.
[129] See 'Capacity building, tools and guidance', avaialble at https://unece.org/transportdangerous-goods/capacity-building-tools-and-guidance.
[130] UNITAR, ILO, IOMC, *Training and Capacity Building Programme for Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)* (Geneva, 2003).
[131] Ibid.
[132] "Pesticide Registration Toolkit," available at https://www.fao.org/pesticide-registration-toolkit/en/ (23 November 2022).
[133] "OECD Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit," available at https://envriskassessmenttoolkit.oecd.org/ (23 November 2022).
[134] "ICCA Regulatory Toolbox 2.0," available at https://icca-chem.org/resources/icca-regulatory-toolbox-2-0/ (23 November 2022).
[135] "IOMC Internet-based Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management," available at https://iomctoolbox.org (23 November 2022).
[136] "IAMC Toolkit: Innovative Approaches for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Chemical Waste," available at https://iamc-toolkit.org (23 November 2022).
[137] "Green Chemistry Toolkit," available at https://greenchemistry-toolkit.org (23 November 2022).
[138] "Toolkit for establishing laws to eliminate lead paint," available at https://www.unep.org/toolkit-establishing-laws-eliminate-lead-paint (23 November 2022).
[139] "Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint," available at https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/global-alliance-eliminate-lead-paint (29 November 2022).

Council[140] and an Action Plan for 2021-2023.[141] As part of its specific objectives, the Lead Paint Alliance aims to raise awareness amongst government authorities and regulators, the private sector, manufacturers, consumers, workers, trade unions, and healthcare providers on the toxicity of lead in paints and the availability of safer alternatives. The partnership also aims to provide countries with guidance for developing and implementing compliance and enforcement strategies for lead paint laws through further capacity-building approaches.[142] The Global Alliance has directly and indirectly supported countries to adopt lead paint laws. As of June 2019, 73 countries had legally binding controls to limit the production, sale, and import of lead paints.[143] In addition, the Alliance has produced four tools, namely: (1) Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint, (2) an Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint, (3) a Toolkit for Establishing Laws to Eliminate Lead paint, as mentioned above, and (4) awareness raising and communicational materials for International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2019.[144]

(b) *The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)*: The IOMC is a coordinating group comprising nine inter-governmental organizations: FAO, International Labour Organization (ILO), OECD, UNEP, UNDP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Bank. IOMC seeks to strengthen international cooperation in the field of chemicals, as well as to increase the effectiveness of the Participating Organizations' international chemicals programmes.[145] The IOMC is a key player in delivering capacity-building activities for the sound management of chemicals, collectively providing countries with scientific, technical, and legislative assistance and sharing knowledge, tools, and financial support.[146]

(c) *The Global Partnership for Capacity Building to Implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals*: In 2002, UNITAR, ILO, and OECD launched a World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Partnership on GHS implementation.[147] The Partnership works alongside a coalition of stakeholders from governments, regional economic integration organizations, trade unions, NGOs, and the private sector to scale up the implementation of GHS through regional workshops focused on discussing GHS implementation and identifying capacity needs. Between 2003 and 2012, the partnership supported eleven regional workshops.[148] At the national level, the partnership has supported capacity-building for GHS implementation in 94 countries in 4 regions through national projects.[149] The development of guidance documents, and training materials such as the e-Learning GHS course is another key capacity-building service delivered by the Partnership.[150]

(d) *The UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals into Development Planning Processes*: The Partnership Initiative was established to promote the integration of the sound management of chemicals into national development plans and programs, as well as support the implementation of the Strategic Approach.[151] Through the Partnership Initiative, UNDP and UNEP organized a series of workshops and projects to apply and test guidance materials. As part of collaborative activities for capacity-building on the

[140] See "Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint/Lead Paint Alliance – Advisory Council," available at https://www.unep.org/events/un-environment-event/global-alliance-eliminate-lead-paintlead-paint-alliance-advisory-2 (29 November 2022).
[141] Ibid.
[142] Ibid.
[143] "Factsheet," available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/29520/LiP_Factsheet.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y (29 November 2022).
[144] "Factsheet," available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/29520/LiP_Factsheet.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y (29 November 2022).
[145] 'IOMC: About us' available: https://partnership.who.int/iomc/about-us (9 August 2023).
[146] IOMC brochure (2018) available at: https://partnership.who.int/iomc/participating-organizations (9 August 2023).
[147] The GHS and the Global Partnership: a success story from Rio to Rio (June 2012) available: https://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/risk-management/50500627.pdf (9 August 2023).
[148] Ibid.
[149] Ibid.
[150] Ibid.
[151] See *UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative for the integration of Sound Management of Chemicals into Development Planning Process* (United Nations publication, 2012).

sound management of chemicals, UNDP has developed the "Guide for Integrating Sound Management of Chemicals into MDG-Based Development Planning,"[152] and UNEP has prepared the assessment "Costs of inaction on the sound management of chemicals."[153]

Private sector actors are also key stakeholders in the sound management of chemicals and waste. Encouraging industry partners to provide financial and technical support for capacity-building efforts can offer an effective approach to strengthening the sound management of chemicals globally. To date, most capacity-building activities and financing from the private sector are delivered through industry associations such as CropLife International and the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA).[154] Some examples of private sector initiatives and partnerships for capacity-building in the context of chemicals and waste management include:

(a) *CropLife International:* CropLife International is a global trade association composed of agricultural and biotechnology companies involved in the research, development, and marketing of agricultural products with a particular focus on crop protection and plant biotechnology.[155] CropLife International provides training to farmers in the responsible use of pesticides through a global network of partnerships and awareness campaigns.[156] The association has also developed guidelines, training manuals, posters, and leaflets for online stewardship programs promoting the responsible use of crop protection products (pesticides).[157]

(b) *International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)*: ICCA is an organization that represents the global chemical industry, providing a platform for collaboration amongst various chemical industry stakeholders on global issues related to chemical safety.[158] ICCA has developed several initiatives, such as:

a. *Responsible Care programme*[159]: ICCA has played an important role in delivering capacity-building activities in developing countries to improve regulatory controls and industry practices for sound chemical management through the 'Responsible Care' programme.[160]

b. *UNEP-ICCA partnership*[161]: In September 2010, ICCA and UNEP signed a memorandum of understanding formalizing a partnership to promote the implementation of the Strategic Approach. As part of the collaboration, ICCA and UNEP delivered a two-year project in East and West Africa that provided training in handling dangerous goods and capacity-building in preparation and response to emergencies.[162]

c. *The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regulatory Cooperation Project*[163]: The ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Project is an initiative of the ICCA's Global Regulatory Cooperation Task Force, which aims to address non-tariff barriers caused by divergent chemical management regulations through regulatory cooperation

[152] *UNDP guide for integrating the Sound Management of Chemicals into development planning* (United Nations publication, 2012), available at https://www.undp.org/publications/undp-guide-integrating-smc-development-planning (23 November 2022).
[153] *Costs of Inaction on the Sound Management of Chemicals* (United Nations publication, 2013), available at https://www.unep.org/resources/report/costs-inaction-initiative (23 November 2022).
[154] United Nations Environment Programme (2022). Study on industry involvement in the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste. Geneva.
[155] 'Crop Life International' available: https://croplife.org/ (9 August 2023).
[156] United Nations Environment Programme (2022). Study on industry involvement in the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste. Geneva.
[157] Ibid.
[158] The International Council of Chemical Association, available: https://icca-chem.org/ (9 August 2023).
[159] ICCA: Responsible Care, available: https://icca-chem.org/focus/responsible-care/ (9 August 2023).
[160] United Nations Environment Programme (2022). Study on industry involvement in the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste. Geneva.
[161] 'ICCA: partnerships with the UN Environment Programme', available: https://icca-chem.org/partnerships/un-environment-program/ (9 August 2023).
162 United Nations Environment Programme (2022). Study on industry involvement in the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste. Geneva.
[163] Singapore Chemical Industry Council: ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Project, available: https://scic.sg/asean/ (9 August 2023).

in the region.[164] It facilitates the sharing of knowledge, including chemical inventories and risk assessments, amongst the ten ASEAN countries.[165]

The diversity and breadth of these initiatives and partnerships from various stakeholders underscores the collective endeavor to achieve the overarching policy goals of the Strategic Approach and showcases the dynamism and adaptability of stakeholder involvement. Furthermore, these are just examples of the many initiatives which deliver a wide range of tools, guidance products, and materials to build capacities for the sound management of chemicals. This highlights the importance of avoiding "reinventing the wheel" while discussing capacity-building approaches, modalities, and interventions for the new framework instrument and related capacity-building strategy. This also underscores the importance of taking stock of existing initiatives and lessons learned from their implementation.

[164] Singapore Chemical Industry Council: ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Project, available: https://scic.sg/asean/ (9 August 2023).
[165] United Nations Environment Programme (2022). Study on industry involvement in the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste. Geneva.

4. Key messages from the stakeholder consultations: challenges and priorities

In light of the negotiation of a new framework instrument for the sound management of chemicals and waste and the SAICM secretariat's task of developing a capacity-building strategy in support of the implementation of the new instrument, a series of stakeholder consultations were convened to gather the views of governments, NGOs, IGOs, and other stakeholders regarding gaps, challenges, needs, and priorities to be addressed for a beyond 2020 agenda. This section highlights the key messages from the analysis of the consultations, which ICCM may wish to consider in developing a capacity-building strategy for the new framework instrument.

The outcomes of the analysis identified seven main challenges faced by different groups while engaging with the Strategic Approach and/or planning, designing, developing, and implementing capacity-building activities and interventions. These include the (1) lack of a comprehensive framework for capacity building under the Strategic Approach; (2) limitations in the engagement and outreach of other sectors, beyond the environment sector; (3) limited availability and access to funding and financing for capacity-building; (4) limited access to funding and financing for capacity-building; (5) duplication of efforts and limited collaboration between different stakeholders; (6) low awareness of the objectives of the Strategic Approach; and (7) difficulties in collecting data, accessing, and sharing information. Furthermore, the analysis identified key priorities and suggestions to address them. Challenges and priorities are outlined below.

Challenge 1: Lack of a comprehensive framework for capacity building under the Strategic Approach: A number of stakeholders stressed the need for a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to capacity-building in the context of the new framework instrument, including the identification of gaps, challenges, needs, and priorities at different levels, mechanisms for reporting and review, and measures for the sustainability of capacity-building interventions and projects. To address that, the analysis of the consultation outcomes identified the following key priorities and suggestions from the stakeholders' input:

(a) Understand capacity-building as an iterative, continuous, and long-term process that should be country-driven, demand-driven, and build on existing knowledge as appropriate.

(b) Develop a capacity-building strategy to support the implementation of the new framework instrument that aligns with its strategic objectives, priorities, targets, indicators, and issues of concern (if appropriate). Such a strategy could include clearly defined goals, be gender-responsive, and propose specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) targets.

(c) In close collaboration with stakeholders, identify local, national, subregional, and regional needs through appropriate platforms and exercises (e.g., gap analysis and needs assessment questionnaires) and decide on key priorities.

(d) Facilitate reporting, monitoring, and review of capacity-building under the new instrument and establishing interlinkages with reporting and monitoring from other MEAs and voluntary instruments. This may include adding a dedicated field for capacity-building in reporting templates and conducting interviews with stakeholders to facilitate data collection.

(e) Ensure the sustainability of capacity-building projects after the end of project cycles.

(f) Strengthen science-policy interfaces and explore synergies with the 'science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution' mandated by UNEA resolution 5/8.[166]

Challenge 2: Limitations in the engagement and outreach of other sectors, beyond the environment sector: Many stakeholders underscored that a large number of government officials and stakeholders attending ICCM and related meetings are from environment ministries and the environmental sector, which often leads to low awareness in negotiations of issues, needs, and concerns beyond those of the environment sector. They also reported challenges, particularly at the country level, to work across

[166] UNEP/EA.5/Res.8.

sectors, to receive updated information through ministerial channels, and to directly engage with the Strategic Approach without going through environmental ministries/focal points. To address that, the analysis of the consultation outcomes identified the following key priorities and suggestions from the stakeholders' input:

(a) Promote meaningful engagement and increased representation of other sectors (e.g., agriculture, education, international affairs, finance, health, industry, labour) in designing and implementing the new framework instrument and related capacity-building strategy. This may encompass designating focal points for the new framework instrument from different sectors and diversifying the membership of the Bureau and any implementation body(ies) for the new instrument.

(b) Make interlinkages between the Strategic Approach and other legal and policy frameworks beyond the chemicals and waste cluster. This includes MEAs from different clusters (e.g., climate, biodiversity, atmosphere, land, and seas clusters), international human rights instruments, International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions and organizations, and other frameworks from the agriculture, labor, and health sectors.

(c) Develop capacity-building activities tailored to government ministries and stakeholders that are usually not present in deliberations under the Strategic Approach.

Challenge 3: Limited availability and access to funding and financing for capacity-building: Most stakeholders have identified access to finance as a major challenge in implementing the Strategic Approach and one that needs to be urgently addressed by the new framework instrument. They also emphasized the limited pool of resources available for the implementation of capacity-building. A number of stakeholders also flagged that the current funding mechanisms for the Strategic Approach did not (and do not) respond adequately to the needs of certain developing countries and stakeholder groups. For instance, given the strict terms of reference and criteria for accessing funds through the Special Programme and the GEF, the Quick Start Programme was one of the only funding mechanisms available for some stakeholder groups. To address that, the analysis of the consultation outcomes identified the following key priorities and suggestions from the stakeholders' input:

(a) Explore innovative options for developing a robust new financial mechanism (or similar instrument) to fund a capacity-building strategy and capacity-building activities under the new framework instrument.

(b) Mobilize resources and substantially increase the level of funding for capacity-building activities and interventions, including through co-funding and co-financing mechanisms.

(c) Streamline the application process and requirements to access funding through institutional programmes, as feasible and appropriate.

(d) Leverage resources (in-kind and monetary contributions) that already exist for capacity-building and, as appropriate, combine resources with IOMC organizations.

Challenge 4: Lack of clarity concerning the roles of focal points and stakeholders: A number of stakeholders highlighted the lack of clarity regarding the roles, responsibilities, and expectations for focal points to the Strategic Approach (Intergovernmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, National and Regional focal points), as well as the limited availability of onboarding and training for the role. Similarly, a number of stakeholders underscored the lack of clearly defined roles for stakeholders in the current framework of the Strategic Approach and, when specified, poor communication of such roles and responsibilities. To address that, the analysis of the consultation outcomes identified the following key priorities and suggestions from the stakeholders' input:

(a) Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of focal points and other stakeholders in the delivery of capacity-building activities and interventions and implementation of a capacity-building strategy under the new framework instrument, providing onboarding and training to focal points and building their capacity to act as a liaison at the country level.

(b) Build a collective understanding among stakeholders concerning their role in the implementation of the new framework instrument.

(c) Promote the meaningful engagement of underrepresented groups[167] in capacity-building activities beyond 2020, including through the establishment of an advisory panel or similar structure.

(d) Harness the experience of grassroots and other civil society organizations in the implementation of capacity-building activities, as well as support meaningful multistakeholder engagement and participation in the implementation of the strategy.

Challenge 5: Duplication of efforts and limited collaboration between different stakeholders: A number of stakeholders drew attention to the number of UN agencies and other organizations operating in the chemicals and waste space, sometimes leading to overlap and duplication of efforts. To address that, the analysis of the consultation outcomes identified the following key priorities and suggestions from the stakeholders' input:

(a) Foster synergies and avoid duplication of efforts in delivering capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals, including through taking stock of existing programmes, resources, tools, and materials developed by MEAs secretariats, IOMC Participating Organizations, governments, and other stakeholders. Furthermore, as appropriate, make such resources available in a coordinated and systematic way and build on existing initiatives.

(b) Improve coordination, collaboration, and exchange between the secretariats of MEAs and other voluntary initiatives, IOMC Participating Organizations, governments, and other stakeholders, fostering partnerships for the delivery of joint capacity-building objectives.

(c) Give continuation to the role of the secretariat in facilitating exchange between focal points, stakeholders, and relevant organizations, as well as in providing coordination support to deliver capacity-building activities.

Challenge 6: Low awareness of the objectives of the Strategic Approach: A number of stakeholders noted a lack of awareness among national focal points, government officials, the general public, and other stakeholders concerning the objectives, principles, approaches, and instruments set by the Strategic Approach. To address that, the analysis of the consultation outcomes identified the following key priorities and suggestions from the stakeholders' input:

(a) Build a collective understanding among stakeholders concerning the scope, approaches, strategic objectives, and targets of the new framework instrument.

(b) Develop tailored capacity-building activities and interventions for focal points and other stakeholders on the scope and implementation of the new framework instrument, as well as any relevant interlinkages with other MEAs and voluntary initiatives from the chemicals and waste clusters.

Challenge 7: Difficulties in collecting data, accessing, and sharing information: A number of stakeholders pointed out challenges in collecting, generating, and processing data for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Some stakeholders also noted the limited availability of guidelines and guidance documents relating to certain specific issues, such as emerging policy issues and other issues of concern. To address that, the analysis of the consultation outcomes identified the following key priorities and suggestions from the stakeholders' input:

(a) Improve access to information, data generation, and the sharing of information across all levels and sectors, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition and including South-South, North-South, and Triangular Cooperation. This includes identifying local, national, subregional, and regional challenges and creating opportunities for sharing good practices and lessons learned between countries in the same subregion or region.

[167] Stakeholders have underscored the importance of engaging grassroots organizations as well as vulnerable and underrepresented groups such as youth, women, displaced populations, child laborers, union workers, insecure workers, workers disadvantaged based on race, small-scale farmers, and Indigenous Peoples.

(b) Evaluate the effectiveness of capacity-building activities and interventions delivered under the Strategic Approach and the new framework instrument and make this information available to stakeholders.

(c) Improve communication and exchange between the secretariat and stakeholders, including by creating discussion forums and similar initiatives.

Lastly, the analysis identified several examples of priority functional and technical capacities to be developed for the successful implementation of the new framework instrument:

(a) *Functional capacities* to: generate knowledge and information relating to the chemicals and waste cluster; improve the flow and sharing of information concerning the sound management of chemicals and waste; collect data; engage in policy and legal discussions; develop legislation for the sound management of chemicals and waste; develop national chemical management frameworks; develop and update National Chemicals Management Profiles; streamline processes and strengthen institutions; negotiate; detect toxic elements in the materials that are imported for reuse, recycling, or disposal; build women's networks ensuring the participation of female youth, local women, and indigenous women; *inter alia.*

(b) *Technical capacities*: provisions from multilateral environmental agreements and voluntary initiatives from the chemicals and waste cluster; emerging policy issues and other issues of concern,[168] including highly hazardous pesticides, chemicals in products, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals; waste management; non-chemical alternatives; transboundary movement of chemicals; interlinkages between chemicals and waste with biodiversity, climate change, and other environmental issues; lifecycle approaches; chemical inventories and registries; risk assessments; monitoring and sampling; policymaking and lawmaking processes; *inter alia.*

[168] For more information, see https://www.saicm.org/Implementation/EmergingPolicyIssues.

5. Examples from other international *fora*

To facilitate the discussion around the implementation of the new framework instrument, including strategies to address the challenges and priorities outlined above, it is worth highlighting examples of how other MEAs and voluntary instruments approach capacity-building building.

5.1. Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions

Under the BRS conventions, capacity-building is a core instrument supporting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in fulfilling their obligations. A key element for delivery capacity-building is the technical assistance plan developed by the secretariat based on needs expressed by parties to the conventions, in line with mandates set out in Article 16, paragraph 1 (g) of the Basel Convention, Article 19, paragraph 2 (b) of the Rotterdam Convention and Article 20, paragraph 2 (b) of the Stockholm Convention.

The plan fosters the regular assessment of the needs of parties. It also outlines the direction for the delivery of technical assistance for all relevant stakeholders[169] and has already resulted in many achievements. The technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions for 2018-2021 facilitated the delivery of several workshops, webinars, tools, trainings, online courses, and projects. Between 2019 and 2021, the secretariat undertook 301 technical assistance activities, including 90 projects, 71 face-to-face and hybrid training workshops, and 140 online training activities.[170] These initiatives covered a wide range of topics, from the health effects of e-waste to the integration of a gender perspective in the sound management of chemicals andwaste.[171]

The new iteration of the plan for the period 2022-2025 promotes a dynamic, progressive, and long-term process of capacity development, applying an adaptive approach."[172] Several elements of the plan may serve as an inspiration for the discussions on capacity-building under the new framework instrument. These include a theory of change encompassing activities, outputs, intermediate outcomes, strategic outcomes, intended impacts, and identifying providers of technical assistance and capacity building, as well as its set of guiding principles.[173]

Box 6: Guiding principles of the BRS technical assistance plan

The technical assistance plan for implementing the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022−2025 underscores several guiding principles for its implementation.[174] These include those contained in articles 12 and 14 of the plan, as follows:

> "12. The plan promotes **a life-cycle approach** to chemicals and wastes management based on the legal-policy-science-business interface. This includes considering socio-economic implications, developing business cases, making use of social and economic incentives, and encouraging **cooperation** with academia and the private sector.
> 14. Technical assistance activities should: (a) Be **country-driven** and be **based on the needs identified** by the recipient countries; (b) Promote **national ownership** and leadership, including the setting of priorities, design, implementation and evaluation of the initiatives; (c) Apply a **holistic approach**, integrating convention-specific activities with relevant sectoral and national policies, strategies and programmes; (d) **Maximize synergies** in the implementation of the conventions through coordination of technical assistance activities implemented by various actors such as Parties, the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, UNEP and FAO, including through their regional offices, and implementing agencies such as the IOMC organizations, as well as civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders; (e) Promote, as appropriate, **regional delivery of technical assistance**."

5.2. Convention on Biological Diversity

[169] UNEP/CHW.14/INF/44/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/37/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/46/Rev.1
[170] For more information, see the Report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021 in the biennium 2020–2021, UNEP/CHW.15/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/28.
[171] Report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021 in the biennium 2020–2021, UNEP/CHW.15/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/28.
[172] The technical assistance plan for implementing the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022−2025, UNEP/CHW.15/INF/29−UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/17−UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/29.
[173] Ibid.
[174] Ibid.

Both capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation are key issues for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). They are standing items on the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) and the Conference of the Parties (COP). In 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted by the Conference of the Parties through decision 15/4.[175] The latter was one of a package of decisions that also included decision 15/8 on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation.[176] Annexed to this decision is the *"Long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development."* Amongst other things, the document includes guiding principles that may be relevant to the new framework instrument as they are fairly generic in nature:

(a) Inclusive analysis of existing capacities and needs is essential to ensure effective interventions;

(b) Country ownership and commitment should be cornerstones for capacity-building and development actions;

(c) Strategic and integrated system-wide approaches to capacity-building and development should be promoted;

(d) Interventions should be designed and implemented according to recognized good practices and lessons learned;

(e) Indigenous Peoples, local communities, gender and youth perspectives should be fully integrated into capacity-building and development efforts, taking into account the Gender Plan of Action under the CBD;

(f) From the start, monitoring, evaluation, and learning frameworks should be incorporated into capacity-building and development strategies, plans, and programmes.

(g) The CBD long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development also enumerates key strategies that are also likely to be relevant to the new framework instrument:

(a) Institutionalizing capacity-building and development;

(b) Integrating long-term capacity-building and development into national strategies and plans;

(c) Increased focus on life-long learning;

(d) Aligning capacity-building and development with broader cross-sectoral plans and programmes;

(e) Undertaking measures to fully utilize and retain existing capacities;

(f) Developing thematic and regional and/or subregional capacity-building and development action plans and programmes;

(g) Promoting partnerships and networks for implementation;

(h) Enhancing synergies between capacity-building and relevant processes;

(i) Promoting North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation;

(j) Engaging the private sector; and

(k) Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building and development interventions.

5.3. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) reviewed at its ninth meeting the *"Draft framework for the capacity development strategy of the International Treaty."* Through its resolution 10/2022, the Governing Body requested the

[175] CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, 15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
[176] See CBD/COP/DEC/15/8, 15/8. Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation.

ITPGRFA secretariat to finalize the capacity development strategy for consideration at its tenth meeting and requested the preparation of an outline of an action plan for implementation of the strategy.[177] In addition to including principles, referring to the three levels of capacity development, and describing functional and technical capacities to be addressed, the draft capacity development strategy annexed to the resolution includes a clear overall goal and a set of expected outcomes.[178] While these are focused on the International Treaty, they might inform the development of expected outcomes for the new framework instrument and related capacity-building instrument. The listed outcomes are:

(a) Enhanced functional and technical capacities for implementation of all parts of the International Treaty, i.e., conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, Farmers' Rights, the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing, the Global Information System of Article 17 and other supporting components;

(b) Enhanced understanding of the International Treaty, resulting in effective coordination across government agencies and other in-country actors for its effective implementation;

(c) Enhanced compliance of Contracting Parties with International Treaty obligations, including the coordinated and participatory delivery of national reporting in the context of the Compliance Procedures;

(d) Increased visibility and profile of the International Treaty at national and regional levels;

(e) Reinforced interlinkages between national programmes on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and broader national development plans and strategies such as food security, nutrition, climate change, agricultural development, biodiversity, and environment;

(f) Wider involvement of stakeholders supporting the implementation of the International Treaty, including by an expanded pool of partner organizations at the regional and international levels; and

(g) Strengthened cooperation and collaboration between the International Treaty, FAO bodies and other relevant international instruments and intergovernmental processes.

The strategic approaches identified are:

(a) Expanding scientific and technical capacities at the national and sub-national levels;

(b) Further integrating capacity development relevant to the achievement of the objectives of the International Treaty into national planning processes;

(c) Enhancing cooperation within FAO relating to capacity development for the implementation of the International Treaty;

(d) Enhancing coordination and cooperation with capacity development under other international instruments and processes;

(e) Promoting partnerships and networks at global and regional levels;

(f) Further promoting North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation;

(g) Strengthening collaboration between public and private institutions;

(h) Facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience;

(i) Monitoring and review the Strategy; and
(j) Addressing women and youth's specific constraints.

[177] Resolution 10/2022: Capacity Development Strategy of the International Treaty 2023-2030, IT/GB-9/22/Report, Appendix B, page 70.
[178] Ibid.

6. Considerations and recommendations for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Taking into account (a) the primary aspects of capacity-building highlighted in the initial segment of this document, (b) the examination of past endeavors under the Strategic Approach concerning capacity-building, inclusive of mandates, organizational schemes, and prior capacity-building projects, (c) insights from stakeholder feedback sessions, and (d) insights from other MEAs and voluntary mechanisms regarding capacity-building, the ICCM is encouraged to reflect on the following recommendations and considerations when discussing the capacity-building components of the new framework instrument and developing a capacity-building delivery strategy.

Coordinated approach to capacity-building

There is a need for a coordinated approach to capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the new framework instrument. This could be done or facilitated through a capacity-building strategy that operationalizes the capacity-building dimensions and supports the implementation of the instrument. In addition, this could entail enhancing mechanisms for collaboration, cooperation, and synergies across sectors and stakeholder groups.

Programme versus project approach

There is a tendency for capacity-building to be supported through discrete projects when a more strategic, programmatic approach may have a more long-term impact. One of the key benefits of putting a strategy or strategic framework in place is that this can be used as a basis for arguing the importance of a more long-term approach to capacity-building. Projects implemented in the context of a more long-term strategic or programmatic approach are more likely to lead to long-term sustainable impacts.

Draft principles for capacity-building

A capacity-building strategy should include principles to guide its implementation at all levels. The following draft principles are proposed for consideration. These are based on the guiding principles of the BRS technical assistance plan, the analysis of the outcomes of the stakeholder interviews, and other examples of principles highlighted in the present document.

(a) Promote tailored and demand-driven capacity-building that responds to identified needs and priorities;

(b) Strengthen institutions at all levels for the sound management of chemicals and waste;

(c) Encourage national and regional delivery of capacity-building activities/interventions;

(d) Foster collaboration and coordination across multilateral environmental agreements and other international instruments relating to chemicals and waste, as well as across different sectors and stakeholders;

(e) Foster a strategic, coherent, and gender-responsive approach to capacity-building for the new framework instrument in the context of a lifecycle approach for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste.

(f) Promote and facilitate North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation to support capacity-building.

(g) Promote an adaptive and iterative implementation of the strategy to allow for the identification of gaps, needs, and priorities over time;

(h) Seek alignment with capacity-building activities developed under other multilateral environmental agreements and by stakeholders, engaging with and building on existing initiatives as appropriate. This includes seeking alignment with the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022−2025;

(i) Promote partnerships and encourage and support multi-stakeholder engagement and participation in the implementation of the strategy, including at local, national, regional, and global levels.

(j) Apply a holistic approach, integrating instrument-specific activities with relevant sectoral and national policies, strategies, and programme, maximizing synergies through coordination of technical assistance activities implemented by various actors.

(k) Consider sustainability and future-proofing in all capacity-building interventions, seeking to leverage additional resources and increasing impact over time through planning for sustainability and ongoing outreach from the start.

(l) Promote a lifecycle approach to chemicals and waste management based on the legal-policy-science-business interface. This includes considering socio-economic implications, developing business cases, making use of social and economic incentives, and encouraging cooperation with academia and the private sector.

Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches

It has long been recognized that working within one sector limits the impact of actions to address environmental concerns and the triple planetary crisis of nature loss, climate change, and pollution. Chemicals and their waste are relevant to multiple sectors of society. Therefore, addressing concerns over chemicals and waste must involve those sectors. Given that, it is essential that any capacity-building strategy and/or activities undertaken in the context of the new framework instrument strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration. Stronger engagement with and involvement of the labour and health sectors have, for example, been highlighted as a key priority by many stakeholders, and there are also clear interlinkages activities in the agriculture and finance sectors. Successful implementation depends on seeing the new framework instrument as reaching beyond the environmental sector.

Building on existing capacity-building initiatives and experience

There is a significant amount of work already underway to build capacity, both under the auspices of the Strategic Approach and through related project work of stakeholders. However, there is an incomplete understanding of the progress achieved in building capacity for the sound management of chemicals and waste. It will be important to more systematically gather information about the implementation of capacity-building activities and interventions, including through reporting processes from stakeholders. This would provide a better overview of activities undertaken and, more importantly, their potential impact in generating the desired changes on the ground and how these relate to the goals of the new framework instrument.

Addressing different capacities

Capacity-building interventions need to address both functional capacities and technical capacities, as defined in the present document. In doing so, it should be recognized that while technical capacities will be more restricted in nature and relate to specific aspects of chemical and waste management, functional capacities are more widely relevant and can be more easily linked to other capacity-building programmes. Functional capacities include cross-cutting capacities relevant to individual and organizational effectiveness, such as capacities needed to formulate, implement and review policies, strategies, programmes, and projects; capacities to create, access, manage, and exchange information and knowledge; capacities to create and maintain networks, alliances, and partnerships; strategic planning and leadership; budgeting, marketing, and resource mobilization.

Coordination

Coordinating the delivery of any capacity-building strategy will be important for various reasons, and this needs to happen at the international (secretariat) level and the national (focal point) level. Coordination is necessary to ensure that all partners and stakeholders are fully on board, donors are fully engaged, and the necessary liaison with other intergovernmental agreements and processes

regarding their capacity-building plans and activities. Appropriate levels of coordination build confidence amongst those involved.

Stakeholder engagement

As outlined in section 3, many stakeholders are already involved in capacity-building initiatives under the Strategic Approach, not only as providers but also as recipients. Building capacities for transparency and credibility in developing countries and countries with economies in transition is a major part of the dynamics of change. With respect to issues concerning chemicals and waste, there is a broader group of stakeholders directly involved beyond the traditional actors (e.g., governments and civil society organizations). These include industry, labour organizations, and those involved in other sectors where chemical inputs are a major issue, such as agriculture and health. Any strategy will inevitably have to address the need to train and inform a wide range of stakeholders, and to engage them in building the capacity of others.

Shared understanding

It will be important to have a shared understanding amongst national focal points, governments, and other stakeholders of the scope of capacity-building in the context of the new framework instrument. This includes having a clear understanding of the meanings of terms including capacity-building, capacity development, capacity-building approaches, capacity-building modalities, functional capacities, and technical capacities. It also encompasses understanding the scope (enabling, institutional individual) and intention of the new framework instrument and related capacity-building goals in terms of expected outcomes. In this regard, the following draft outcomes might be helpful:

(a) Enhanced understanding of the new framework instrument, resulting in effective coordination across government agencies and other actors for its effective implementation

(b) Enhanced delivery of the strategic objectives and targets set out in the new framework instrument.

(c) Enhanced functional and technical capacities for implementation of all parts of the new framework instrument.

(d) Increased visibility and profile of the new framework instrument at national and regional levels.

(e) Reinforced interlinkages at the national programmes concerning intergovernmental agreements and processes relating to chemicals and waste.

(f) Wider involvement of stakeholders supporting the implementation of the new framework instrument, including extending the pool of partner organizations at all levels.

(g) Strengthened cooperation and collaboration between the new framework instrument and other relevant international instruments and intergovernmental processes.

Partnerships

Partnerships are crucial to developing effective capacity-building, and, as has been indicated in the present document, a range of existing partnerships already deliver valuable results. Therefore, coordination and cooperation with partners are key for effective capacity-building programmes that lead to strong relationships in delivering tools, training, and technical assistance. These partnerships enable the launch of regional initiatives, the avoidance of duplication, and the dissemination of a consistent message to counterparts. In this context, it is important to recognize that we are not starting from scratch and have the opportunity to acknowledge and build on the various initiatives, programmes, tools, and partnerships that have been developed over the years by multiple stakeholders.

Cooperation and synergy at the national and regional levels

Countries are party to a range of international agreements and are working to address a wide range of intergovernmental processes and their associated targets and objectives. This includes addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets relating to chemicals and waste and fulfilling commitments under the chemical and waste conventions. Each of these instruments is concerned to

some extent with capacity-building. Therefore, it would be worth considering the establishment of mechanism(s) for enhanced coordination and collaboration at the national level, including with respect to capacity-building. This would also apply, for example, to the design of projects and requests for funding.

Roles and responsibilities

Thought will need to be given to roles and responsibilities for implementing a future capacity-building strategy and for any necessary advice and oversight. It is assumed that day-to-day responsibility for the implementation of the strategy and any associated work plan will rest with the secretariat or anyone engaged to act on their behalf. Oversight would be provided by the ICCM, and the Open-ended Working Group if its mandate is renewed, but these bodies only meet every few years. It may be worth considering the establishment of an advisory body on capacity-building to support the secretariat intersessionally.

Online tools

A wide array of online tools can be provided to support capacity-building, including online training, communities of practice, marketplaces, and clearing house mechanisms. All are valid means to deliver training and build networks. However, all need to be managed proactively to deliver useful results. This is particularly the case for communities of practice and matchmaking facilities. In the case of matchmaking facilities, experience suggests the need for a high level of engagement by secretariats for the delivery of useful results. For example, the online matchmaking facility established under the Convention on Biological Diversity for supporting protected areas only delivered significant partnerships and resources when the secretariat was active in supporting the development of proposals and convening donor meetings.

Resource mobilization

Delivery of capacity-building is closely tied to the ability to mobilize resources. As a result, there is always an underlying concern that capacity-building might become driven by donor rather than recipient priorities. The existence of a well set-out capacity-building strategy will help circumvent this by setting out a framework for action with a clear explanation of what outcomes are sought. In this regard, it will be important for the secretariat to communicate the capacity-building strategy actively once it is adopted. It will also be important to work with other organizations, including MEA secretariats, to ensure collaborative and coherent approaches to donors.

Sustainability

Capacity-building is a long-term process. Therefore, considering the sustainability of planned interventions is fundamental to achieving long-lasting outcomes. All interventions should be planned considering the immediate actions and their long-term effects. For example, a train-the-trainers programme could include a sustainability plan to carry to ensure a multiplier effect over a long period of time. For longer-term impacts, another key issue is the need to consider ways to provide continuity of the capacity-building process in beneficiary countries/organizations. Therefore, exit strategies should be developed collaboratively between the donor and the recipient as part of developing capacity-building projects, eventually including post-project obligations.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring and review are key to understanding progress in implementing any capacity-building strategy, including identifying gaps and challenges and informing any necessary adjustments. The purpose of monitoring and review is to improve performance over time and to ensure that any capacity-building strategy continues to be fit for purpose. However, it is essential that monitoring and review consider long-term, systemic impacts. Depending on the resources available and the engagement of key players, monitoring and review would be conducted for capacity-building interventions at different geographic levels (national, sub-regional, regional, and global). Given the multistakeholder nature of the Strategic Approach and the engagement of many stakeholders in capacity-building, thought needs to be given to how to engage stakeholders in monitoring and review. Wherever possible, monitoring

and review should build on existing indicators, monitoring, review, and reporting tools and processes, including those addressing related issues such as resource mobilization and technology transfer.

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Reporting and the sound management of chemicals and waste: Study to inform the development of a reporting mechanism and process for SAICM beyond 2020

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted and developed by the SAICM Secretariat, working in coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), "*Reporting and the sound management of chemicals and waste: Study to inform the development of a reporting mechanism and process for SAICM beyond 2020*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received, without formal editing.

Annex

” (see annex).

3. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.



Reporting and the sound management of chemicals and waste: Study to inform development of a reporting process and mechanism for the beyond 2020 framework instrument

This document has been prepared by Jerry Harrison of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), working in coordination with the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The report draws heavily on documents and other information sources prepared by secretariats of intergovernmental agreements and programmes, as well as reviews of reporting carried out by a wide range of stakeholders.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

BLG Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions
CBD, CITES, CMS, IPPC, ITPGRFA, IWC, Ramsar Convention, WHC

BRS conventions refers to the closely related Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity

CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CMS Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CPF Collaborative Partnership on Forests

DaRT Data and Reporting Tool for MEAs (developed by UNEP)

GEF Global Environment Facility

ICCA International Council of Chemical Associations

ICCM International Conference on Chemicals Management

IOMC Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals

IPBES Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IPEN International Pollutants Elimination Network

IPPC International Plant Protection Convention

IWC International Whaling Commission

ITPGRFA International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

JLG Joint Liaison Group (of the Rio Conventions – CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC)

MEA Multilateral environmental agreement

MOP Meeting of the Parties

NGO Non-government organization

ORS Online Reporting System (development led by UNEP-WCMC)

Ramsar Convention Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
also known as the "Convention on Wetlands"

Rio conventions refers to the three conventions closely associated with the 1992 "Earth Summit" or UN Conference on Environment and Development, CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC

SAICM Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

SDG Sustainable Development Goal

SIDS Small Island Developing States

UN United Nations

UNCCD United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNDRR United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP-WCMC United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

WBCSD World Business Council for Sustainable Development

WHC Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
also known as the World Heritage Convention
note that the oversight body, the World Heritage Committee, uses the same abbreviation

WHO World Health Organization

Executive Summary

Most intergovernmental agreements and processes have reporting mechanisms through which parties to agreements, or those engaging in the intergovernmental processes, report on the activities that they have undertaken and/or what they have achieved through these actions. This information is used in assessing progress in implementation as a basis for prioritizing further action. However, there is wide variation in approaches to reporting, in what is reported, in the reporting mechanisms and tools, and in how reported information is used.

Reporting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) has been seen as a key tool in assessing progress towards achievement of sound management of chemicals, including informing periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach by the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The future of the reporting mechanism and process is therefore a key consideration in developing and adopting the new framework instrument.

As a result, the Programme of Work and Budget 2021-2023 for the Secretariat includes amongst its proposed activities the provision of "*additional information to facilitate further consideration of future progress reporting for the new instrument, by reviewing and analysing other relevant/similar processes, including structure, platforms, and resource requirements*". In response the Secretariat has worked with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to prepare this document.

The report is set out in eight sections and an annex, and considers each of the following from the perspective of how it can help inform development of a reporting approach for the new framework instrument:

- The ***current reporting experience under SAICM***, and observations that have been made on how well it is working and how this can be improved upon.
- The experiences of ***reporting processes for a range of multilateral environmental agreements***, considering not only those in the chemicals and waste cluster, but also the Rio conventions and biodiversity-related conventions.
- Several examples of reporting relating to ***other intergovernmental processes***, with several different processes selected in order to demonstrate different experiences and draw on the different lessons learned.
- Examples of ***commitment platforms***, primarily from the perspective of capturing the contributions on non-state actors, focusing on how information is collected and used, and what lessons can be learned.
- Several ***examples of reporting by other stakeholders including the private sector***, chosen because they illustrate certain lessons that may help to inform future approaches to reporting.
- Consideration of concerns and efforts relating to ***harmonization and streamlining of reporting processes***, primarily focused on approaches to the harmonization and streamlining of national reporting to intergovernmental agreements and processes.

Each of the sections identifies possible lessons of value, and then the final section draws on each of the preceding sections in order to provide an **analysis of options** that will help inform the future of the reporting mechanism and process for the new framework instrument.

Given the text of the new framework instrument has yet to be adopted, and that reporting is not expected to be discussed in any detail at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the findings of the report are presented as a series of 'considerations' and/or 'options' that can inform discussion during International Conference and then be worked on further during the intersessional period that follows. These considerations are summarised in the following paragraphs.

General principles for reporting: Agreeing a set of guiding principles for reporting may be useful in helping to frame the reporting process and helping to build confidence in it. A set of principles is proposed, drawing on principles originally discussed in the context of one international agreement, but modified to take account of other more recent reporting experiences in both the biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters. Such principles would need to be taken into account in developing and implementing the other 'considerations' or 'options' identified.

Content of reports: The content of reports will need to be based on the text of the new framework instrument, which it is assumed will be adopted at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and in particular on the strategic objectives and associated targets. As these have not yet been agreed it would be premature to go into detail on content, but based on experience of other reporting processes the report suggests issues that might be considered for inclusion in reports, as well as related issues concerning the process (such as periodicity). Consideration of the listed issues will help in defining the types of reports needed, their contents and periodicity, whether information will also be needed from other sources, and if so how to ensure that it is collected through a process that is seen as legitimate.

Use of reported information: The content and periodicity of reports, and the process(es) used to capture any reported data and information is closely related to the use that is going to be made of the reported data and information. This therefore needs to be carefully thought through in planning any reporting process, and a number of key uses made of the reporting process and reported data and information are listed. It needs to be clear who is going to be using the reported data and information, and in order to do what, including how any data and information captured through reporting is going to be synthesised and/or analysed. It is also important to communicate how the data and information requested is going to be used. Not only is this important context for those providing the reports, but it also helps to build confidence in the reporting process and recognition of why it is important to engage.

Types of report: While the most common form of report is the periodic national report, it is important to recognise that this is not the only form that communications might take. Each of the following is also used in one way or another to report on implementation of intergovernmental agreements and processes or to respond to mandated procedures: thematic reports for specific purpose; notifications of specific events or concerns; sharing of requested information; and sharing of experience. Whether these are voluntary or mandated, regular or *ad hoc* depends on the nature of the agreement or process.

Indicators: Many reporting and review processes use indicators of some form. This has been the case in the past for SAICM, and future use of indicators has been the subject of a number of workshops and discussions during the Intersessional Process. Important in these discussion have been both the most effective means of tracking change, and how to effectively build on existing knowledge and resources. In this context, a number of key considerations with respect to indicators and the reporting process have been identified which then have implications for the choice of indicators. Choice also needs to

take account of the cost to develop and use indicators and metrics, as their value lies in being regularly available over time to allow for efficient tracking of change. They therefore need to be selected carefully with a clear understanding of what their use is intended to achieve, also taking into account the ease and potential cost of delivering them. Indicators can also be derived through different processes, and the most appropriate approach needs to be chosen based on what is appropriate and feasible, and what the indicators are intended to achieve. Finally, an important issue relating to the increased use of indicators is the focus that this can also give to the need to support the improvement of monitoring and the use of data and indicators at the national level.

Format of reports: Both the format and content of reports varies widely, fundamentally depending on the nature of the instrument or initiative that has led to the reporting requirement. It is this combination of format and content, and the way in which it is implemented (for example through online reporting) that most influences the amount of time that is likely to be needed in developing and submitting reports. Format generally covers two key issues, the structure of the report, and the form of the questions or information requests within it. Ideally the structure will be fairly logical following goals and targets where they exist, or organized around mandated activities.

Online reporting and dashboards: Most reporting to intergovernmental agreements and processes can now be done through online reporting tools, which have a wide range of identified benefits. Many secretariats have developed their own online reporting tools meeting their own specific needs however a number of secretariats have worked with UNEP-WCMC to develop the Online Reporting System. This suite of tools is currently under redevelopment with the support of UNEP and the European Union, drawing on lessons learnt from working with secretariats and parties from a range of intergovernmental agreements over a number of years. When reporting is done through online reporting systems this facilitates the use of dashboards to illustrate progress in reporting and to present reported information, and numerous examples of such dashboards are available for review to assess what might be done for reporting relating to the new framework instrument.

Capacity-building and reporting tools: In most cases secretariats to intergovernmental agreements and processes provide a range of support to those responsible for reporting, with the dual aim of facilitating reporting and increasing reporting rates. In addition to online reporting tools this includes reporting guidelines and manuals, webinars, training workshops, helpdesks and feedback on draft reports. For a number of international agreements, preparation of national reports is one of the tasks regularly supported by the Global Environment Facility. For many countries, capacity-building is needed not only for reporting and the associated use of indicators, but also for the monitoring and data management and use necessary to underpin implementation. Capacity-building activities supporting the implementation of a number of intergovernmental agreements and programmes have included development of tools that are valuable for managing and using data and information at the national level and also contribute to reporting, such as the Data and Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT).

Using reporting to drive change: Use of indicators can be a means of trying to effect change as well as of tracking change over time. One example is provided of an intergovernmental process where the reporting focuses on a number of 'core capabilities' with 20 indicators each comprising a range of capability levels. The underlying aim is to improve capacity for implementation, and this information provides the basis. Approached properly the reporting process can also help build whole-of-government and whole-of society approaches to implementation and help in engaging all stakeholders in review, as is the case for the Voluntary National Review process for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Relationship to other reporting processes: Despite the fact that each MEA and intergovernmental process is relatively discreet with its own aim and objectives, there remain potential overlaps in the data and information that is needed for implementing them, and therefore there is potential for duplication in what is requested in reports. Various strategies that have been used to address this are identified. This can also mean that some of the content of reports to one intergovernmental agreement or process may be relevant to another, and this also needs to be considered.

Implications of reporting: There are costs to governments and others in compiling and submitting reports, and there are costs for secretariats in overseeing the reporting process and in synthesising and analysing reports. There are also costs in terms of the time taken to review reported information by governing and subsidiary bodies. It is important therefore to consider very carefully the data and information that is really needed, the most cost-effective means of compiling and managing that data and information, and any actions that can be taken to support and facilitate the process. Sufficient resources need to be made available to the Secretariat, and any associated capacity-building should be sufficient to support governments in full engagement in the process where this is needed.

Indicative next steps: Drawing on the full findings of the report, the following could be considered as a series of steps to be taken following completion of negotiation on the new framework instrument.

a) Identify data and information required in order track implementation of the agreed text and how it will be used in order to achieve what *(needs driven, not data driven)*.

b) Consider the source of the data and information, and what will be compiled through national reports and what will be drawn from other sources *(measurability structure)*.

c) Liaise with those collecting and managing relevant data and information to ensure there is alignment of interests, mutual interests are reinforced, and any potential duplication is avoided.

d) Ensure that the necessary methodologies and guidance are available for defining and collecting the identified data and information.

e) Design and review the format of reports and dashboards that will be used to present, synthesis and analyse reported data and information.

f) Develop costed plans for implementing the reporting process, including taking full account of using reported data and information *(synthesis, analysis and follow up)*.

g) Design and test a process and tools for compiling data and information being collected through national reports, including dashboards for presenting reported data and information.

h) Roll out the process and tools for compiling data and information being collected through national reports, including dashboards for presenting reported data and information.

i) Design and implement a package of measures to support and encourage use of the reporting process, including as appropriate capacity-building.

1 Introduction

1.1 Reporting in the context of the Strategic Approach

Almost all intergovernmental agreements and processes have some form of reporting mechanism whereby parties to each of the agreements, or those engaging in the intergovernmental processes, report in some manner on the activities that they have undertaken and/or what they have achieved through these actions. This information is primarily used in assessing progress in implementation of each agreement or process as a basis for prioritizing further action, although it is often also used as a basis for communicating lessons learned. However, there is wide variation in approaches to reporting, in what is reported, in the reporting mechanisms and tools, and in how reported information is used. To some extent this is a function of differences in the aims and objectives of the different agreements and processes, but it is also the result of differences in history, resourcing and individual approach.

Reporting on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) has been seen as a key tool in assessing progress towards achievement of sound management of chemicals, including helping to assess progress on the individual objectives set out in SAICM texts. Paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy recognises the role of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in undertaking periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach, including receiving progress reports from all relevant stakeholders. The future of the reporting mechanism and process is therefore a key consideration in developing and adopting the new framework instrument,[1] and was one of the issues addressed by the virtual working group on governance and mechanisms to support implementation.[2]

1.2 Objectives and methodology

The Programme of Work and Budget 2021-2023 for the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach,[3] adopted via silent procedure on 7 December 2021, includes among its proposed activities the provision by the Secretariat of "*additional information to facilitate further consideration of future progress reporting for the new instrument, by reviewing and analysing other relevant/similar processes, including structure, platforms, and resource requirements*" (see Annex A). This information is intended to inform further consideration of the issue by the Fifth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), which will take place in Bonn, Germany from 25-29 September 2023.

In order to provide this information, the SAICM Secretariat has tasked the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to support them by developing this review of existing reporting mechanisms, tools and processes, as a basis for making proposals on a reporting mechanism for the new framework instrument. This review considers both reporting processes to intergovernmental conventions and processes and stakeholder commitment platforms, and includes consideration of issues such as the ways in which submitted data and information are used, how reporting by governments and stakeholders is encouraged and supported, and the

[1] See, for example, SAICM/IP.3/5/Corr.1
[2] See, for example, VWG2/8 and the associated stakeholder inputs
[3] SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/4

outcomes of any reviews of the effectiveness of such reporting processes. The review will go beyond the chemicals and waste sector, and consider reporting experiences in other sectors.

UNEP-WCMC was chosen to work with the Secretariat as the Centre has significant experience of supporting biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements with respect to reporting and indicators, including consideration of opportunities for cooperation and synergy at both national and international levels. UNEP-WCMC has also been working with various stakeholders on capture of information on commitments made by non-state actors. More recently UNEP-WCMC has been supporting work on development of indicators for the Strategic Approach, and has developed a report on *Strengthening Collaboration and Coordination Between Biodiversity and Chemicals and Waste Clusters* for the Nordic Council of Ministers.[4]

The initial approach taken was to review available information on the formal reporting processes established under a range of intergovernmental agreements in the biodiversity and chemicals and waste cluster, together with the other Rio conventions. The details of this approach are set out below, but the initial outcome was an information document[5] prepared for the Intersessional Process which was then used as a basis for encouraging further feedback. This was followed by consideration of the potential values and experiences of other approaches, such as commitments platforms and approaches to reporting by the private sector. In doing so it is considering formal and voluntary reporting mechanisms and initiatives in the context of MEAs and intergovernmental processes, and commitment and reporting approaches and platforms used for/by non-state actors.

It is important to recognise that the study does not involve comprehensive reviews of each of the identified reporting processes, but rather draws out key elements, issues and lessons learned. The primary aim is to inform development of an appropriate process for the new framework instrument.

1.3 Structure of the report

The study report is set out in eight sections and an annex as follows:

- Section 2 considers the ***current reporting experience under SAICM***, and observations that have been made on how well it is working and how this can be improved upon in moving forwards. This includes issues already discussed during the Intersessional Process.
- Section 3 considers the approach and experience of different ***MEA reporting processes***, with key issues highlighted for example MEAs the detail being included in the Annex. The MEAs considered are inevitably a limited subset but they are chosen to illustrate a range of approaches used at the global level.
- Section 4 considers several examples of reporting relating to ***other intergovernmental processes***, with several different processes selected in order to demonstrate different experiences and draw on the different lessons learned.
- Section 5 considers ***commitment platforms***, primarily from the perspective of capturing the contributions on non-state actors, focusing on how information is collected and used, and what lessons can be learned.
- Section 6 considers ***examples of reporting by other stakeholders including the private sector*** and is inevitably based on a few examples chosen because they illustrate certain lessons that may help to inform future approaches to reporting.

[4] See https://pub.norden.org/temanord2022-513
[5] SAICM/IP.4/INF/40 on reporting mechanism and process for Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waster beyond 2020

- Section 7 considers ***harmonization and streamlining of reporting processes*** which primarily focuses on approaches to the harmonization and streamlining of national reporting to intergovernmental agreements and processes.
- Section 8 which draws on each of the other sections in order to provide an **analysis of options** that will help inform the future of the reporting mechanism and process for the new framework instrument.

This text is supported by an annex which provide summary ***details of MEA reporting*** for various conventions in a standard format, setting out the evidence base which has been used in drafting Section 3 of the study report. Links are provided to relevant webpages and documents to facilitate further analysis.

2 Current experience under SAICM and identified future needs

Paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy[6] sets out the role of the ICCM with respect to periodic review of the Strategic Approach, identifying its functions as being to, *inter alia*, receive reports from all relevant stakeholders and evaluate implementation of the Strategic Approach, using this as a basis for providing the necessary guidance on improving implementation. Given its role in facilitating meetings and intersessional work, the Secretariat is necessarily responsible for putting the reporting process in place, including reporting tools and guidance, and they also analyse reports and provide summaries. While not being comprehensive, the following paragraphs aim to "set the scene" as a basis for the following sections.

2.1 Reports prepared to date

The first "baseline" report[7] was prepared based on modalities for reporting elaborated at ICCM2 which covered two basic issues, arrangements for preparation of the baseline report for the period 2006-2008, and arrangements for subsequent periodic reporting to sessions of the ICCM. These modalities are set out in full in Annex III of the report of ICCM2,[8] and are based on use of a questionnaire to collect data and information needed for indicators. These were essentially questions on the status of specific activities, although submission of supplementary information was also encouraged.

Since then, progress reports have been made for 2009-2010,[9] 2011-2013,[10] and 2014-2016,[11] as well as a further progress report for 2017-2019 based on existing data.[12] This latter report provides an overview of progress in implementation based all the data collected through the SAICM online questionnaire tool over the previous reporting periods, and also draws on data and information received from the stakeholder groups, the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the Special Programme secretariat, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the secretariat of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

The online questionnaire[13] consists of two sections of general information and contact information, followed by five sections addressing each of the five Overarching Policy Strategy categories. Within each of these five sections, data and information is collected relating to the 20 indicators agreed by ICCM2. Information is collected through free text and check boxes, and for many of the questions the check boxes allow for graded response (for example – *ongoing; new; in development; no; uncertain; not applicable*) to facilitate review of change over time.

The Secretariat also invited all the stakeholder groups to submit progress reports to ICCM5, and reports for 2017-2019 were submitted by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound

[6] SAICM texts and resolutions of the ICCM can be found here
[7] SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/5
[8] SAICM/ICCM.2/15
[9] SAICM/ICCM.3/4 and SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/6
[10] SAICM/ICCM.4/3 and SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/4
[11] SAICM/OEWG.3/5 and SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/4
[12] SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.9/7
[13] The online reporting questionnaire for 2014-2016 can be found here

Management of Chemicals (IOMC),[14] public interest non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations that participate in IPEN,[15] and the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA),[16] which represents chemical manufacturers. These reports are very different in nature and content from each other, which is not surprising given the different stakeholder groups. They are also very different in format and content from the information collected through the online questionnaire.

2.2 Feedback on the reporting process

Key issues raised in the fourth progress report (2017-2019) concerning the reporting process include the following, which in part draw on responses to a survey carried out by the Secretariat and reported on in the fourth progress report. The results of this survey were identified as being important for shaping the reporting and review mechanism for the new framework instrument. Key factors and conclusions were:

- Relatively poor response rates using the online questionnaire, with a 40% response rate from governments in the 2009-2010 period declining to 28% for the period 2014-2016. Many respondents to the survey cited lack of resources as the main reason for not reporting.
- The "utmost importance" of encouraging broader and resource efficient participation of stakeholders in meaningful periodic progress review towards achievement of targets in moving beyond 2020.
- Possible means for improving progress report submission rates include: provision of training and guidelines; acknowledging those who contribute consistently; discussing the results of reports during SAICM meetings; identifying and highlighting the potential benefits of reporting.
- Future progress reporting could consider development of baseline data that accounts for existing capacity and measures in place, so that countries (and potentially stakeholders) have a baseline "score" and can demonstrate progress from that baseline (against objectives, targets, milestones or indicators).
- The potential for using the SAICM Knowledge Platform as a vehicle for highlighting the progress being made by countries and other stakeholders towards achieving SAICM objectives, combining this with the relevant activities/contributions of other key players, including, for example, the chemicals and waste MEAs.
- The potential for using supplementary sources of data and information, that are objectively and independently verifiable, and are quantitative for certain core capacities on chemical and waste management can potentially provide a consistent and reliable picture of global progress.
- The need to ensure that the actions and contributions of all stakeholders, and in particular that of non-state actors such as non-government organizations (NGOs), civil society, and private sector, are tracked and more effectively captured.

The independent evaluation of SAICM[17] requested by ICCM through resolution IV/4[18] was also concerned about limited and decreasing reporting rates using the online questionnaire, and considered this from two perspectives, the effectiveness of the indicators based on the questionnaire

[14] Activities of the IOMC to support SAICM Implementation
[15] Implementation of SAICM by IPEN participating organizations
[16] ICCA input to the SAICM progress report
[17] SAICM/IP.3/9 and SAICM/IP.3/INF/3
[18] Resolutions can be found in Annex I of SAICM/ICCM.4/15

in measuring progress (drawing substantially on reflections from the progress reports referred to above), and the effectiveness of the questionnaire approach. They noted in particular:

- While the original baseline data collected in 2006-8 was voluminous, it did not lend itself to translation of the data into a form that could be used to populate the intended indicators.
- The questions/indicators are designed to track the progress of States rather than the progress made by the private sector and organizations.
- Uncertainty on whether respondents were reporting on activities that had taken place within the relevant reporting period or at other times.
- Consistency in reporting, and the potential for variability in response to questions, depending on who is completing the questionnaire, their interpretation of questions and their level of knowledge.
- Some key aspects of activities on compliance and enforcement of policy are not explicitly addressed in the questions/indicators.
- The questions/indicators are essentially based on outputs, and whilst this information is of value, it is also important to consider outcome and impact.
- Meanwhile, changes in the questions between different reporting periods impacts on the ability to analyse the available information and to effectively track improvements over time.
- Differences in response rates between regions is of concern not only because of the low response from some regions, but also because it has the potential to skew any global analysis of progress.

During the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, where both the fourth progress report (2017-2019) and the advance version of the independent evaluation were considered, several representatives suggested that there was need to reconsider the current reporting system in order to better assess progress made and identify gaps in implementation, which they recognised as being crucial to securing political support and sufficient capacity in the long term.[19]

2.3 References to issues directly relating to reporting in the Consolidate Document

Following closure of the resumed session of the Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 held in Nairobi, Kenya, 27 February to 3 March 2023, a revised version of the Intersessional Process Single Consolidate Document was made available.[20] This document includes the following references to issues directly related to reporting (brackets are retained where they are in the text):

Section IV Paragraph 15	*"Transparency is essential for ensuring informed and legitimate decision-making processes. The framework supports transparency of information in all aspects of implementation."*
Section VI Paragraph 3	*"Each government should designate a national focal point to facilitate communication and coordination …"*
Section VI Paragraph 5	*"Governments may develop a national plan or programme in consultation with other stakeholders to further implementation efforts at the national level. Such plan or programme may be used to support its reporting … on the progress made during the reporting period …"*

[19] Paragraph 71 of SAICM/OEWG.3/9
[20] See annex to SAICM/IP.4/11

Section X (A) Paragraph 1 (ii) (xv) (xvi)	*"… the functions of the international conference will be … to … review progress to address gaps at the national, regional and international levels …"* *"… the functions of the international conference will be … to receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on progress of implementation …"* *"… the functions of the international conference will be … to evaluate implementation of activities and review progress against the objectives and targets …"*
Section X (C) Paragraph 1 (v) (viii)	*"The functions to be performed by the Secretariat under the guidance of the international conference will be … to facilitate the meetings and intersessional work of the international conference …"* *"The functions to be performed by the Secretariat under the guidance of the international conference will be … to report to the international conference on implementation by all stakeholders of the instrument."*
Section XI Paragraphs 1-5, 7	*"All stakeholders are invited to report to the International Conference, through the Secretariat, on the implementation efforts and the progress of indicators and milestones, and contributions to implement the instrument in meeting the strategic objectives and their associated targets toward vision. By doing so, stakeholders can identify successful outcomes, as well as any gaps or challenges, drive opportunities for scaling up and improvement, share information, and assess the need for enhanced implementation efforts, and, if necessary, further prioritize their engagement and activities."*
	"Reporting processes should occur regularly and sufficiently often, as decided by the international conference, to provide for the effective assessment of the progress of the instrument in meeting the vision statement."
	"All stakeholders are encouraged to provide information related to their implementation efforts. Such information should be provided in an organized, transparent and accessible online tool, consistent with any guidance or template provided by the international conference. Such information may also include reporting on voluntary commitments as well as pledges or similar activities."
	"The Secretariat prepares a compilation of the reports received for presentation to the International Conference and to the public in a form that helps visualization of the progress of the instrument in a communicable manner."
	"The instrument invites the sharing of data and information from complementary reporting processes of relevant agreements, initiatives, and the IOMC and other organizations in order to take into consideration, as appropriate, any linkages with such agreements, initiatives, or organizations and to minimize the reporting burden for all stakeholders as well as to avoid duplicative effort."
	"Responsible organizations may be invited by the International Conference to analyse progress against the targets and strategic objectives through impacts indicators of the instrument and report to the International Conference. The secretariat may invite stakeholders to provide supplementary information and collate and forward relevant information to responsible organizations for evaluation. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide supplementary information to the secretariat when invited to do so."
	"[A [measurability structure] at Annex C illustrates the different categories of indicators that may be used to track progress and impact of the instrument.]"

In addition, two of the Annexes will be relevant. Annex B is concerned with principles and approaches and although there is no agreed text current indications are that this will refer to other agreements and initiatives relevant to the future Strategic Approach. Where these have reporting and review processes, the contents of those reports and reviews may be relevant to development of a reporting

mechanism and process for the new framework instrument. Annex C concerns the proposed measurability structure, and so is directly concerned with indicators of progress in implementation - currently this contains no text.

2.4 Other issues arising during the Intersessional Process

Recognising the issues and concerns raised by both the fourth progress report (2017-2019) and independent evaluation, several governments and stakeholders have introduced documents during the Intersessional Process that include elements that aim to guide and support development of the reporting and review mechanisms. These include the following which brought in additional recommendations and perspectives.

Stakeholder workshop on strengthening governance: In January 2020 the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) convened a stakeholder workshop[21] on strengthening governance, with support from the Governments of Germany, Norway and Switzerland, and the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders. The main observations and messages of the workshop included the following with respect to "*other opportunities for strengthening private sector governance*":

- The new framework could encourage development of a reporting template to guide, standardise, communicate and monitor corporate reporting on chemicals issues. This could draw on existing guidance (e.g., Global Reporting Initiative, Chemical Footprint Project), national legislation to implement international conventions, as well as priorities established under the framework. This would help improve the private sector's ability to understand, integrate, report on, and discuss with their stakeholders, their business model around use of specific chemicals.
- Reporting would not necessarily be to ICCM, but rather to readers of sustainability reporting (i.e., any interested stakeholders, including financial sector, consumers). It would give greater comparability and quality to reporting on chemicals used.

Proposal from Japan: In November 2020, the Government of Japan submitted a proposal concerning the mechanism for taking stock of progress to Virtual Working Group 2 on Governance and Mechanisms to Support Implementation.[22] This proposal, which was concerned with the overall evaluation of progress, includes the following complementary elements:

- "Process monitoring" which uses online survey of all stakeholders to capture information on progress for each process indicator, with the results shown on a dashboard with an approach similar to that used for indicators in the Global Biodiversity Outlook.[23]
- "Impact assessment" which is based on progress on impact indicators managed by custodian organizations such as IOMC organizations, in a similar manner to indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- "Overall evaluation" of progress towards targets, strategic objectives and vision carried out by a third party, drawing on multiple sources including the process monitoring, impact evaluation, literature review, online survey, focus group discussions and interviews.

[21] SAICM/IP.4/INF/6/Rev2
[22] www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/VirtualWG/Governe/JAPAN_Proposal-on-Section-G-Taking-Stock-of-Progress.pdf
[23] See for example pages 18-22 of the Fourth Edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook

In their submission they recognised that designing a single template for online survey of all stakeholders would be difficult, because of the different roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders. They also recognised the need to increase understanding of available indicators for impact assessment, and how to secure access to them.

Webinar on learning from other UN frameworks: In March 2021, UNEP-WCMC organized a webinar[24] in collaboration with IOMC and the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on learning from other UN frameworks, focusing on indicators and reporting. Particularly valuable were the topics identified in the webinar as being of relevance to future discussions on the topic. These included the following:

- Importance of developing of developing a text for the new framework instrument that includes a focus on implementation and impact, recognising the roles of indicator and reporting mechanisms in achieving this.
- Need to recognise the different legal status of frameworks and agreements, some being legally binding while others are not, and while some are closely related to other frameworks and agreements others are not.
- All three instruments considered[25] have some form of instrument for national implementation, with associated targets, indicators and reporting, having been designed as global frameworks for national adaptation and implementation.
- All three instruments have developed online platforms for reporting and communicating progress, and the importance of user-friendly platforms for reporting and communications was recognised as particularly useful.

Proposal from the United Kingdom: In August 2022, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland submitted a proposal to the fourth meeting of the Intersessional Process for a "measurability structure",[26] which drew *inter alia* on the webinar:[27] In addition to the topics identified above, they also drew attention to the importance of: enabling broad-based participation; easy to use monitoring and reporting tools; scalability of targets and indicators; flexibility in reporting; and capacity-building. They proposed a potential measurability structure building on the existence of process and impact indicators associated with specific targets that can be operationalised in three layers:

- "Global" based on data that is available at the global level, and which can be used to track global impacts, although disaggregation to national level data may be possible. Such indicators would likely have custodian organizations.
- "National for global" based on data that is available at a national (or stakeholder) level and can be aggregated to form a global (or regional) indicator. Such reporting and indicators could be relevant to either process or impact.
- "National for national" based on data that is required to inform domestic (stakeholder-specific) reporting obligations, and may also cover complementary activities not covered by the targets directly.

[24] See www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/TechBriefings/Webinar-Report.pdf
[25] The three instruments were the World Heath Organization International Heath Regulations, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Convention on Biological Diversity
[26] SAICM/IP4.2/CRP.1
[27] See www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/TechBriefings/Webinar-Report.pdf

In their submission they recognise that developing robust indicators can take several years, and it may be necessary to take a pragmatic approach to reporting and indicators that takes what is available while building capacity for improvements in the future, both of which should help to build participation in reporting processes.

Proposal from the IOMC: In February 2023, the IOMC submitted a proposal to the resumed fourth meeting of the Intersessional Process on "measurability"[28] which covered three issues, two of which are relevant here. Firstly, they proposed an annex to the framework which would represent a starting point to measure progress and impact of the framework from the start, drawing on their information document on indicators.[29] Their intention, is that this would be a living document which would be updated as other indicators or measurability elements are identified or become available. This relates to the global level indicators of the proposal by the United Kingdom. Secondly, they make proposals on the measurability structure, including the following observations:

- A comprehensive measurability structure should allow for reporting and monitoring progress in the implementation of the new framework and its impact.
- All components of the new framework should be reflected, allowing for measurement of both progress and impact on vision, objectives, targets, and mechanisms to support implementation, financial considerations, and institutional arrangements.
- The measurability structure could include high-level indicators addressing the vision and strategic objectives (also of particular value for communications, as well as process and impact indicators largely of value in assessing progress relating to targets and means of implementation, although some impact indicators are also of value in considering progress in achieving strategic objectives.

Although not explicitly set out in this proposal, it is clear that for some indicators (and in particular the process indicators) it is anticipated that this information would come through a reporting process, while for other indicators (and in particular the high-level indicators) this would likely come through a global process with identified custodian organizations.

[28] SAICM/IP4.2/CRP.7
[29] SAICM/IP.4/INF/39

3 MEA reporting processes

There is a significant number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) addressing a wide range of issues. These MEAs range in scope from those that are global in intended coverage, to those concerning regions, or countries meeting certain criteria. In this section consideration is given to the approach to reporting across a range of globally-focused MEAs, including all three Rio conventions, the other seven global biodiversity-related conventions, and four of the conventions concerned with chemicals and waste. The full list can be found in Annex 1.

It was felt that the sample chosen would be sufficient to illustrate the range of approaches and experiences that might be relevant. Information on these approaches and experiences is presented in Annex 1, with information provided for each MEA under eight headings: webpage; mandate; format and content; tools; additional support; use of reported information; success of latest reporting round; and reviews of reporting. The following key threads were identified, always keeping in mind that implementation of MEAs is the responsibility of those Governments that are party to the relevant MEAs.

It is important to bear in mind when considering the following that it is not intended to be a complete review of existing MEA reporting processes, but rather it is intended to inform development of reporting and review process for the new framework instrument.

3.1 Mandatory reports

Mandates: In the majority of cases national reports of some form are mandated through the text of the agreement, with further refinement (for example on timing and content) provided through the decisions of governing bodies. Secretariats may be given a mandate to further develop reporting templates, tools and support activities, based on guidance from the governing body, potentially with a degree of oversight from an appropriate body (for example a standing committee. National focal points for the MEA then have a responsibility to arrange for delivery of the reports.

Purpose: The primary purpose of these reports is to inform review of implementation at the MEA level by the advisory and governance bodies of each MEA. They consider the progress or lack of it, and identify gaps and limitations where further action is needed to advance implementation. Where the MEA has adopted a strategy, this is likely to inform the content of the reporting template so that progress can be assessed against the goals, objectives and/or targets of the strategy. However, the reports may also include other elements such as identification of gaps, sharing of experience, and critical assessment of resources available and needed.

Context specific: Some reporting is much more specific in nature, responding to the particular focus and purpose of the MEA. For example, the annual reports to the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) comprise information on trade in specimens of species included in the Appendices to the Convention, while the periodic reports to the World Heritage Convention include information on the conservation status of individual sites inscribed on the World Heritage List by States Party to the Convention. Annual reports to the Basel Convention are expected to include information on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes with which Parties have been involved, and the Stockholm Convention requires estimates of total quantities of listed chemicals that Parties produce, export or import.

Content: It is clear that the content of reports will depend on the nature of the agreement, and this will influence the format of the information requested, which can range from free text to checklists, and from spreadsheets to indicators, together with uploaded information. In many cases basic information is requested, which can be supplemented with further information. Where reporting is done electronically, there is growing expectation that key fields will be pre-filled by the secretariats wherever possible and appropriate, so that national focal points can update whatever is already available, of confirm that the situation remains the same. There also needs to be a degree of consistency in format over time for each MEA, to allow for good understanding of progress.

Periodicity: The nature of the agreement and the content of the reports also influences the periodicity of reporting. For monitoring an ongoing activity such as trade in endangered species or import and export of hazardous wastes, an annual report is appropriate. However, for a report on actions to take implement a complex agreement it will be more appropriate to have a longer reporting cycle, and this is normally aligned with the MEA meeting cycles. For example, national reports for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are expected approximately every four years, with deadlines set so that synthesis of reports can information consideration of progress in implementation first at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and then at COP. The Minamata Convention has national report formats with some questions where a response is expected every two years, and others where response is only expected every four years.

3.2 Other forms of report

Other reported information: There is certain other information that Parties are expected to provide and update as appropriate, including, for example, the names and contact details of national focal points and/or national authorities with whom the secretariats should be in contact. While this is maybe not reporting in the same context as national reports on actions taken to implement the relevant MEA, it is as well to be aware that information is submitted to secretariats – and in some cases direct to other parties – in a range of different ways.

Notifications: Some MEAs require notification or some other form of communication in the case of particular changes in circumstances, or because of a particular event. For example, the Ramsar Convention requires Contracting Parties to inform the secretariat of any change in ecological character of listed wetlands, and the Basel Convention requires Parties to inform other Parties of issues such as accidents during transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, or decisions to ban import or export of hazardous wastes. There are other examples, but the point is that there are communications from parties that can be triggered by events rather than being periodic reports.

Voluntary and ad hoc reports: The governing bodies of some MEAs also sometimes request additional ad hoc reports as needed, usually on a voluntary basis. For example, in the past the CBD has requested voluntary thematic reports to inform in depth review of issues relating to specific programmes of work. CITES urges its Parties to also submit an annual illegal trade report, as well as ad hoc reports on a number of other issues relating to specific COP resolutions and decisions.

3.3 Indicators

Comparative information: In order to assess progress in implementation of MEAs it is important to have some form of time series of data that is meaningful in the context of the specific MEA. Many MEAs therefore define indicators and metrics which they use. Metrics are essentially quantitative measurements (for example number and area of protected areas), while indicators are presentation

of data and information in meaningful ways (for example growth in the extent of protected area networks over time. To be useful, data and information needs to be compiled in a consistent manner over time.

Process and impact: In order to review progress in implementation of MEAs it is valuable to track both the action taken and the impact of those actions. The first can be done directly through compiling information on whether or not an action has been taken, or through scoring the status of the action. Such information can be compiled through response to questionnaires. Tracking impact is rather more complicated, and is likely to require collection of data on changes in the status over time of something that implementation of the MEA is targeting (for example improving the status of threatened species). Both types of indicator are regularly used in reviewing MEA implementation, but the source of the information may vary.

Sources of indicator data: Where information is compiled on whether or not an action has been taken (or using a simple status scale) in order to develop process indicators, then this can clearly be based on information submitted by parties through questionnaires. For other indicators the situation may be more complicated. For some, such as coverage of protected areas or trade in listed species, information can be compiled globally by summing information from each country based on agreed methodologies. However, for other indicators (for example those relating to threatened species) this cannot be derived from information compiled at the national level, although it can be derived globally and then disaggregated for national use. The key issue is to have well understood and agreed methodologies. However, even then, some parties to some MEAs are reluctant to agree the use of indicators which reflect on their countries unless they have themselves verified the relevant data.

Monitoring framework: The CBD COP meeting in December 2022 adopted both the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and an associated monitoring framework.[30] The monitoring framework defined and listed categories of indicators, together with a set of criteria which indicators should meet. The categories of indicators were as follows:

- Headline indicators: a minimum set of high-level indicators, which capture the overall scope of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to be used for planning and tracking progress, and also for communication. They are nationally, regionally and globally relevant indicators validated by Parties.
- Global level binary indicators: are global indicators based on responses to yes/no questions to be included in the national reporting template. They will provide a count of the number of countries having undertaken specified activities.
- Component indicators: a list of optional indicators that, together with the headline indicators, cover components of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which may apply at the global, regional, national and subnational levels.
- Complementary indicators: a list of optional indicators for thematic or in-depth analysis of each goal and target which may be applicable at global, regional, national, and subnational levels. In addition, countries may already have other indicators that they regularly use.

3.4 Reporting tools and guidance

Online reporting: All of the MEAs reviewed use some form of online reporting tool, at least in part with the aim of streamlining the process of collecting and synthesising the reported information. In some

[30] See CBD COP decision 15/4 and decision 15/5

cases, this is a bespoke tool developed for a specific convention, while in other cases tools are used that service more than one convention. However, at least in the case of the CBD not all Parties are using the tool, but are completing the report template offline and submitting a PDF.

Guidance: Additional guidance provided by MEA secretariats ranges from user manuals for the online reporting tools to resource manuals which *inter alia* identify potential information sources that parties might use in compiling their reports. Where relevant to the work of the convention other guidance provided may include glossaries and checklists, and other online information resources, and UNCCD has "good practice guidance" for specific aspects of reporting.

Technical support: Other services offered by some MEA secretariats include help desks during the reporting period, and a quality assurance procedure prior to final submission. In the case of UNCCD this is aimed at ensuring the provision of "consistent, transparent, comparable, accurate and complete information". In previous reporting rounds peer review of national reports has also been offered as part of the technical support under the GEF enabling activities.

Reporting tools: For a number of MEAs additional tools have been developed which support reporting and associated information management (therefore also providing support beyond reporting *sensu stricto*). Examples include the rollout of geospatial tools associated with UNCCD reporting, and the toolkit recently developed to support reporting to the Stockholm Convention. This latter toolkit aims to facilitate the development, transmission, access and use of data contained in National Implementation Pans and National Reports, and was developed and tested with the support of the GEF.

Online Reporting System: A number of conventions use the Online Reporting System (ORS) developed by UNEP-WCMC working with the secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Africa-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement.[31] The ORS is a web application that provides the means to create and manage multiple questionnaires that can be answered by any number of registered users. The system incorporates multiple features that aim to make the reporting process easier for both those creating and those using the questionnaires, and allow for greater flexibility in questionnaire structure.

Data and Reporting Tool for MEAs: Some countries are exploring use of the Data and Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) developed by UNEP to support their reporting.[32] DaRT provides countries with a private and secure working space to organize, share, and maintain information, data and knowledge across conventions and across reporting purposes (such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals). The intention is that providing a single national working space, DaRT will facilitate the re-use of information in the spirit of "enter once, re-use several times", relieving the reporting burden and fostering communication and cooperation across ministries.

3.5 Capacity-building and other support

Reporting: The support provided by secretariats and partner organizations variously includes training and capacity-building workshops and webinars, e-courses, and briefings at side events. The primary focus is to improve reporting, and/or to improve the reporting experience for responsible officials. However, the level of support provided varies from one convention to another. At least one convention, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), is developing new reporting tools – including

[31] See https://ors.ngo/
[32] See https://dart.informea.org/

spatial tools - which it hopes Parties will be able to use to improve their own capacity to monitor implementation of the Convention at the national level, as well as their capacity to report. In other cases, for example for the Stockholm Convention, new tools are being developed which will improve the ability of Parties to manage their information relating to national implementation plans and reports.

Indicators: The increased focus on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the use of indicators at the national level, including for reporting, has led to increased calls for capacity-building. For example, the recent CBD COP calls for Parties, other governments, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and others to support national, regional and global biodiversity monitoring systems, recognising the need for enhanced international cooperation and capacity-building. While the focus in the decision is on use of indicators for reporting, it is well recognised that improvements in the management and use of information will also support implementation.

3.6 Use of reported information

Syntheses and analyses: At its simplest syntheses of reported information are presented to MEA advisory and governance bodies as a basis for assessing progress in implementation and considering further action that needs to be taken or encouraged through further decisions of the governing body. Further analysis of reported information may be carried out, drawing as appropriate on information from other sources. The extent to which reported information is analysed and information from other sources used depends on the approach requested by parties. Information from such syntheses may or may not be used in communications materials.

Review processes: Periodically MEAs may carry out a more thorough review of progress in implementation and/or the impact of action taken. Such a review may be based on information reported by parties, but it in most cases it also takes into account information from other sources, including where relevant the findings of assessment processes such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)[33] or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).[34] Some MEAs also have their own flagship products such as the CBD Global Biodiversity Outlook[35] or the CITES World Wildlife Trade Report.[36] Information from such review processes and products is rather more likely to be used as a basis for communications materials.

Links to strategies and strategic frameworks: The format of reporting templates varies from one MEA to another, depending on the nature of the agreement and what it is trying to achieve, and the ways in which it is being implemented. In most cases where an MEA has some form of strategy with clear objectives and/or targets relevant to implementation at the national level, parties will be asked to report against those objectives and/or targets so as to facilitate review of the extent to which the agreed strategy is being delivered. This may include reporting on action planned, on action implemented, and where possible on impacts achieved, as well as on limitations on implementation.

Different types of analysis and review: As part of the package of decisions taken at the recent CBD COP to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a decision

[33] See https://www.ipbes.net/assessing-knowledge
[34] See https://www.ipcc.ch/
[35] See https://www.cbd.int/gbo/
[36] See https://cites.org/eng/news/first-world-wildlife-trade-report

on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.[37] This decision identifies two approaches to considering progress being made in planning and implementation by Parties, both based on information they have submitted:

- Global analysis of information in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) including national targets to assess the contribution towards the framework; and
- Global review of the collective progress in the implementation of the framework, including means of implementation, based on national reports and, as appropriate other sources.

National reporting dashboards: The use of dashboards both to show what reports have been received and to present reported information has been increasing in recent years, in particular for some of the chemicals and waste conventions.[38] While this is not new (the CBD had a national reports analyser online for the second national report over 20 years ago), developments in online reporting mean that dashboards can be automatically populated making it easier to handle reported information, also demonstrating the use of reported information rather more obviously. The way in which data and information is presented varies from one MEA to another, depending on the structure of reports and reporting templates and the questions asked of parties.

Country pages: All reports submitted by MEA parties are posted online by secretariats, although the way in which is it done varies. Also, most MEA webpages have some form of country or party profile where all documents relating to a particular party can be accessed. For example, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has developed country profiles which bring together in one place all information that concerns each Party, including information on designated authorities, reports, reservations, registers, exemptions and special procedures, stricter domestic measures and compliance status. To a large extent this is to support Parties in their implementation of the Convention, and to support their compliance with agreed measures – recognising that lack of compliance can have implications for trade.

3.7 Other benefits of reporting

Value at the national level: Assuming there is a direct link between the information requested in national reports (and other national communications) and implementation of the convention, then the information requested is what will be needed at the country level anyway in order to implement the convention and to track that implementation. As a result, any efforts to improve national reporting – including associated guidance, training and capacity-building activities – will potentially benefit information management efforts at the national level that will also inform implementation.

Means of implementation: Reporting also facilitates assessment at both national and global levels of the adequacy of means of implementation (financial resource, capacity, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer), and provides the evidence base for seeking improvement in the necessary resource base to support implementation. Reporting processes may also facilitate consideration of enabling conditions, and issues such as relationship to other national and international processes.

[37] See CBD COP decision 15/6
[38] See for example https://mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/reporting/dashboard

3.8 Key lessons from reviews of reporting

Most MEAs have reviewed their reporting processes at least once, considering issues such as format and content, reporting rates and how to improve them, availability and use of reporting tools, and capacity-building activities associated with reporting. The following are some of the more generic points that have come up in such reviews:

- Purpose: National reports and reporting processes can usefully serve multiple purposes (national review, contribution to global review, awareness raising), but this may have implications for reporting formats
- Format: There are both advantages and disadvantages of free-flow and structured reporting formats, and templates might usefully draw on the strengths of each approach
- Consistency: Consistency with previous national reports is particularly important for continuity and to permit time-series analyses and reporting on progress in implementation
- Pre-filled data: When using online tools there is value in including default data (such as that from earlier reporting rounds) where appropriate, for verification or replacement by those reporting
- Support: Timely provision of any necessary financial and/or technical assistance associated with national reporting processes and associated activities is critical, as is provision of any necessary guidance associated with the reporting template
- Timing: Parties need clear reporting timelines, with sufficient time allowed for preparing national reports including any necessary stakeholder engagement and review
- Use of reports: Ensure that good use is made of the information provided in national reports and demonstrate this clearly, so as to help ensure an enhanced political will to prepare them
- Ongoing review of reporting: It is important to regularly review the reporting process, including the available tools and guidance, to ensure that it is fit for purpose, and to make any necessary adjustments so that the process remains effective

3.9 Reporting principles

While this was not fully considered at the time, the third meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in 1997 had before it an information document[39] on "further guidelines for the preparation of national reports" prepared by the Secretariat with the aim of supporting Parties during preparation of the first national report. This included a set of "guiding principles in drafting national reports". These guiding principles are set out here without any editing.

a) Base the report on information that is required already by the national focal point to ensure that the country is meeting the commitments made in acceding to the Convention.

b) Ensure that the report covers the priority areas identified by the COP in its decisions, and as interpreted by SBSTTA and the Secretariat.

c) Cover what is relevant to implementation of the Convention, not just what is being done because the Convention has been acceded to.

d) Emphasise progress in development and implementation of the *National Biodiversity Strategy* and/or *National Biodiversity Action Plan*.

[39] UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/INF/16

e) Summarise the current status and trends in biodiversity, biodiversity "services", use and threats, and progress in development of programmes to evaluate and monitor these.

f) Avoid repeating information from national biodiversity strategies and action plans, or national country studies and state of environment reports (they can be appended).

g) Concentrate on measurable progress since the last report, and identify the progress that is expected before the next report is due.

h) Use indicators to show progress in achieving targets set in the *National Biodiversity Strategy* and/or *National Biodiversity Action Plan*, and in previous reports.

i) Emphasise information that will help other Contracting Parties in their implementation of the Convention, in particular both good practice and bad experience.

j) Design reports that are useful for multiple purposes with minimal modification, for example as material for journalists, or education.

Given these guiding principles were drafted more than 25 years ago, and relate to a reporting template that expected narrative text under a number of standard headings, they remain remarkably relevant today and could form the basis for a revised list of principles CBD or principles for other reporting processes although a certain amount of reformulation would be needed.

4 Reporting under other intergovernmental processes

While MEAs mostly have mandated reporting process, this is not necessarily the case for other intergovernmental processes, which tends to have implications for the approach to reporting and to motivating States to report. In this section the approaches to reporting of three very significant and rather different intergovernmental processes are considered in order to identify any other potential lessons that can be learned. These are the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, the World Health Organization International Health Regulations, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Each is considered in turn from the perspective of reporting and review, and then observations are made relating to possible lessons learned.

4.1 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets.[40] Given the SDGs cover a very broad agenda, tracking implementation is a significant issue ideally involving the whole of government. There are two basic approaches to reporting, one of which is voluntary and country-led, and the other of which involves indicators compiled internationally.

Global indicator framework: A global indicator framework for the SDGs and targets was developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and agreed by the UN Statistical Commission, and then adopted by the UN General Assembly.[41] This framework is kept under review by the IAEG-SDGs and the Statistical Commission, and currently includes 231 unique indicators.[42] Each of these indicators aims to be based on data compiled from national sources, with an identified international agency responsible for each indicator. The intention is that this is complemented at the national level by indicators developed by Member States. The global indicators are as a basis for annual progress reports[43] and synthesis of key messages, and are freely available[44] and used by various organizations in progress reports and on dashboards,[45] including data displayed in interactive maps and rankings.

A range of support is provided relating to development and use of the indicators and the associated data flows. This includes metadata for each of the indicators,[46] identification of indicator focal points and calendars for data collection,[47] an E-Handbook on SDG indicators targeted towards enabling the work of national statisticians,[48] and an SDG monitoring and reporting toolkit for UN country teams

[40] A/RES/70/1
[41] UNGA Resolution 71/313, with refinements contained in UN Statistical Division documents and decisions of the Statistical Commission
[42] See https://nstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global Indicator Framework after 2023 refinement_Eng.pdf
[43] See https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021
[44] See https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal
[45] See for example https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/
[46] See https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/
[47] See https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataContacts/
[48] See https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/SDGeHandbook/Home

which aims to support national governments[49] and facilitates access to a wide range of resources. The overall aim of the support is to improve monitoring and reporting at the national level so that the availability and use of data is improved at all appropriate levels. The SDG global indicator framework includes a number of indicators relating to reducing unintentional impacts of chemicals and waste.

Voluntary National Reviews: Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are periodically conducted by Member States, reporting on progress and facilitating sharing of experience. The aim of this is both to facilitate national review and to contribute to improving implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. VNRs are conducted in advance of each annual High Level Political Forum, where they are presented and discussed, and 40 Member States are expected to report in 2023. Since 2016 a total of 291 VNRs have been completed, submitted by 187 Member States. One of the Member States reporting in 2023 will be doing so for the first time. Information on the VNR process is available on the UN website,[50] including access to all the reports submitted. A compilation of the main messages is also regularly compiled.[51]

The website includes a range of resources for supporting Member States in implementing VNRs, including: a handbook for the 2023 VNRs;[52] a repository of best practices in VNR reporting;[53] a depository of tools supporting VNRs;[54] and lessons learned and good practices by Member States in VNR reporting.[55] Workshops are also convened to support VNRs being conducted, and a first workshop for the VNRs to be presented in 2023 took place in December 2022.[56] The summary of the workshop includes a number of points directly relevant to the value of the review process, including the observation that participating in the review process can serve to promote a focused, evidence-based approach engaging a wide range of stakeholders that is conducive to peer learning and experience-sharing, and that identifies both gaps and good practices, and may also help to forge partnerships.

4.2 World Health Organization International Health Regulations

The current International Health Regulations were adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2005.[57] The regulations provide a legal framework that defines countries' rights and obligations with respect to handling public health events and emergencies that have the potential to cross borders. Implementation is supported through a core capacity monitoring framework, and countries are obliged to assess any public health event and report to the World Health Organization (WHO).[58]

Monitoring framework: The monitoring framework is designed around a number of 'core capabilities' relating to public health events, and comprises more than 20 indicators each comprising a range of capability levels. States Parties are asked to select the level which best describes the status of each. The underlying aim is to improve capacity for implementing the regulations, and this information

[49] See https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/unct-toolkit/
[50] See https://hlpf.un.org/vnrs
[51] See https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/HLPF 2023 Compilation of Main Messages.pdf
[52] See https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/hand-book/VNR Handbook 2023 EN_0.pdf
[53] See https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Repository of Good Practices.pdf
[54] See https://hlpf.un.org/tools
[55] See https://hlpf.un.org/lessons-learned-and-best-practices
[56] See https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/Summary of First Global Workshop 2023 VNRs.pdf
[57] See World Health Assembly resolution 58.3 Revision of the International Health Regulations
[58] See Https://www.who.int/health-topics/international-health-regulations

provides the basis. The framework is set out in a document developed by WHO,[59] and countries are expected to carry out the assessment and provide the information through the State Parties Self-Assessment Annual Reporting Tool (e-SPAR).[60] There are videos available to support States Parties in using the tool, a guidance document,[61] and a manual.[62] The reporting tool provides information on rates of reporting and progress at the national and regional scales, and displays this information visually. The resulting information is used to promote action for further improving capacity. SDG Indicator 3.d.1 is based on the information on core capabilities reported to WHO.

Notification of public health events: States Parties are required to notify WHO of all events that are assessed as possibly constituting a "public health emergency of international concern" using the decision instrument set out in Annex 2 of the regulations. They must also inform WHO of a public health risk identified outside their territory that may cause international spread of disease. Both are essentially a requirement to notify or report if certain circumstances are met.

4.3 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[63] was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015, and subsequently endorsed by the UN General Assembly later that year. The framework results from a combination of stakeholder consultations and intergovernmental negotiations, and aims to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health, and to also reduce associated societal impacts. Primary responsibility for implementation rests with States, but it is recognised that other stakeholders may have a key role to play depending on national circumstances.

Monitoring implementation: A set of 38 indicators[64] is used to track the progress that UN Member States are making in implementing the seven global targets set out in the framework. Progress is reported through the Sendai Framework Monitor,[65] which includes a dashboard with both a map and graphics illustrating progress in reporting, and graphics and data on each indicator including filters for specific goals, reporting years and region/country. The indicators were defined by an open-ended intergovernmental expert group on indicators,[66] and subsequently endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission. They variously cover impacts of disasters (targets A-D), disaster risk reduction strategies (target E), international cooperation (target F) and early warning and risk (target G). In each case the information required from Member States is a number, a proportion or a monetary value, so work is needed in preparing the information required and not all Member States report on all indicators. The Sendai Framework indicators align with 11 SDG indicators.

Technical guidance for monitoring and reporting, including using the online system, is provided by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).[67] In addition to defining the indicators to be used, the

[59] See document WHO/ISE/GCR/2013.2 Checklist and Indicators for Monitoring Progress in the Development of IHR Core Capacities in States Parties
[60] See https://extranet.who.int/e-spar
[61] See https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-WHE-CPI-2018.17
[62] See https://extranet.who.int/e-spar/Content/Resource/Published/e-SPAR_Public_page_manual_en.pdf
[63] See https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030
[64] See https://www.preventionweb.net/sendai-framework/sendai-framework-indicators
[65] See https://sendaimonitor.undrr.org/
[66] See https://www.preventionweb.net/terminology/open-ended-working-group
[67] See https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/technical-guidance-monitoring-and-reporting-progress-achieving-global-targets-sendai

open-ended expert group also defined a lot of the relevant terms[68] in order to help ensure consistency in use of terms and understanding. There is also online training available, and further guidance relating to specific sectors and risks. The value of reporting is seen as promoting accountability for implementation, guiding international and national action, and public communication of progress being made. Member states are also encouraged to use custom targets and indicators to assess progress against the four priorities of the Sendai Framework, based on the priorities of respective countries.

Voluntary national reports: Over the last two years, a mid-term review of implementation of the Sendai Framework has been under way, [69] and one of the inputs has been the submission of voluntary national reports by member states (to be used alongside other inputs (including for example thematic studies and contributions from UN system entities). UNDRR provided guidance for Member States[70] on national consultations, review and reporting (including a series of probing questions), and a reporting template for the voluntary national report.[71] In total 70 Member States submitted reports, [72] although these do seem to vary in the extent to which they have followed the guidance and template provided. In addition, it should be noted that there are also disaster risk reduction reports available for a number of countries. These are not national reports in the strict sense, but assessments prepared by UNDRR with the support of others. They are based on consultation and literature review, and while governments and local stakeholders will have been involved, these are not submitted or prepared by the concerned government.

Relevant feedback from the mid-term review: The mid-term review of the Sendai Framework[73,74] produced in 2023 to inform potential policy adjustments and new modalities for implementation, to increase commitment on follow up, and to inform other policy processes and build coherence. National consultations and voluntary national reports were regarded as central to the review process, and policy, strategic and guidance documents provided by Member States were also useful. The review reported that the Sendai Framework Monitor has been "*critical in developing annual reports, such as the Secretary-Generals report on implementation of the Sendai Framework and the annual report on SDGs*", and target-specific reports have also been prepared drawing on the indicators. As of 31 March 2022, 155 countries were using the Sendai Framework Monitor compared with 88 countries in 2018.

Relevant recommendations from the mid-term review including the following:

- Improving systematic reporting against the Sendai Framework is also crucial for ensuring and enhancing data quality, recognising that reporting on the indicators is incomplete
- Collaboration between statisticians and practitioners will help improve and maintain the quality of disaster-risk related data collection and analysis

[68] See https://www.undrr.org/terminology
[69] See https://www.undrr.org/publication/report-midterm-review-implementation-sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030
[70] See http://sendaiframework-mtr.undrr.org/media/77424/download
[71] See https://sendaiframework-mtr.undrr.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/MTR-SF-Voluntary-National-Report_Member-States_TEMPLATE_December_2021.pdf
[72] https://sendaiframework-mtr.undrr.org/2023/mtr-sf-submissions-and-reports
[73] See https://www.undrr.org/publication/report-midterm-review-implementation-sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030
[74] UNGA A/77/640

- Data sharing and oversight continues to be the most widespread challenge across governments, combined with the need to invest in data infrastructure

4.4 Possible lessons

The following does not cover all lessons that may have been learned during reporting and review under these initiatives, but identifies some of the key points that amplify or are additional to the key issues that came up in the previous section of this study report.

Facilitating capacity-building through review and reporting approaches: The reporting associated with the International Health Regulations is very much associated with identifying capacity levels in a systematic manner as a basis for promoting action to further promote capacity-building. This means that States need to regularly assess their own capacity when reporting, and the guidance provided encourage working across sectors in doing so. The value and opportunity of doing so is set out in the guidance document for the State Party self-assessment annual reporting tool.[75]

Engagement of peers and sharing of lessons learnt: The voluntary national reporting process for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs involves presentation of the key findings of the report at a session of the High-level Political Forum, and identification of good practices, challenges and areas for support and advice. This may lead to questions from other Member States, as well as from major groups and other stakeholders. Presenters are expected to be high level individuals. Submission of reports well in advance is encouraged so as to inform substantive exchanges during the session. There are also opportunities for informal engagement. This is all set out further in the handbook.[76]

Sector and stakeholder engagement: All three of the processes addressed in this section make a point of the need to engage people from across sectors and from different stakeholder groups in any narrative reporting, and in the case of the International Health Regulations making the assessment of capacities using in indicator-based reporting. This is both for securing input and communicating the importance of working together to address each of the policy instruments.

Reporting associated with a specific purpose: As part of the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework, Member States were encouraged to carry out national consultations and review, and to submit voluntary national reports following. Guidelines and templates were provided, and a series of "*probing questions*" to guide review. The intention was clearly not only to get input for the review, but also to focus national attention on the issues thereby encouraging further national commitment and action. Providing this is not carried out too frequently this seems and effective approach to promoting national engagement, which also has the benefit of encouraging links across government and with stakeholders. To a large extent the same happens with Member States periodically prepare Voluntary National Reports on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Coherence in international response: One paragraph in the report to the UN General Assembly on the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework[77] seems particularly pertinent to lessons learned. "*By providing common metrics and data, the Sendai Framework is promoting mutually supportive and streamlined monitoring of progress in different international frameworks and mechanisms, greater coherence of multilateral agendas, reduced reporting burden on countries, integration of agendas and*

[75] See https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-WHE-CPI-2018.17
[76] See https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/hand-book/VNR Handbook 2023 EN_0.pdf
[77] UNGA A/77/640

convergent implementation." While this aim may be unfulfilled at present it is an effective rationale for a well thought through monitoring framework.

Threshold notification: While not a regular reporting obligation, the International Health Regulations require Member States to notify WHO of any public health events meeting certain criteria. This is similar in nature to requirements under various chemicals and waste conventions to inform on incidents that may impact other parties, or the requirement under the Ramsar Convention to inform of any threatened change in ecological character of listed wetland. The key issue is whether there is any event or threshold which will require countries to report on a specific area of concern, and thereby trigger action.

Dashboards: While many MEAs, policy instruments and other international initiatives have dashboards, the Sendai Framework Monitor[78] may be one to look at further when developing ideas for a dashboard for the new framework instrument linked to indicator-based reporting.

[78] See https://sendaimonitor.undrr.org/

5 Commitment platforms

In order to increase action to protect the environment, there have been numerous attempts to get different stakeholders to make public statements on what they intend to do. The aim of these platforms is to encourage such 'commitments', but in doing so they also deliver potential opportunities for assessing the impact of the commits made – assuming they are all delivered - and potentially also provide a basis for tracking the commitments made and what happens subsequently.

In 2021 UNEP-WCMC carried out a review of such commitment platforms[79] in order to inform development of a platform on commitments on area-based conservation measures[80] to support further implementation of the CBD Action Agenda.[81] This review considered the characteristics of 18 platforms relevant to area-based conservation, with a view to identifying and building on good practice. The focus was not on reporting and review, but some of the findings are relevant to reporting and review processes, and some of the platforms identified warrant further consideration.

These platforms variously capture commitments made which contribute to achieving international policy goals (such as the SDGs), respond to particular calls or initiatives (such as the Bonn Challenge), or pledge to carry out specific activities (such as reducing carbon emissions). Users of the platforms were identified as including those who were proving input on commitments they were making, those using the available information to assess the commitments made and report on progress, and in some cases those looking for opportunities to engage, to provide further support or to learn lessons.

Of the 18 platforms reviewed, only eight encouraged users to report on progress towards the commitments they had made, thereby facilitating accountability and enabling independent verification. A number of these are explored further below in order to extract potentially valuable lessons.

5.1 Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments

It is clearly recognised in the Sendai Declaration endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2015[82] that all stakeholders have a role to play in implementing the framework, and there is explicit reference in the framework to the need for specific and time-bound commitments by relevant stakeholders. In order to encourage and recognise their contribution, a Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments online platform[83] was launched in 2018. The platform aims to allow stakeholders space to inform others about their efforts, as well as to share and potentially scale up good practices and explore opportunities for collaboration to maximize impact. The platform is specifically targeted at "multi-stakeholders", and is not intended to capture commitments solely implementation by national governments or UN entities.

Commitment platform: As of June 2023, the platform includes 117 commitments with 596 deliverables submitted by 670 participating organizations (remembering that each deliverable may involve multiple organizations). The commitments and deliverables vary significantly in nature from networks and

[79] The report entitled "*Designing a platform for area-based conservation: A contribution to the action agenda for Nature and People*" was not made publicly available
[80] This was subsequently implemented as https://naturecommitments.org/
[81] https://www.cbd.int/portals/action-agenda/
[82] UNGA A/69/RES/283
[83] https://sendaicommitments.undrr.org/

dialogues to tools and training. It is possible on the platform to search the commitments made using a range of filters.

The UNDRR have prepared guidelines for submission of voluntary commitments. The guideline identifies the benefits of the platform as being:

- For stakeholders to: inform about what they are doing; to learn what others are doing and build collaboration; and to highlight good practice
- For UNDRR to: motivate stakeholder to engage and share their experience; track what others are doing; taking stock of action to respond to disaster risk
- For the public to: see who is doing what others are doing and receive notifications and updates according to registered interests, and share information that interests them through social media

There is expectation that those making commitments will regularly provide updates through the platform, addressing summary of progress made, achievements at a glance, how progress is being assessed, challenges in implementation, and steps for the next year. Notifications are sent to those who have included voluntary commitments in the platform, reminding them to submit progress reports, and progress reporting is tracked. This helps to ensure that the commitments are active. It is also expected that any outputs will be submitted, and again notifications are sent to remind people to submit them.

Synthesis and review: UNDRR has produced two synthesis and analysis reports on the voluntary commitments, the most recent being in 2022.[84] This report not only provides an overview of the commitments made and who has made them, but it also includes a summary of feedback by stakeholders on the platform. Key points of potential interest from the report include the following:

- There is clearly an active process including UNDRR headquarters and focal points in the UNDRR regional offices encouraging stakeholders to submit and follow up on voluntary contributions
- Stakeholders who had submitted voluntary contributions to the platform provided fairly positive feedback on the platform, on the guidance provided, and on the support from UNDRR staff
- There is need to continue encouraging stakeholders to make commitments, to submit them to the platform and to follow up
- Examples are provided where inclusion of commitments in the platform has been beneficial to the work of stakeholders delivering them
- Some additional benefits to stakeholders were identified, including more opportunities for stakeholders to contribute and engage in related activities

Motivation: The synthesis and analysis report also looked at motivation for making a voluntary contribution. Implementers were asked what had led them to make commitments, and the impact of the Sendai Framework in this regard. Useful anecdotal observations included the following:

- Making a voluntary commitment to achievement of a globally adopted framework which recognises the role of multiple stakeholders provides a sense of common purpose, bringing together efforts that would otherwise be scattered, diffuse and uncoordinated since.

[84] https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-voluntary-commitments-synthesis-and-analysis-report-2022

- The voluntary commitment platform facilitates coordination and collaboration, allowing those making commitments to structure and align their ideas, especially the involvement and empowerment of local actors and vulnerable groups.
- Current and future commitments are guided by Sendai priorities, targets and indicators and contributors have been encouraged by the call to develop standards and other guidance instruments for coordinated action in disaster preparedness and response.
- Commitments are made in the anticipation that this will lead to the formation of partnerships to exchange experiences, to establish and share good practices, including the coherent use of instruments and tools, to leverage open-source tools and to join resources to generate crucial data.
- Contributors were also looking for a space where youth and young professionals, including scientists, can collaborate and exchange knowledge with peers to utilise and tailor their current and future interdisciplinary research to meet the needs of decision-makers.

5.2 SDGs Action Platform

It is well understood that delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of the SDGs requires a whole of government and whole of society approach, engaging multiple stakeholders.[85]

Commitment platform: The SDG Actions Platform[86] was established as a "*global registry of voluntary policies, commitments, multi-stakeholder partnerships and other initiatives made by governments, the UN system and a broad range of stakeholders*" to encourage and support action to achieve the SDGs. Governments and other actors are encouraged to register their initiatives by completing an online template which includes information on implementation of each initiative, coordination mechanisms, the intended beneficiaries, and arrangements for capacity-building and technology transfer, as well as information on budget and resources, timelines and evaluation.

The platform, which is managed by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, aggregates information from different registries launched in support of various UN conferences, processes and initiatives, and provides access to thematic multi-stakeholder action networks maintained by other UN entities and actors to encourage commitment and the building of partnerships to help support delivery of the SDGs. These include the following:

- Water Action Agenda commitments[87] associated with the UN 2023 Water Conference and the call made for commitments, pledges and actions across all sectors
- Commitments made in association with the UN Ocean Conferences,[88] which took place in the United States of America in 2017 and Portugal in 2022
- Sustainable development partnerships for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS),[89] arising from a call at the 2014 Third International Conference on SIDS as part of the SAMOA Pathway
- Commitments made in associated with the UN Global Sustainable Transport Conferences,[90] which took place in 2016 in Turkmenistan and 2021 in China

[85] A/RES/70/1
[86] See https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships
[87] See https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water
[88] See https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/ocean-commitments
[89] See https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/sids-partnerships
[90] See https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/2nd-transport-conference

- The Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network,[91] which is a UN hosted platform to showcase and enable collaborations across a sector which has significant impact on societies

Information in the platform is used to help identify multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments that can be showcased during the annual "Partnership Exchange" during the High-Level Political Forum, and various reports on partnerships have also been prepared.[92]

Synthesis and review: There would appear to be little synthesis or review of the whole database of commitments and partnerships other that general statistics relating to the number of initiatives and how they range across the SDGs. There is, however, a degree of analysis within particular themes. An assessment of the impacts of the UN Ocean Conference voluntary commitments[93] carried out in 2021 included the following observations:

- The available information on the voluntary commitments clearly demonstrates significant effort to further the achievement of SDG 14 on life below water, with a wide range of different activities across sectors and stakeholder groups.
- Voluntary commitments have had a large collective impact on raising awareness about the ocean and its importance amongst different stakeholder groups.
- At the time of the review there were 1638 commitments registered, but progress reports were only available for 393 of these prompting a proposal for a simpler process for monitoring action and impacts in the future.
- The review identifies a number of potential gaps where further commitments might be needed to address SDG 14 and its component targets, however there is no way of knowing without further research what actions are already taking place that have not been registered here.

The same report also identified a number of lessons learned which could also help inform how any commitments platform is set up and used, including that: grassroots momentum is powerful; partnerships are key to success; expanding networks will help scale up successful initiatives; sustainable, shock-proof funding is important for long-term impact; and it is important both to keep the inclusivity and provide for accountability.

5.3 Bonn Challenge

The Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)[94] was established in 2003 to promote and facilitate forest restoration. It comprises governments, international organizations and non-government organizations, facilitated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In Bonn, Germany in 2011 representatives of organizations and governments involved in GPFLR came together with world leaders at a ministerial round-table organized by the German Government and IUCN. This meeting set a global target for restoration of 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land by 2020. This is not a legally binding target, but rather an ambition that signals the political will of those endorsing it. At the 2014 UN Climate Summit, the Bonn Challenge was integrated into the New York Declaration on Forests,[95] and, as a part of this declaration, Member States also committed to a further target of restoring 350 million hectares by 2030.

[91] See https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/conscious-fashion-and-lifestyle-network
[92] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/about
[93] See https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/DESA-Oceans-VCs.pdf
[94] https://www.forestlandscaperestoration.org/
[95] https://nydfglobalplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NYDF_Declaration.pdf

Commitment platform: All pledges are listed on the Bonn Challenge website,[96] however rather this is not simply a listing process. The Bonn Challenge has a general commitment process whereby consultation with GPFLR members takes place and alignment with national priorities is evaluated before the commitments are announced publicly.[97] The steps involve:

- Expressing interest, by consulting with the GPFLR through its Secretariat and members, and evaluation of the alignment of the potential commitment with national and sub-national priorities and with a set of principles (countries, companies, communities, institutions and others submit commitments to restore degraded lands they own, or have the right to manage)
- Preparing and confirming a contribution to the target, including defining the location and number of hectares, stakeholder support for the restoration initiative, and the planned suite of restoration activities
- Publicising the commitment, through high-profile events and through the Bonn Challenge website

Additional support: A "Barometer" has been developed to help those making commitments to monitor progress.[98] This is a voluntary and flexible progress-tracking tool launched in 2016 by IUCN, with support from the German International Climate Change Initiative. Six pilot countries (Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, Rwanda, Sri Lanka and the United States of America) took part in testing implementation of the Barometer, which was then rolled out to additional countries. The Barometer considers progress across both success factors and results and benefits, in order to provide a comprehensive picture of implementation of forest landscape restoration. The aim is to update pledgers and partners and to assist in accelerating actions and addressing any implementation bottlenecks. Due to the voluntary nature of the Bonn Challenge, the Barometer is not intended to be a compliance or reporting tool. However, the information it aims to provide can be useful for related MEA processes.

5.4 UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now

Launched in 2015, the Climate Neutral Now Initiative[99] was one of several UNFCCC Secretariat initiatives aimed at increasing engagement of non-Party stakeholders (sub-national governments, companies, organizations and individuals) in climate action. The intention was to encourage and support organizations to take urgent action to support achievement of a climate neutral world by 2050. It was essentially a tool to promote additional voluntary action on climate and to provide recognition for it. An organization could become a participant by signing the pledge, following the three steps (Measure, Reduce, Contribute) and reporting on its actions and achievements annually.

While a decision has now been taken to phase down the initiative, it is reported on here as lessons learned may still be illustrative. This decision is based on the recommendations of the Secretary General's High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities[100] which included the following observations:

[96] http://www.bonnchallenge.org/
[97] Wentink 2015 *Landscape restoration: new directions in global governance. The Hague: PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency*
www.pbl.nl/sites/default/files/downloads/Landscape_restoration_WentinkC.pdf
[98] https://www.bonnchallenge.org/progress
[99] https://unfccc.int/climate-neutral-now
[100] https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/high-level-expert-group

- There is concern that low-quality net zero pledges risk undermining the efforts of genuine leaders, creating confusion, cynicism and a failure to deliver urgent climate action.
- Some of those non-state actors making pledges did not follow those pledges with action, despite the urgency set out in the science
- To prevent dishonest climate-related accounting, non-state actors must report publicly on their progress with verified information that can be compared with peers

As a result of these and other concerns, the High-Level Expert Group made a number of recommendations on net zero pledges by non-state actors and their pledges, including the following:

- They must be a commitment by the entire entity, publicly made by leadership
- They must include concrete steps set to achieve ambitious targets
- They must deliver outcomes reflective of their share of the needed global climate mitigation
- They must publicly share comprehensive net zero transition plans
- They must report publicly in detail annually

This report did not intend to undermine genuine action, but was concerned with the potential for "greenwashing" and encouraging small actions when what was needed to tackle to climate crisis was major change by all stakeholders. The focus was in particular on large corporations, financial institutions and cities and regions.

5.5 Possible lessons

Based on this review, the following observations on the use of commitments platforms may be useful in the context of reporting for the new framework instrument. It should be note, however, that there is a lot of variability in the form and function of commitments platforms, which are essentially encouraging, promoting and supporting action rather than being practical as a reporting mechanism. However, their contents could potentially contribute to reporting and review.

Recognition: Encouraging Governments and other stakeholders to make a commitment publicly can be a powerful way to raise attention to environmental concerns and to promote and publicise the actions being taken. For non-state actors (and local governments, the private sector and NGOs in particular) this can be an effective way to raise profile and to encourage others to do so.

Motivation: Raising profile in this way can then also help to increase the potential for building partnerships and to mobilize the necessary resources. Several commitment platforms indicate that part of the purpose of the platform is showcase initiatives so that this has the potential both to further building partnerships and to lead to scaling up.

Pragmatic approach: The approach now used for the SDG Action Platform seems to be effective, with commitments encouraged at a "topic" level within a range of different initiatives (oceans, SIDS, transport) but managed within a single platform in a standard format. These initiatives, such as the UN Ocean Conference also then given a potential focus for both promoting the need for commitment and reporting on commitments already made.

Completeness (or otherwise) of the information available: However, it is very difficult to understand the extent to which information on commitments made is complete, as these platforms are to a large extent promotional tools rather than reporting tools. There are gaps, but are these genuine gaps, or are there actions under way which are not notified on the platform. Also, the extent to which implementation of commitments is tracked is very varied.

Greenwashing: Finally, there is a very clear concern in the climate sector at least of the potential for greenwashing, whether through promoting intentions that are subsequently not followed through, or making small commitments that may look impressive but are insufficient to address the necessary level of climate action.

Encouragement and follow up: If such an approach is to be used effectively it needs to be carefully planned and implemented in order to ensure that it is delivering a useful outcome. This would include consideration of aims, carefully identifying what information was needed, working with those making a commitment to both validate what they are proposing and support them, seeking balanced coverage through working with stakeholder groups, and follow up to ensure tracking of action and impact.

6 Examples of reporting by other stakeholders including the private sector

There is a close relationship between the management of chemicals and waste and the private sector in a range of different ways. The private sector is involved in all stages in the chemicals life cycle, and both produces waste and can be directly involved in waste management. In any consideration of reporting processes, it is therefore of potential value to consider the ways in which the private sector may be either reporting or managing relevant information. The following examples are intended to be illustrative, and in no way cover all of the reporting and information management initiatives. The examples chosen also deliberately consider different aspects of reporting, and different types of stakeholders, and amongst other sources draws examples from the *Study on industry involvement in the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste* prepared by the SAICM Secretariat.[101]

6.1 Sustainability reporting

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)[102] aims to help organizations to be transparent and take responsibility for their impacts by encouraging and supporting use of a global common language for organizations to understand and communicate their impacts. This enables informed dialogue and decision making around those impacts. GRI maintains the world's most comprehensive sustainability reporting standards, developed through an independent, multi-stakeholder process, the standards being available as a public good in multiple languages.

The GRI Standards are a modular system of interconnected standards, comprising *Universal Standards* relevant to all organizations, *Sector Standards* relevant for specific sectors, and *Topic Standards* listing disclosures relevant to a particular topic. For example, there are currently GRI Sector Standards on the oil and gas sector and on agriculture, aquaculture and fishing, and GRI Topic Standards on waste and on occupational health and safety.[103] GRI aims to develop standards for 40 sectors,[104] having started with those seen as having the highest impact. GRI also provides a range of tools and services to support reporting processes at various levels, and certifies existing applications that use GRI content.

According to the KPMG Survey of Sustainability Reporting 2022,[105] 96% of the world's 205 leading companies are now providing sustainability reports, and rates are expected to grow as new regulation on non-financial reporting is introduced. GRI remains the most commonly used reporting standard globally, with increased adoption across two major groups of companies regularly tracked by KPMG. There is, however, regional variation in uptake, the other main standards in use being those of the

[101] See SAICM.IP.4/INF/22
[102] See www.globalreporting.org
[103] See https://www.globalreporting.org/how-to-use-the-gri-standards/gri-standards-english-language/
[104] See https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/sector-program/
[105] See https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/sg/pdf/2022/10/ssr-small-steps-big-shifts.pdf

Sustainability Accounting Standards Board[106] and domestic stock exchange guidance. The report does also express concern that the diverse range of reporting standards currently used around the world makes comparison across companies and markets challenging, however they did also observe that initiatives were under way to seek increased alignment in language on sustainability and risk.

6.2 Chemical Footprint Project and footprint assessments

The Chemical Footprint Project[107] aims to encourage and support businesses as they move towards use of safer chemicals in products, manufacturing and supply chains. The project provides a tool for benchmarking companies as they select safer alternatives and reduce their use of chemicals of high concern, and is primarily targeted at stakeholders rather than Governments. While this approach is focused on a particular event, organization, service, building or product, it is illustrative of efforts to build an improved information base for assessing change in the use of chemicals over time.

The footprint methodology is based on a list of 'chemicals of high concern' that is updated every two years, although respondents are also able to choose instead to measure their chemical footprint using the European Union candidate list of substances of very high concern for authorization. Essentially the chemical footprint is based on the mass of chemicals on this list, and aims to assess change over time in the context of goals set by the company. This is part of a survey that considers management strategy, chemical inventory, footprint measurement, and disclosure and verification. The Chemical Footprint Project provides a range of guidance, tools and webinars to support those participating.

As indicated in the *Study on industry involvement in the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste* prepared by the SAICM Secretariat,[108] the development of a methodology for chemical footprint assessments, building on existing methodologies for ecological risk assessment and material flow accounting, could help to expedite work to phase out use of substances of concern. And the data and information derived from such assessments could certainly help inform reporting and review of progress.

6.3 Environmental Health and Safety databases and inventories

UNEP and ICCA made a submission to the third meeting of the Intersessional Process[109] on "*knowledge management and information sharing for the sound management of industrial chemicals*". This study provided an inventory of the available databases of industrial chemicals in commerce that include information relating to environmental health and safety. In doing so the submission identified general issues that may present barriers to gaining the type of clarity that stakeholders seek on these questions, and identified areas where more information on environmental health and safety is required.

The study, which was also used to inform the Global Chemicals Outlook II,[110] describes the databases and their purpose, and provides information on their scope, strengths, and limitations, and thereby seeks to improve access to knowledge on chemicals. Specifically, the report identifies, describes, and

[106] See https://sasb.org/
[107] www.chemicalfootprint.org
[108] See SAICM.IP.4/INF/22
[109] UNEP/ICCA submission to IP.3 on knowledge management and information sharing
[110] https://www.unep.org/resources/report/global-chemicals-outlook-ii-legacies-innovative-solutions

evaluates the most significant publicly available information sources on environmental health and safety, thereby improving access a wide range of information on industrial chemicals in commerce.

It is clear from the report that there is wide variation in the scope of the databases, and the breadth and depth of information to be found within them. However, it also clear that there is a significant amount of information available in such databases, and that the available information portals while limited proved opportunity to search a range of separate information sources.

6.4 WBCSD Circular Economy Program

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development Circular Economy Program aims to support companies in helping to drive the decoupling of resource consumption and economic performance, through information sharing, new business models, supporting policies, science-based targets and value chain collaboration.[111] This is addressed through a range of activities, including the creation and promotion of both standards and tools including metrics and indicators.

WBCSD has worked with 30 companies to develop a "*universal and transparent framework to measure circularity*", and the Circular Transition Indicators aim to provide a simple, objective and quantitative framework that can be applied to businesses of all industries, sizes, value chain positions and geographies.[112] The Circular Transition Indicators are intended to support companies in measuring their impact, strengthening their reporting capabilities, and to take action in increasing circularity within their operations. The indicators and their use are described in a recent publication (version 4),[113] and the CTI Academy[114] provides access to online training and case studies.

6.5 Indicators

Indicators are widely used in reporting, as has been illustrated in the sections above, and expert workshops and documents on indicators have informed discussions during the Intersessional Process. IOMC provided an information document for the fourth meeting of the Intersessional Process[115] which identifies an initial "long list" of existing indicators relevant and/or meaningful to the chemicals and waste agenda, and also a "screened list" of indicators which met certain criteria including availability of data to establish a baseline, existence of a custodian agency and existence of a methodology to measure progress against the indicator. This document is being revised ahead of ICCM5.

In their document, IOMC proposed that:

- The screened indicators are already available and can represent an initial basis for measuring the progress of the framework but are not sufficient, and could be annexed to the beyond 2020 framework.
- Further work is necessary to have a comprehensive measurement of the progress and impact of the beyond 2020 instrument, including the development of high-level indicators as well as indicators for determined targets.

[111] See www.wbcsd.org/Programs/Circular-Economy
[112] See www.wbcsd.org/Programs/Circular-Economy/Metrics-Measurement/Circular-transition-indicators
[113] See https://www.wbcsd.org/contentwbc/download/16345/233646/1
[114] See https://www.wbcsd.org/Programs/Circular-Economy/Metrics-Measurement/Circular-transition-indicators/CTI-Academy
[115] SAICM/IP.4/INF/39

- Criteria for the selection of indicators should be considered by stakeholders for inclusion in the measurability structure for the beyond 2020 instrument.
- A measurability structure should be developed to support and monitor the new framework, which allows for reporting and monitoring progress in implementation.

This directly relates to the proposed measurability structure for targets and indicators referenced in Section XI and Annex C of the IP Co-chairs "Consolidated Document" following adjournment of the second session of IP4 in Nairobi.[116]

6.6 Possible lessons

Building on existing experience and resources: Many stakeholders are already gathering and sharing valuable data. Wherever possible and appropriate, existing resources should be used so as to reduce the potential reporting burden and increase efficiency. This may also allow for increased focus on the data analysis and the use of data, rather than on data collection.

Common vocabulary and standards: Widespread use of common vocabularies and common standards facilitate data collection and use, and lead to improved communication. Value is increased where there are common glossaries for understanding key terms and concepts, and where vocabularies, standards and glossaries are available in multiple languages.

Support: The effective use of tools and standards can be increased through appropriate use of guidance and case studies, combined with training including online training. Case studies are important as they encourage peer learning.

Indicators: There is a wide range of relevant indicators available, as evidenced by the IOMC study. This includes both indicators derived from data provided by countries, and indicators derived through other means. Indicators can also be used as a tool for encouraging change, as well as for tracking change.

Available information: The evidence seems to suggest that there is a lot of information available, but not necessarily homogenous, complete or in the most appropriate formats. There is also a wide range of tools that encourage stakeholders to improve and use the knowledge available. Consideration may need to be given to how to make more effective use of the information that is out there.

Value of stakeholder providing information: Encouraging and facilitating the provision of information by stakeholders, including the private sector, can result not only in an increase in the information available, but also influence behaviours if approached in the right way.

[116] See annex to SAICM/IP.4/11

7 Harmonization and streamlining of reporting processes

Streamlining and harmonization or reporting has been an issue under discussion in the biodiversity cluster for more than 25 years, much of this work being led by UNEP and UNEP-WCMC working closely with MEA secretariats much of it as part of a broader agenda to increase cooperation and synergies in MEA implementation at all appropriate levels. Harmonization of information management and reporting can be defined as "*those activities that lead to a more integrated process, reduction of duplication and greater sharing of information*", recognizing that "*reporting processes and the reports themselves should be supporting rather than complicating MEA implementation, in particular at the national level*".[117]

7.1 Preconditions for harmonized reporting

In 2009, UNEP-WCMC worked with UNEP and a number of MEA secretariats to explore "*preconditions for harmonization of reporting to biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements*", which reviewed practical work on the topic going back more than a decade. This paper identified a number of different 'preconditions' relevant at different levels as follows,[118] a number of which are more broadly relevant to effective national reporting processes and have also been mentioned above.

Clear purpose for national reporting: It is crucial that national reporting is not just seen as a cumbersome obligation, but as a tool to support implementation. As such it may draw on information that is already available at the national level to: demonstrate compliance; report on implementation and impact; identify challenges and needs; and so on. This should all be information the national focal point needs anyway.

Effective use of reported information: It is essential that MEA governing bodies agree about the way the reported information will be used. It is also essential that the reported information is actually used, and that parties can clearly see and understand the use that has been made of reports that they have submitted.

Arrangements between focal points: At the national level, harmonization of reporting requires cooperative arrangements between national focal points and/or the institutions in charge of implementation of the different MEAs. Of course, this is also critically important to cooperation in implementation.

Arrangements between data-collecting institutions: Any harmonization efforts at the national level would benefit from cooperative arrangements between the national institutions that may be responsible for compiling, collecting and/or managing relevant data and information. Whatever the arrangements, it is essential that this is readily accessible for the focal points or agencies responsible for reporting.

Links between supporting reporting and supporting implementation: Any improvement in data and information management at the national level will also support, and further encourage, harmonized national implementation, and in this context any support for national reporting should be considered

[117] https://www.cbd.int/cooperation/preconditions-harmonization-unep-wcmc-en.pdf
[118] https://www.cbd.int/cooperation/preconditions-harmonization-unep-wcmc-en.pdf

in terms of support for national implementation and the work of national focal points in overseeing that implementation.

Need for careful thought on data and information being collected: Attention needs to be paid to whether the same or similar data and/or information is already being collected by another MEA or intergovernmental process, and what this might mean for national report formats, sharing of reported information, and so on. This can be facilitated at both national and global levels by effective use of reporting tools.

Inter-MEA agreements on information needs and management: The governing bodies of MEAs could identify not only their own information needs, but also where these requirements overlap with those of other MEAs. This could lead to agreements among MEAs on who is collecting what information, avoiding overlaps and duplication. It could also result in MEAs agreeing on which MEA will request which information from their Parties, and subsequently how the information acquired will be shared among the MEAs.

Joint information management systems: Over the years MEAs have considered their approaches to knowledge management, barriers to information capture/management/use, and opportunities for working more collaboratively. At the same time tools such as InforMEA[119] have been developed, and information management platforms relevant to multiple MEAs.[120] Some MEAs have also been examining ways to harmonize information formats, protocols and standards with a view to facilitating information exchange, development of new information products, and support for knowledge management initiatives.

Addressing the different reporting cycles: The widely differing reporting cycles of the MEAs have consistently been identified as a major obstacle for harmonization, at least for the biodiversity-related MEAs. Harmonizing these cycles might be difficult and would involve mandates from the governing bodies of the MEAs involved and in some cases provisions within the MEAs themselves. Those differing cycles might, however, not be a real problem if information systems are better streamlined at the national level.

Mandates from governing bodies: Efforts to harmonize national reporting to MEAs and other intergovernmental processes, needs appropriate mandates from the governing bodies at least with respect to MEAs. While some general mandates exist for some MEAs, any major steps in harmonization would likely require renewed mandates, which themselves would need to be harmonized between the MEAs involved, with an expectation that the governing bodies would then take full account of the outcomes of the mandated work.

Role of key stakeholders: Moving the harmonization agenda forward at the MEA level requires commitment from key stakeholders, including parties and secretariats. The CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting (see below) provides a good example: it was established through the initiative of committed staff members of the MEA secretariats and agencies involved. Committed stakeholders would need to take, or suggest, leadership in driving the harmonization agenda forward.

[119] https://www.informea.org
[120] For example https://www.protectedplanet.net/en and https://speciesplus.net/ from UNEP-WCMC

7.2 Options for enhancing synergies on national reporting

In 2018, the CBD Secretariat was asked to identify "*concrete actions to advance synergies on reporting*"[121] through a consultative process with the secretariats of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Joint Liaison Group, and taking into account the advice of the CBD Informal Advisory Group on Synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions. The Secretariat, with the support of UNEP-WCMC prepared an options paper which was made available as a working document to the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation.[122] Drawing on this report, key options for consideration included the following:

Alignment of goals and targets: The greatest leverage and impact for enhancing synergies in reporting amongst MEAs working on related topics is at the level of alignment of goals, objectives and/or targets. Exploring how the goals, objectives and/or targets of different MEAs and intergovernmental processes relate one to another provides opportunity to facilitate the alignment of activities that respond to these agreements and processes, and therefore also of their associated reporting.

Cooperation in use of indicators at national and global levels: Where appropriate use the same indicators, and also encourage their use at the national level where this is appropriate to national circumstances. This increases cost-effectiveness, and facilitates common messaging. This applies whether the indicators are nationally derived indicators, indicators built from aggregated data and information provided by countries, or globally derived indicators.

Identify thematic areas or issues of common interest to a number of conventions and processes: Review how different MEAs and intergovernmental processes and their reporting frameworks relate, with the aim of identifying where there is reporting on thematic areas or issues of common interest, and therefore where common guidance, approaches and definitions might prove effective and increase efficiency, and potentially lead in the future to a more integrated approach to information management and reporting.

Pilot test a modular reporting approach on identified issues: Some issues may be of interest across multiple MEAs and intergovernmental processes. As a result, there is potential for developing common reporting formats whereby a single report can be made that is relevant to all. This may also then contribute to more integrated information management and reporting procedures with respect to those issues at national and international levels, and hopefully also more integrated approaches to implementation and action.

Promote the use of common standards and ontologies: Identify areas where common definitions, classification systems, and standards would further facilitate the sharing of reported data and information, promoting their use where they already exist, and undertaking exploratory work on what it would take to build acceptance of common definitions, classification systems and standards where they do not, and make recommendations on options for a way forward.

Strengthen the implementation of InforMEA: Continue to support the InforMEA[123] programme through the engagement of secretariats, parties and relevant organizations in development and testing of information services to increase the sharing of data and information managed by secretariats,

[121] Paragraph 3(e) of CBD COP decision 14/27
[122] CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.2
[123] https://www.informea.org

including by facilitating access to national reports and communications and the information that they contain.

Implement the Data and Reporting Tool (DaRT): Continue to roll out the DaRT tool (see below) and encourage its use by national reporting teams, further developing and testing it to respond to the identified needs of Parties and secretariats, including through considering links to other reporting and information management tools. As appropriate, convene workshops and develop training materials, guidance and case examples.

Increase interoperability among online reporting tools: Take steps to increase the interoperability among online reporting systems so as to promote and sustain the use of shared reporting applications and software with customized reporting options. As part of this, interoperability with third-party data aggregation systems such as DaRT should be increased. These actions will facilitate reporting and the sharing of data and information at both national and international levels. Increased use of online reporting tools, and increased focus on interoperability, will encourage use of common standards and ontologies.

Liaison among secretariats on national reporting and national communications: Periodically convene meetings of those secretariat staff responsible for national reports and national communications, in order to share experience and discuss work plans. This will also provide opportunity for identifying areas where reporting can be mutually supportive, and for planning joint activities, including joint support for parties and Member States when reporting.

Strengthen coordination mechanisms at the national level: Decisions of numerous MEA governing bodies have encouraged increased coordination amongst MEA focal points at the national level. This might naturally include facilitating coordination related to national reporting in order to, among other things, align data collection and reporting; link focal points and institutions to assist each other in meeting reporting requirements; and foster quality control and consistency of reporting of similar information across MEAs and other intergovernmental processes where appropriate. This sort of approach could build on existing experiences and advice.[124]

Provide guidance on the preparation of reports and communications: MEAs and intergovernmental processes can themselves facilitate alignment in reporting through the guidance that they provide their parties and members on the preparation of reports and communications. For example, the CBD "Resource manual for the sixth national report"[125] identified where relevant information might be found in national reports to other biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions, the United Nations Forum on Forests and a number of other reporting processes.

7.3 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the CBD COP in December 2022[126] clearly recognises that "*enhanced collaboration, cooperation and synergies between the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, other biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes, in line with their respective mandates,*

[124] A number of different coordination mechanisms used by MEA parties are highlighted as examples in the UNEP *Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels*, developed by UNEP-WCMC with the support of the European Union and the Government of Switzerland (www.wcmc.io/sourcebook-web).
[125] See https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/cop-13-21-en-rev.pdf.
[126] CBD COP decision 15/4

including at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, would contribute to and promote implementation of the Framework in a more efficient and effective manner".

The CBD COP also recognised the importance of cooperation and synergies in planning, monitoring reporting and review,[127] and *inter alia* encourages Parties to "*include in their national biodiversity strategies and actions plans and national reports, relevant actions to implement commitments and recommendations under each of the biodiversity-related conventions to which they are a party*" and to "*facilitate, as appropriate, engagement with and coordination among focal points for other multilateral environmental agreements and the Rio conventions*".

Recognising the importance of what is now known as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, many MEAs had already tasked their secretariats with identifying how their own strategic frameworks, objectives and/or activities might relate to the framework so that actions could potentially be mutually supportive. There are such decisions by the governing bodies of CITES, CMS, ITPGRFA, the World Heritage Convention and the Ramsar Convention, as well as aligned decisions by the governing bodies of the BRS and Minamata conventions.[128]

Following adoption of the earlier *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at CBD COP, some of the biodiversity-related conventions reviewed their own strategies against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and produced a "cross-mapping" of targets and objectives to help identify opportunities for mutually supportive implementation. Similarly various MEAs provided advice to their national focal points and responsible institutions on integration of activities relevant to their MEAs into NBSAPs. This process is essentially underway again, with even stronger mandates and engagement this time round.

During the development of what is now known as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework there were two consultation workshops that involved secretariats and representatives of parties of other MEAs, seeking their engagement in development and subsequent implementation of the Framework.[129] The second of these workshops set out a number of conclusions relating to:

- Understanding how each MEA supports implementation of the Framework
- Cooperation in the development and use of indicators
- Inputs from all MEAs to reporting and review on implementation of the Framework
- Building collaborative approaches to implementation
- Joint work programmes across MEAs
- Mechanisms for working together at the national level
- NBSAPs as tools relevant to all MEAs supporting implementation of the Framework
- Regional and transboundary issues relevant to cooperation in implementation
- Operationalization of the Framework through the processes of other MEAs

Discussion on how to include inputs from all MEAs in the reporting and review process on implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at both national and global levels is of keen interest to a number of Governments, and will inevitable be discussed when the CBD

[127] CBD COP decision 15/6
[128] See ITPGRFA GB resolution 13/2022, Ramsar COP resolution XIV/26, CITES COP decision 17.56 (Rev. CoP19) and decision 19.11, CMS COP decision 13.4, WHC decision 44 COM 7.2, aligned decision BC-15/25, decision RC-10/14, and decision SC-10/21 of the BRS convention, and decision MC-4/12 of the Minamata Convention
[129] Reports of the two workshops are CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/6/2 and CBD.SBI/3/INF/29

Subsidiary Body on Implementation meets to consider the review process at its first meeting in 2024. However, no documents are currently available on this.

Following the success of the two consultative workshops referred to above, several MEA governing bodies have called for continuation of the "Bern Process" and have invited UNEP to facilitate this.[130] Plans are under way for a Bern III Conference in early 2024 which will focus on the role and interest of all MEAs in supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and a planning meeting took place in June 2023 to explore ideas. One of the issues raised as being critical was the need to consider reporting and review from the perspective of the contributions of multiple MEAs.[131]

7.4 Collaborative Partnership on Forests

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)[132] is an interagency partnership comprising 15 international organizations, institutions and secretariats that have substantial programmes on forests. The partnership aims "*to help enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals, promote the sustainable management of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end*". This is an example of such a partnership, there are others.

The CPF has facilitated a number of 'joint initiatives', one of which has been on streamlining forest reporting. The objective was to propose ways to reduce the forest-related reporting burden through means such as reducing and streamlining reporting requests, synchronizing reporting cycles, harmonizing data collection methods and increasing data comparability and compatibility, and facilitating the accessibility and flows of existing information.

A particular focus of this work has been development and uptake of a "*global core set of forest indicators*" to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030. Other issues currently being considered include developing an improved methodology for reporting on primary forests, addressing issues of mutual interest relating to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025, as well as making substantive input to approaches for monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress in the implementation of the UN strategic plan for forests 2017-2030.

7.5 Human rights commitments and conventions

There is quite a wide range of intergovernmental commitments and conventions on human rights, covering issues ranging from racial discrimination to economic, social and cultural rights, and from torture to rights of people with disabilities. The approach taken within this cluster of agreements is to have one "*common core document*" or report and a series of "*treaty specific documents*", with the expectation that all countries will complete the common core document, and then they will complete other documents where this is relevant (given that not all Governments are party to all agreements).

[130] See CBD COP decision 15/13, ITPGRFA GB resolution 13/2022 and Ramsar COP resolution XIV/26
[131] The report of this meeting is not available for public release, but the current document is drafted by the rapporteur from the planning meeting.
[132] https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests

The common core document aims to provide general factual and statistical information relevant understanding the political, legal, social, economic and cultural context in which human rights are implemented in the State concerned. The reports cover:

- general information about the reporting state (demographic, economic, social and cultural characteristics of the State; constitutional, political and legal structure of the State)
- general framework for the protection and promotion of human rights (acceptance of international human rights norms; legal framework for the protection of human rights at the national level; framework within which human rights are promoted at the national level; reporting process at the national level; other related human rights information)
- information on non-discrimination and equality and effective remedies

The treaty-specific documents are concerned with information relating to States' implementation of each specific treaty, which is relevant principally to the committee charged with monitoring the implementation of that treaty.

The UN Human Rights Office has compiled guidelines on the form and content of reports to be submitted by states parties to the international human rights treaties,[133] and all relevant documents are available on their webpage on guidelines and tools for treaty body reporting.[134] This includes a training manual and training modules, and other resources including the UN Editorial Manual Online, and the UN Multilingual Terminology Database.

7.6 Reviews that may help in identifying interlinkages in reporting

UNEP has been directly involved in a number of desk studies that have analysed reporting to intergovernmental conventions and processes from the perspective of identifying potential interlinkages. Two of these, neither of which is published, may contribute to any future reviews of how reporting to MEAs may be relevant to reporting associated with the new framework instrument.

a) A report on "*describing the chemicals reporting and interlinkages of different reporting schemes, including in the context of SAICM, with the aim of improving the characteristics and disaggregation of the SDG indicator 12.4.1*". This was carried out in the context of a project supported by the UN Development Account entitled "*Chemicals and waste in the 2030 Agenda – Building capacity in SDG follow-up and review in developing countries*". The report covers reporting to SAICM, the BRS Conventions and the Minamata Convention, and is dated 2020.

b) A report on "*Reporting obligations that intersect the chemicals and waste and biodiversity clusters*". This report, prepared for the UNEP Law Division, explores options for approaches and tools for enhanced reporting and action, and considers the Montreal Protocol, and the Basel, Stockholm and Minamata conventions, as well as four of the biodiversity-related conventions (CBD, CITES, CMS and Ramsar) and the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.

These reports maybe useful in informing any future liaison with those collecting and managing data and information through MEA reporting, to ensure there is alignment of interests, mutual interests are reinforced, and any potential duplication is avoided.

[133] https://undocs.org/HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6
[134] https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/guidelines-and-tools-treaty-body-reporting

7.7 Tools that support harmonization and streamlining of reporting

Three examples of tools are provided here that aim to support harmonization and streamlining of reporting in different ways. Each of these is already used for multiple MEAs. These are not the only examples, and should be taken as illustrative.

Data and Reporting Tool for MEAs: The Data and Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT)[135] developed by UNEP provides parties to MEAs with a private and secure working space to organize, share, and maintain information, data and knowledge across conventions and across reporting purposes. In doing so DaRT facilitates the re-use of information in the spirit of "enter once, re-use several times", helping to reduce the burden of reporting and foster communication and cooperation amongst focal points and across ministries. The organizing structure within DaRT is the visualization of cross-mapping between the strategies (or equivalent)[136] of the different MEAs in one digital space. Tagging information from reports to MEAs using these strategies, combined with understanding the relationship between the strategies, facilitates identification of input to previous reports that may be of value on any given topic.

Using the framework of interrelated global and regional goals and targets not only facilitates reporting, once the necessary information has been uploaded from previous reports, it also supports planning, monitoring and verification of progress in implementation, development of joint communications, gap analysis and further revising and updating strategies and action plans. The DaRT website includes a variety of tools and a user guide to support users, and interoperability and APIs facilitate linkage to other tools and databases.

Online Reporting System: The Online Reporting System (ORS)[137] developed by UNEP-WCMC working in collaboration with a number of MEA secretariats, is a web application that aims to streamline the environmental reporting process. It provides the means to create and manage multiple questionnaires that can be answered by any number of registered users. The system incorporates multiple features that aim to make the reporting process easier for both those creating and using the questionnaires, and allow for greater flexibility in questionnaire structure.

Essentially this would be a tool used by secretariats to receive the information provided by parties, which may in turn come from tools like the DaRT. It has been used by at least eight different MEAs to date with UNEP-WCMC support, and is currently under review and upgrade as part of a UNEP project supported by the European Union. While the tool is currently used separately by each MEA, it has the potential to support increased harmonization in approaches to reporting, and to increase access to reported information. This will be even easier to achieve following the current upgrade. The new iteration will also support further analytical and presentational functions.

InforMEA: InforMEA[138] is the UN information portal on MEAs, intended as a 'one stop shop' for accessing information maintained by MEAs searchable using key terms across treaty texts, decisions of MEA governing bodies, national plans and reports, laws and so on. It also aims to capture information on focal points and events. All content is harvested from MEA websites using APIs. The aim is both to increase access to the information in a more integrated way, and to bring together those

[135] https://dart.informea.org
[136] https://dart.informea.org/strategy
[137] See https://ors.ngo and http://orssupport.unep-wcmc.org
[138] https://informea.org

involved in managing information within MEA secretariats so that they can work together more effectively.

While not directly relevant to the topic of reporting, it is of interest to note that InforMEA also promotes and facilitates access to online courses on MEAs[139] in a range of different clusters. They are also developing a 'negotiators toolkit' which aims to increase understanding of MEA negotiations and meetings.[140]

7.8 Possible lessons

Alignment verses common targets: While common targets would be helpful, this is not easy to achieve given the nature of intergovernmental negotiations. However once different bodies have adopted their strategic plans and targets (or equivalent) it is entirely appropriate to consider how the frameworks and targets of different MEAs and intergovernmental processes relate, where mutual support might be achieved and what sorts of joint actions might be considered. This then may also have implications for reporting, so that one MEA or intergovernmental process can demonstrate how it supports another, and *vice versa*.

Aligned decisions: The call for continuation of the 'Bern Process' is quite powerful as it comes from the governing bodies of four different biodiversity-related conventions meeting in 2022. The same is true for the many decisions concerning the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework coming from MEAs in both the biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters, asking their secretariats to explore how their MEAs can contribute to and benefit from supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Interagency collaboration: In situations where there are multiple agencies and MEA secretariats with an interest in particular topics there is value in developing a mechanism of some form for facilitating interagency collaboration. Such a collaboration mechanism could address monitoring, reporting and review within the context of that topic.

Modular reporting: Where there is a topic of interest to multiple MEAs, there may be an argument for jointly developing a reporting format for a 'modular' report that meets the needs of those MEAs. This has the benefit of not only reducing a potential reporting burden, but also encouraging 'joined up thinking' where it might not otherwise exist. There have been numerous calls for such an approach to be trialled.

Core document approach: Within different clusters the approach used by the human rights treaty system of having a common core document and then treaty-specific documents may be appropriate and worth exploring.

National verses global level: It is important to appreciate that there are some activities appropriate at the national level for achieving harmonization and streamlining, and others at the global level (including actions to support countries).

Common sense: When developing new reporting templates, consider carefully what others might already be collecting and where there might be overlaps (or even gaps) find ways to address this so that potential for duplication is reduced.

[139] https://elearning.informea.org
[140] https://informea.org/en/negotiators-toolkit

Common vocabulary: Use of a common vocabulary can be helpful in ensuring common understanding, and as appropriate this can be supported by a glossary. Where necessary this can identify how commonly used concepts relate one to another so that the reason behind not having a common approach is clear where this is not possible.

Tools: Various tools are available to support harmonization and streamlining.

8 Analysis of options

The preceding sections have considered the experiences of a wide range of reporting initiatives in order to explore the range of approaches and processes that are employed, and to be able to draw on the lessons that have been learnt. The primary focus has been on reporting by countries, in particular with respect to reporting progress in implementing intergovernmental agreements and processes. However, these sections also include examples of reporting by other stakeholders, and examples relating to notification of events and to showcasing of actions intended or taken. These are inevitably example, but these examples have been selected in order to give a wide range of experiences which can be drawn on in considering reporting for the new framework instrument.

This report is being prepared in advance of ICCM5 as an information document, however it is not expected that reporting *per se* will be discussed in any detail at that meeting. The following is therefore presented as a series of 'considerations' and/or 'options' that can inform discussion during ICCM5 and then be worked on further during the intersessional period following ICCM5, based on the outcome of ICCM5 and any discussions and decisions related to reporting and review. Note that some issues are relevant to more than one section in the following and have therefore been repeated, although the context may differ.

8.1 General principles for reporting

The following principles may be useful in helping to frame the reporting process and helping to build confidence in it. They draw on principles originally discussed in the context of CBD national reporting in its early years, but have been modified to take account of other more recent reporting experiences in both the biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters.

a) The primary focus should be on effective implementation, with the purpose of reporting being to further promote and facilitate implementation.
b) Reporting processes should be made as easy as possible for those responsible for reporting to engage with, seeking efficient use of their time.
c) Data and information should only be collected through reporting processes if it is going to be used for an identified purpose, and that purpose should be made clear to those reporting.
d) Wherever possible, the reporting process should draw on data and information that those responsible for implementation are already collecting and managing for their own purposes.
e) Data and information should not be requested again if it is already available, rather those responsible for reporting should be asked to review and confirm that it is still current.
f) Continuity of format and content in different reporting rounds should be the default position, for ease of use, and to facilitate tracking of progress over time in an efficient manner.
g) Carefully consider the objective of collecting data and information once but using many times, including in the context of avoiding duplicative reporting to multiple agreements/processes.

These principles (and potentially others yet to be identified) need to be taken into account in developing and implementing other 'options' identified in the remainder of this section. While each of the principles seems fairly obvious, taken together they will help in designing a more relevant and cost-effective approach to reporting.

8.2 Content of reports

The content of reports will need to be based on the text of the new framework instrument, which it is assumed will be adopted at ICCM5, and in particular on the strategic objectives and associated targets. As these have not yet been agreed it would be premature to go into detail, but based on experience of other reporting processes it can be assumed that data and information on the following might be considered for inclusion in any reporting:

- readiness and capacity to implement the new framework instrument
- actions taken to implement the new framework instrument
- impact of those actions (assessed directly or through proxies)
- resources mobilized to support implementation of the new framework instrument
- key indicators of change
- identification of relevant baselines for all of the above (so that change over time is clear)
- sharing of experiences

However, once the data and information needs have been identified, thought needs to be given to the following, recognising that the answers may vary depending on the data and information required:

- most effective means to collect the required data and information
- most politically appropriate means to collect the required data and information
- periodicity of data and information collection (given rates of change over time vary)
- whether collection is through a single process or multiple processes
- focusing as far as possible of using existing data and information resources

All of the above will help in defining the types of reports needed, their contents and periodicity, whether information will also be needed from other sources, and if so how to ensure that it is collected through a processes that are seen as legitimate. With respect to the last point, a key issue is who is responsible for providing the report.

8.3 Use of reported information

The content and periodicity of reports, and the process(es) used to capture any reported data and information is closely related to the use that is going to be made of the reported data and information. This therefore needs to be carefully thought through in planning any reporting process. The key uses made of the reporting process and reported data and information mainly relate to the following:

- review of progress in implementation
- identification of gaps and limitations in implementation
- targeted reviews of specific themes or issues
- using the above information as a basis for promoting and facilitating further action
- reviewing change in status of key indicators or parameters over time
- encouraging self-assessment with the aim of encouraging improvement over time
- sharing of experiences through case studies and lessons learnt

It needs to be clear who is going to be using the reported data and information, and in order to do what, including how any data and information captured through reporting is going to be synthesised and/or analysed. This would include understanding the responsibilities of different bodies (secretariat, open-ended working group, bureau, ICCM) for taking action.

In any reporting process it is also important to communicate how the data and information requested is going to be used. Not only is this important context for those providing the reports, but it also helps to build confidence in the reporting process and recognition of why it is important to engage.

8.4 Types of report

While the most common form of report is the periodic national report, it is important to recognise that this is not the only form that communications might take, and each of the following is used in one way or another to report on implementation of intergovernmental agreements and processes or to respond to mandated procedures. Whether these are voluntary or mandated, regular or *ad hoc* depends on the nature of the agreement or process.

- periodic national report or communication
- thematic report for specific purpose
- notification of a specific event or concern
- sharing of requested information
- sharing of experience

In the case of the Minamata Convention, the periodic report is done in two phases, with some questions addressed every two years, while others are addressed every four years.

Some intergovernmental agreements use a combination of report types to address different issues, for example the Ramsar Convention has a periodic national report, requires Parties to provide certain information on any sites to be included on the List of Wetlands of International Importance, and requires Parties to inform the Secretariat of any changes in ecological character of listed wetlands.

8.5 Indicators

Many reporting and review processes use indicators of some form. This has been the case in the past for SAICM, and future use of indicators has been the subject of a number of workshops and discussions during the Intersessional Process. Important in these discussion have been both the most effective means of tracking change, and how to effectively build on existing knowledge and resources. In this context, key considerations with respect to indicators and the reporting process are as follows:

- indicators and metrics have potential value at both national and global levels
- indicators can play a role in driving change as well as in tracking it
- indicators have value for review and planning future action
- indicators have value for communications and public awareness
- indicators and metrics can be used to track both “process” and “impact”
- indicators can be used to track resource mobilization and availability of resources

Each of these considerations has implications for the choice of indicators. However, there is a cost to developing and using indicators and metrics as their value lies in being regularly available over time to allow for efficient tracking of change. They therefore need to be selected carefully with a clear understanding of what their use is intended to achieve, also taking into account the ease and potential cost of delivering them.

Indicators can also be derived through different processes, and the most appropriate approach needs to be chosen based on what is appropriate and feasible, and what the indicators are intended to achieve. In particular:

a) For some issues global indicators can be compiled from nationally submitted data (which could be national datasets on specific topics, yes/no responses to questions, or graded responses to questions).

b) For some issues international organizations are already regularly compiling indicators, in some cases based on data submitted by countries, and in other cases data collected through other methods (for example through other stakeholders or through assessment processes).

An important issue relating to the increased use of indicators is the focus that this can also give to the need to improve monitoring and the use of indicators at the national level. For example, the recent adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its associate monitoring framework is leading to increased attention being paid to the need for capacity-building at the national level with respect to monitoring and use of indicators. This clearly has benefits at the national level, as well as delivering the input to indicators being used at the global level.

8.6 Format of reports

Both the format and content of reports varies widely, fundamentally depending on the nature of the instrument or initiative that has led to the reporting requirement. It is this combination of format and content, and the way in which it is implemented (for example through online reporting) that most influences the amount of time that is likely to be needed in developing and submitting reports.

Format generally covers two key issues, the structure of the report, and the form of the questions or information requests within it. Ideally the structure will be fairly logical following goals and targets where they exist, or organized around mandated activities. The format may then include one or more of the following:

- checkbox with yes/no or simple scoring (for example a 1-5 scale)
- selection from standard lists of items
- free text (potentially to augment basic information already collected through checkbox)
- indicators
- data (which may be for indicators or another purpose)
- inclusion of additional documents (potentially to augment other components)

There may also be need for context specific questions, which are only responded to depending on response to earlier questions. This is so for the Minamata Convention, for example, and for the Convention on Migratory Species where there are questions relating to each listed species found within the reporting Party.

8.7 Online reporting and dashboards

Most reporting to intergovernmental agreements and processes can now be done through online reporting tools, which have a number of benefits including:

- increased consistency in reported information
- opportunity to embed guidance on reporting into the report template itself
- opportunity to prefill reports with previously reported information
- facilitates analysis and synthesis of reported information
- facilitates tracking of reporting
- facilitates use of reported data in other applications, where this is appropriate
- access to past reports made through the same tool

Many secretariats have developed their own online reporting tools meeting their own specific needs however a number of secretariats have worked with UNEP-WCMC to develop the Online Reporting System.[141] This suite of tools is currently under redevelopment with the support of UNEP and the European Union, drawing on lessons learnt from working with secretariats and parties from a range of intergovernmental agreements over a number of years. The renewed set of tools will become available during 2024.

When reporting is done through online reporting systems this facilitates the use of dashboards to illustrate progress in reporting and to present reported information. Numerous examples of such dashboards are available for review to assess what might be done for reporting relating to the new framework instrument, potentially interesting examples being the Minamata Convention Dashboard,[142] the dashboard for the WHO International Health Regulations self-assessment,[143] and the Sendai Framework Monitor.[144]

8.8 Capacity-building and reporting tools

In most cases secretariats to intergovernmental agreements and processes provide a range of support to those responsible for reporting, with the dual aim of facilitating reporting and increasing reporting rates. In addition to online reporting tools referred to above this includes the following:

- reporting guidelines and manuals
- webinars
- training workshops
- helpdesks
- feedback on draft reports, and/or peer review

For a number of international agreements, preparation of national reports is one of the tasks regularly supported by the GEF. In facilitating this support, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have supported both parties and secretariats in carrying out activities identified in the list above. They have also developed other tools aimed at facilitating reporting, supported not only by the GEF but also by other donors including the European Union.

For many countries, capacity-building is needed not only for reporting and the associated use of indicators, but also for the monitoring and data management and use necessary to underpin implementation. Capacity-building activities supporting the implementation of a number of intergovernmental agreements and programmes have included development of tools that are valuable for managing and using data and information at the national level and also contribute to reporting.

8.9 Using reporting to drive change

Use of indicators can be a means of trying to effect change as well as of tracking change over time. For example, the approach to reporting for the WHO International Health Regulations described above (Section 4.2) which focuses on a number of 'core capabilities' relating to public health events with 20

[141] https://ors.ngo/
[142] https://mercuryconvention.org/fr/node/4468
[143] https://extranet.who.int/e-spar
[144] https://sendaimonitor.undrr.org/

indicators each comprising a range of capability levels. The underlying aim is to improve capacity for implementing the regulations, and this information provides the basis.[145]

Approached properly the reporting process can also help build whole-of-government and whole-of society approaches to implementation and help in engaging all stakeholders in review. For example, the SDG VNR process described above (Section 4.1) anticipates broad stakeholder engagement in the review process at the national level before the VNR report is completed and submitted for review at the High-Level Political Forum.[146]

8.10 Relationship to other reporting processes

Despite the fact that each MEA and intergovernmental process is relatively discreet with its own aim and objectives, there remain potential overlaps in the data and information that is needed for implementing them, and therefore there is potential for duplication in what is requested in reports. Strategies that have been used to address this include:

- encouraging and using common indicators where this is appropriate
- identification of potential sources of information in reporting guidelines
- liaison amongst secretariats relating to information management and reporting
- encouraging use of reporting tools such as DaRT at the national level

This can also mean that some of the content of reports to one intergovernmental agreement or process may be relevant to another. For example, when CBD COP 15 discussed mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, they recognised the framework covers issues relevant to the interests of other instruments, and that cooperation will be needed in implementation.[147] The results of this cooperation and collaboration as it plays out in implementation at the national level will need to be reported on in some manner so that its impact is understood, whether in CBD National Reports or reports to other MEAs and processes, or both.

8.11 Implications of reporting

In this study there has been no attempt made to assess the cost of reporting. There are costs to governments and others in compiling and submitting reports, and there are costs for secretariats in overseeing the reporting process and in synthesising and analysing reports. There are also costs in terms of the time taken to review reported information by governing and subsidiary bodies. It is important therefore to consider very carefully:

- what data and information is really needed in reports, and on what periodicity
- the most cost-effective means of compiling and managing that data and information
- any actions that can be taken to support and facilitate the process

It follows that the budget available to any secretariat needs to be sufficient to oversee the reporting process and prepare reported information for use by their instrument's advisory and governance bodies. It also follows that associated capacity-building should be sufficient to support governments

[145] See document WHO/ISE/GCR/2013.2 Checklist and Indicators for Monitoring Progress in the Development of IHR Core Capacities in States Parties
[146] See https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/hand-book/VNR Handbook 2023 EN_0.pdf
[147] CBD COP decision 15/4, decision 15/6 and decision 15/13

in full engagement in the process where this is needed, or otherwise the benefit of reporting needs to be sufficiently clear.

8.12 Indicative next steps

Drawing on the above, the following could be considered as a series of steps to be taken following completion of negotiation on the new framework instrument.

j) Identify data and information required in order track implementation of the agreed text and how it will be used in order to achieve what *(needs driven, not data driven)*.

k) Consider the source of the data and information, and what will be compiled through national reports and what will be drawn from other sources *(measurability structure)*.

l) Liaise with those collecting and managing relevant data and information to ensure there is alignment of interests, mutual interests are reinforced, and any potential duplication is avoided.

m) Ensure that the necessary methodologies and guidance are available for defining and collecting the identified data and information.

n) Design and review the format of reports and dashboards that will be used to present, synthesis and analyse reported data and information.

o) Develop costed plans for implementing the reporting process, including taking full account of using reported data and information *(synthesis, analysis and follow up)*.

p) Design and test a process and tools for compiling data and information being collected through national reports, including dashboards for presenting reported data and information.

q) Roll out the process and tools for compiling data and information being collected through national reports, including dashboards for presenting reported data and information.

r) Design and implement a package of measures to support and encourage use of the reporting process, including as appropriate capacity-building.

Annex – Details of MEA reporting

This annex provides further detail on the reporting processes of a range of international agreements, set out in a standard format. When compiling this information, it was not the intention to cite every document, report and website, but to instead provide sufficient summary to understand the processes and to draw out the experience and lessons learnt. Links and references are provided to facilitate follow up where this might be needed in the future.

1. Rio conventions

There are three conventions closely related to the 1992 "Earth Summit", the UN Conference on Environment and Development, that took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, despite the fact that none of them was actually adopted there. As a result, they are collectively known as the Rio conventions. The three secretariats work together through the Joint Liaison Group. The three conventions are:

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1.1 Convention on Biological Diversity

Webpage: National reporting

Mandate: National reports are mandated by Article 26 of the Convention, and the latest round of reports by decision XIII/27 with the sixth national reports due by 31 December 2018. The next two reporting rounds are addressed in decision 15/6.

Format and content: The format of the report has tended to change with each reporting round. Decision XIII/27 includes both guidelines and templates for the sixth national report which uses both check boxes and text fields to compile information primarily on progress in achieving national targets and national contribution to the globally adopted targets. Guidelines and a draft template for the seventh and eighth national reports were adopted in decision 15/6, and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation has been requested to further develop and/or pilot the template.

Tools: CBD has its own online reporting tool developed in advance of the most recent reporting round, and a user manual to support Parties in using it. The tool and manual are available in all UN languages.

Additional support: The CBD Secretariat has also prepared a "resource manual", which, *inter alia*, identifies potential information sources that Parties might use, including identifying where reports to other intergovernmental processes may be relevant. The GEF provides funding for eligible Parties which covers national reporting amongst other activities, and UNEP and UNDP have worked with the CBD Secretariat to provide supporting materials.

Use of reported information: The content of the national reports is used in the following:

- Global Biodiversity Outlook
- Review of progress in implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (CBD/COP/15/9)
- Analysis of the contribution of targets established by Parties and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (CBD/COP/15/9/ADD2)
- Content of reports is also available online, including through various search tools/dashboards

Success of latest reporting round: As of 30 September 2020, 180 Parties had submitted their report, 91 using the online reporting tool, and 89 submitted offline. Only 47 of the reports were submitted by the deadline. More reports have been submitted since September 2020.

Reviews of reporting:

- CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD1 includes both experiences and lessons learned, and evaluation of the use of the online reporting tools.
- UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/10 includes the following useful points amongst the lessons learned.
    a) National reports and the reporting process can serve multiple purposes (national review; contribution to global review; awareness raising), but multiple formats may be needed to meet these multiple purposes.
    b) There are both advantages and disadvantages of free-flow and structured reporting formats, and reporting formats might usefully draw upon the strengths of each approach.
    c) Sufficient time needs to be given to Parties for preparing their national reports.
    d) Proper and timely provision of technical assistance where it is needed is important for facilitating the process of report preparation.
    e) Timely and easier access by eligible countries to funding for the preparation of national reports is also crucial to facilitating the reporting process.
    f) There is a need to coordinate reporting requests from various bodies of the Convention and reduce reporting burdens placed on Parties.
    g) There is a need for the COP and individual Parties to make better use of reports. If reports were more widely used, there would be enhanced political will to prepare them.
- UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/INF/16 included guiding principles in drafting national reports.
    k) Base the report on information that is required already by the national focal point to ensure that the country is meeting the commitments made in acceding to the Convention.
    l) Ensure that the report covers the priority areas identified by the COP in its decisions, and as interpreted by SBSTTA and the Secretariat.
    m) Cover what is relevant to implementation of the Convention, not just what is being done because the Convention has been acceded to.
    n) Emphasise progress in development and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and/or National Biodiversity Action Plan.
    o) Summarise the current status and trends in biodiversity, biodiversity "services", use and threats, and progress in development of programmes to evaluate and monitor these.
    p) Avoid repeating information from national biodiversity strategies and action plans, or national country studies and state of environment reports (they can be appended).
    q) Concentrate on measurable progress since the last report, and identify the progress that is expected before the next report is due.
    r) Use indicators to show progress in achieving targets set in the National Biodiversity Strategy and/or National Biodiversity Action Plan, and in previous reports.
    s) Emphasise information that will help other Contracting Parties in their implementation of the Convention, in particular both good practice and bad experience.
    t) Design reports that are useful for multiple purposes with minimal modification, for example as material for journalists, or education.

1.2 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Webpage: This page on the UNCCD national reporting process provides an overview and links to the PRAIS4 reporting platform for the current reporting period (the second reporting period under the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework), together with links to the reporting manual and glossary. The PRAIS3 Reporting Platform provides access to the reports and reporting tools used for the first reporting period which ended in 2018. PRAIS is the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System that has been in place since 2010.

Mandate: Article 26 of the Convention requires each Party to report on measures that they have taken to implement the Convention, following formats and timetables defined by the COP. The reporting procedures, and the role and responsibility of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of

the Convention (CRIC) in reviewing the reports is set out in decision 13/COP.13 and decision 15/COP.13.

Format and content: Reporting focuses on progress made in implementation of the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework adopted through decision 7/COP.13. The report, the detail of which is set out in the PRAIS4 Reporting Manual, includes a range of indicators adopted in various COP decisions, as well a number of new indicators being (voluntarily) tested in the current reporting period. The indicator and monitoring framework set out in the resource manual has a hierarchical structure, which identifies both what is being measured and how it should be measured (metrics/proxies. The report also includes narrative reporting on national experiences on implementation.

Tools: Reporting is carried out online through the PRAIS4 Reporting Platform, which has been upgraded since the previous reporting round responding to feedback from users. Information submitted can be summarised into standalone country reports which are sharable outside the system, and in addition analytical, synthesis and visualization tools are being developed. Insofar as is possible, report forms are pre-filled with default national estimates based on available global data sources, which Parties then have the possibility to verify or replace. New functionality has also been incorporated to allow integration of geospatial datasets to facilitate location of boundaries of land degradation hotspots and of voluntary land degradation neutrality target zones. A tool developed by Conservation International called Trends.Earth supports preparation and analysis of data for national reporting in a format that can be automatically transferred to PRAIS. The aim is that Parties will be able to use the reporting tools provided to improve their own capacity to monitor the implementation of the Convention at national level. Online reporting is supported by a PRAIS4 user manual available to registered users.

Additional support: The process and format is set out in the PRAIS4 Reporting Manual, and there is also a PRAIS4 reporting glossary. The Secretariat convenes training and capacity-building workshops and webinars and an e-course in order to help Parties prepare for their reporting, collaborating with other organizations to do so. There is also an online helpdesk. There is also a quality assurance procedure prior to final submission, aimed at ensuring the provision of consistent, transparent, comparable, accurate and complete information. Other resources to support reporting include Good Practice Guidance for SDG Indicator 15.3.1, and Good Practice Guidance for National Reporting on UNCCD Strategic Objective 3.

Use of reported information: National reports submitted during PRAIS3 informed the preliminary analysis documents considered by CRIC 17, one on each of the five strategic objectives. These documents also included information from other sources. On the basis of conclusions and recommendations included in these documents, CRIC passed recommendations to COP 14 concerning further action that might to be taken to enhance implementation, which were then included as appropriate in COP 14 decisions.

Success of latest reporting round: PRAIS3 officially concluded on 31 August 2018. At that time a total 141 reports had been submitted (72% of Parties), of which 138 provided data suitable for the preliminary analyses (see ICCD/CRIC(17)/INF.2).

Reviews of reporting: Following PRAIS3, the Secretariat prepared a document on improving the procedures for communication of information as well as for the quality and format of reports (ICCD/CRIC(17)/8 as amended by ICCD/CRIC(17)/8/Corr.1), which addressed substantive aspects of reporting, capacity-building for reporting and the reporting timeline and quality assurance processes. Consideration of this review led to decision 11/COP.14 which provided directions on the enabling environment for reporting, methodological issues, and actions to be taken at the national level, as well as specific action to take with respect to strategic objectives 3 and 5. These directions by the COP included:

- Improvement in methodological guidance and tools for reporting
- Improvement in default data offered to Parties for verification or replacement
- Support for national efforts to improve information sharing

- Collaboration with partner organizations on both default data and capacity-building

1.3 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Webpage: The webpage on transparency summarises how reporting and review underpin global climate action and support, and provides links to other pages with further information including details of available support and training, and access to data and tools. The approach to reporting and transparency is currently in transition, and explanation of how this transition is working is provided on a page on moving towards the enhanced transparency framework.

Mandate: Article 13 of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC establishes an "enhanced transparency framework". The "modalities, procedures and guidelines" to operationalise the enhanced transparency framework were agreed in decision 18/CMA.1 and further elaborated in decision 5/CMA.3. This builds on and supersedes earlier reporting arrangements, and is in the early stages of implementation.

Format and content: Formats and content for reporting was agreed in in decision 5/CMA.3, and includes: common reporting tables for information in national inventory reports of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases (annex I of the decision); common tabular formats for information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions (annex II of the decision; common tabular formats for information on financial technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided and mobilized as well as support needed and received (annex III of the decision); and outlines for the biennial transparency report (annex IV) and national inventory report (annex V). There is also an outline for the technical expert review reports (annex VI) to be completed by technical expert review teams. Content will be provided in both narrative and tabular form, and include indicators relevant to the nationally determined contributions.

Tools: According to the website a variety of systems and tools are available to Parties and technical experts to submit the national climate reports, support the technical expert review process, and to compile and analyse the reported data. These include the GHG data interface which provides access to the most recent data on GHG emissions and removals. Following agreement on the final common reporting tables and formats in 2021, development of tools for submitting national reports is under way.

Additional support: There is a Reference Manual which provides consolidated information on the enhanced transparency framework, which aims to clarify the requirements for reporting and review, and the relevance of reported information to implementation. The Secretariat has also been providing briefings at side events in the margins of key meetings (see for example this side event at SB 65 in June 2022). There is clear recognition that financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries is fundamental, and in that context a Consultative Group of Experts has been established as the main channel for the provision of technical assistance and support, and there is a MRV/Transparency helpdesk providing access to technical resources with a library, forum and expert database.

Use of reported information: Regular reporting by Parties on the implementation and achievement of their national objectives is intended to provide a snapshot of global progress in relation to the objectives of the Paris Agreement, facilitating global assessment of collective progress the "global stocktake". The reported information undergoes peer assessment, which aims to build mutual trust and confidence among Parties, as well as providing a better understanding of current climate actions and levels of support needed and provided. The process also provides the opportunity to learn from each other by sharing achievements, best practices, and experiences.

Success of latest reporting round: Given this is a new process still in development there is no information yet on success. However, the enhanced transparency framework has been developed taking account of previous experience of monitoring, review and verification under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. As part of this an initiative on universal participation in the enhanced transparency framework has been established, with the objectives of increasing political awareness and buy-in,

strengthening institutional and individual capacity, enhancing access to financial, technical and capacity-building support, and building an efficient infrastructure.

Reviews of reporting: The enhanced transparency framework currently being put in place draws on experience over many years of the systems and approaches developed for the periodic collection, reporting and review of Parties' relevant data and information. Previous experience and future plans were discussed in a range of meetings under the agenda item "methodological issues under the Paris Agreement on transparency", also informed by submissions from Parties and observers.

2. Chemicals and waste conventions

While there are many international agreements concerned with the management of chemicals and waste, in this study focus was placed on the following five:

- Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Level

3.1 Minamata Convention on Mercury

Webpage: There is a webpage providing information and key links on the first full national reports process, which were due to be completed by 31 December 2021

Mandate: Article 21 of the Convention requires Parties to report on measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention, on the effectiveness of such measures, and on possible challenges in meeting the objective of the Convention. Further detail on timing and format was agreed in decision MC-1/8 and decision MC-4/8.

Format and content: The reporting format agreed in decision MC-1/8 includes tick boxes and narrative answers in five broad categories: general information on the Party; information on measures taken and their effectiveness; possible challenges; comment on the reporting process; additional comment. The full national report is composed of 43 multi-tiered questions. Attachments can also be included. A number of the questions are marked with an asterisk. Response to questions marked with an asterisk are expected every two years, with the first deadline at the end of 2019, and the full report every four years with the first deadline at the end of 2021. Some clarification of the reporting format is provided in decision MC-4/8.

Tools: There is an online reporting tool developed by the Secretariat based on the reporting template annexed to decision MC-1/8. This is available in all six UN languages, and all Parties are actively encouraged to use it. The reporting template has also been made available to Parties as an "offline paper version", in anticipation that this will help Parties prepare their national reports prior to submission through the online reporting tool. However, where necessary the Secretariat will accept reports submitted through an "electronic paper version". Reports submitted by Parties are checked by the Secretariat for completeness before being made available through the website, and where necessary the Secretariat may follow up with Parties.

Additional support: Through decision MC-3/13 the Secretariat was asked to work with Parties to prepare guidance for completing the full national reports in order to facilitate complete and consistent national reporting. The current version of this draft guidance is provided in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/17 which the Secretariat were requested to submit to COP-5 for adoption following further opportunity for comment by Parties and other stakeholders. The Secretariat also ran a series of online sessions focused on supporting national reporting, recordings of which remain available.

Use of reported information: The COP draws on the information in national reports in its reviews and evaluations of the implementation of the Convention, supported by the Implementation and Compliance Committee. The national reporting dashboard compiles the quantitative responses from the first full national reporting under the Convention, which covered the period 16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020. The reporting format allows for responses to questions to be related to the relevant Convention article. There are 135 data visualisations, including pie charts with overall values in percentages, and stacked bar charts illustrating data broken down by region. Data comes direct from the Parties' response in the online reporting tool database, and graphics are generated automatically in real time.

Success of latest reporting round: The first full national reports had a relatively high reporting rate of 94% (116 out of 123 Parties), with 87 Parties having completed their reports by the deadline of 31 December 2021. The 2021 national reports can be accesses on the Convention website. The national reporting dashboard includes a section on reporting performance.

Reviews of reporting: Review of experiences from the first full reporting period is still under way. In decision MC-4/8 the Secretariat was asked to identify any questions regarding the reporting format that may pose challenges to Parties in responding, and to propose related clarifications, as appropriate, to COP-5. This is in addition to completing work on the draft guidance for national reporting, also due by COP-5. The final section of the national report concerns "comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements".

3.2 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

Webpage: There is webpage providing an overview and mandate for reporting, with links down the left-hand side to other related webpages.

Mandate: Article 13 on transmission of information requires Parties to report annually on action they have taken to implement the convention as well as on: transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes in which they have been involved; information on impacts on human health and the environment of the generation, transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes or other wastes; information on related bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements they have entered into; information on accidents occurring during transboundary movements and disposal, and action taken; information on disposal options operating; and development of technologies for reduction and/or elimination of production of hazardous wastes and other wastes. There are also obligations to inform other Parties, in some cases through the Secretariat, of various issues that may concern them, such as accident during transboundary movement and decisions to ban import or export of hazardous wastes. These are summarised in a leaflet.

Format and content: The reporting format from 2018 onwards was adopted in decision BC-12/6 as modified by decision BC-13/9 and decision BC-14/10. The revised format is available online, and there is a manual for completing the format for national reporting. Formats and manuals for earlier reporting rounds are also still available. The format includes yes/no answers, completion of tables, narrative detail/comments, and upload of documents. Some of this is hierarchical in structure; further detail is only requested where the answer is "yes".

Tools: There is an Electronic Reporting System (ERS) which was developed to make it easier for Parties to submit their national reports, and its use is supported by a user manual (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/21) as well as the manual for completing the format for national reporting. Wherever possible questions, tables and comments fields are prefilled from the previous versions of a Party's national report. Data in tables can be added line-by-line, or uploaded from files where appropriate templates are used. Summary information on the online reporting database is also available here.

Additional support: The draft manual for national reports referred to above provides support and advice in completing the reporting template, and there is also a "benchmark report" which aims to demonstrate what a national report might ideally look like, and a guidance document on national

reporting, which aims to be a practical guide for national technical officers responsible for reporting. There have been webinars to support national reporting (a series of six webinars including this introduction), and there have also been workshops, some of them covering reporting under both the Basel and Stockholm conventions. There is also guidance on developing inventories of hazardous wastes, which provides Parties with information to complete their national reports and to assess the types and quantities of wastes that are generated and assess how these can be managed. There are also toolkits for waste inventory, which aim to provide practical instructions to assist Parties and others in developing inventories of specific waste types considered to be of priority.

Use of reported information: National reports for each year are available online, and there is also an interactive reports dashboard which aims to provide easy and comprehensive access to the information contained in national reports submitted by Parties. Information in the reports supports analysis of trends in transboundary movements and the generation of wastes at the national level, and for evaluating progress in implementing the Convention and identifying where further effort is needed. Some of the data provided is also used to generate SDG indicators 12.4.2 and 12.5.1.

Success of latest reporting round: As of March 2023, national reports for 2021 have been received from 86 out of 190 Parties (45%), and national reports for both 2019 and 2020 from around 60% of Parties. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/16 provides details on reporting for the COP in May 2023. Reporting performance is reviewed by the Implementation and Compliance Committee.

Reviews of reporting: The guidance document on national reporting identifies challenges experienced with reporting as: lack of clarity about terminology; poor internet connectivity; difficulties in collecting data or information from entities; and lack of human, technical and financial resources. It goes on to identify a number of ways to overcome these challenges, including action that has been taken by the Secretariat. The most recent COP decisions on reporting (decision BC-14/10 and decision BC-15/13), call on the Secretariat to:

- Continue to develop the electronic reporting system, including incorporating revisions to reporting format
- Develop draft practical guidance on the development of inventories for particular waste streams
- Undertake pilot projects to test the practical guidance on specific wastes
- Continue to provide training for Parties that need assistance in meeting their reporting obligations, including through working with regional and coordinating centres

Document UNEP/CHW.16/8 prepared for COP in May 2023 summarises the current situation, and proposes continuation of the activities identified above.

3.3 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

Webpage: Most of the relevant material on requirement to notify is addressed under the "procedures" tab on the convention website.

Mandate: Articles 5 and 6 of the Rotterdam Convention identify the procedures to be followed for banned or severely restricted chemicals (Article 5) and severely hazardous pesticide formulations (Article 6). Articles 10 and 11 identify obligations relating to import (Article 10) and export (Article 11) of listed chemicals where a prior informed consent procedure is required.

Format and content: The Rotterdam Convention does not have a reporting obligation as understood in many MEAs, but instead has a requirement of notify the Secretariat and affected Parties of: any export or import of banned or severely restricted chemicals, and/or actions taken to introduce such bans or restrictions.

Tools: A form and associate guidance is provided (see below) for Parties to use in communications.

Additional support: The Secretariat provides forms and instructions relating to notification of export or import of banned or severely restricted chemicals, as well as forms and instructions relating to

notifications of final regulatory action (imposing bans and restrictions). In order to improve levels of notifications of final regulatory actions, training sessions have been carried out.

Use of reported information: The Rotterdam Convention facilitates a prior informed consent procedure that helps to ensure that listed chemicals are not exported to countries that do not wish to receive them. The procedure does not ban or restrict exports, nor does it mean that any individual country must automatically prohibit their import. Rather it encourages an information exchange, priority attention to national decisions on imports, and obligations related to export controls. The PIC Circular published in June and December in English, French and Spanish provides Parties with the information required in Articles of the Convention. Also online are the notifications of final regulatory actions submitted by Parties, and of import responses.

Success of latest reporting round:

Reviews of reporting:

3.4 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Webpage: There is webpage providing an overview and mandate for reporting, with links down the left-hand side to other related webpages.

Mandate: Article 15 of the Convention requires Parties to report on measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention, and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the Convention's objectives. The Article also specifies that Parties will provide the Secretariat with statistical data or reasonable estimates on total quantities of listed chemicals that it produces, exports or imports, and to the extent possible on States involved in the reported imports or exports. The periodicity of reporting (every four years) and the timing and format for the first report was established in decision SC-1/22.

Format and content: The reporting format is set out in the draft manual for national reports prepared by the Secretariat (UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/29), although this needs updating to reflect changes made to the annexes, and the proposed revisions to the national reporting template for collection of information on polychlorinated biphenyls (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/13/Rev.1). The format includes yes/no answers, completion of tables, and narrative detail/comments, and some of this is hierarchical in structure, so further detail is only needed if the answer is "yes". The questions are largely set out following the Articles of the Convention to facilitate analysis of progress in implementation. Supporting documents can also be uploaded.

Tools: There is an Electronic Reporting System (SC-ERS) which Parties are encouraged to use to facilitate the collation and analysis of data by the Secretariat, and its use is supported by a user manual available in English, French and Spanish. Wherever possible questions, tables and comments fields are prefilled from the previous versions of a Party's national report. The Secretariat was explicitly requested by the COP through decision SC-6/21 to continue improving SC-ERS *"taking into account possible synergies with the Basel Convention"*. A new toolkit has been developed with the support of the GEF to facilitate the development, transmission, access and use of data contained in National Implementation Plans and National Reports. The toolkit, which the BRS Secretariat is currently (2023) making available to Parties for further testing and submission of comments, includes modules on submission of National Implementation Plans and managing data collected for POPs inventories, as well as contextualized links to relevant guidance and tools, and a module aiming to provide opportunity to query data and information in other modules.[148]

Additional support: The draft manual for national reports referred to above provides support and advice in completing the reporting template. There are webinars to support national reporting (a series of seven webinars starting with this introduction), and there have also been workshops, some of them covering reporting under both the Stockholm and Basel conventions. The Secretariat provides

[148] See GEF project documents

individualised feedback to each Party on the reports that they submit, with comments and suggestions on how to improve future reports.

Use of reported information: National reports from all five reporting cycles are available online, and there is also an interactive reports dashboard which allows users to visualise data and information submitted by Parties using tables, graphs and maps. Information from national reports is used to inform COP on progress in implementation and further action that needs to be taken, noting for example UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/36.

Success of latest reporting round: The deadline for reports for the fifth reporting cycle was 31 August 2022. As of March 2023, a total of 83 reports (45% of Parties) had been posted on the website. The intention is that these reports will inform negotiations at COP-11.

Reviews of reporting: The latest COP decisions on reporting (decision SC-9/16 and decision SC-10/17) drawing on experience with the national reporting process, and recognising the need for Parties to intensify their efforts to ensure timely submission of complete reports, called for the Secretariat to:

- Further improve the electronic reporting system to respond to feedback received on the system itself and the reporting format (including the need to update the reporting template and manual)
- Provide feedback to Parties regarding the submission of their national reports with a view to improving the quality and completeness of the reported data and information
- Continue to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in submitting their national reports, in cooperation with Stockholm Convention regional centres and other partners

The advance version of document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/18 refers to some of the progress made in addressing the above.

3.5 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Webpage: The Ozone Secretariat website includes "country data" tab that provides access to a range of resources relating to country data and reporting.

Mandate: Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol requires that each Party provides to the Secretariat annually statistical data on the production, import and export of each of controlled substances (or best estimates if actual data is not available). Controlled substances (which are then reported on) are listed in the annex to the Protocol, and are added to through amendments (for example the Kigali Amendment concerns phase down of hydrofluorocarbons). A full list of adjustments and amendments can be found here.

Format and content: With regard to data reporting in response to Article 7, six separate data forms are provided for imports, exports, production, destruction, trade with non-parties, and emissions of controlled substances. It is recognised that it will not necessarily be relevant for all Parties to report against all six categories.

Tools: There is an online reporting system to facilitate reporting relating to Article 7.

Additional support: With regards to Article 7 reporting, instruction/guidelines are provided, together with data reporting forms and a handbook on data reporting (which addresses a range of related issues including data collection and management). In addition there are forms for reporting on specific issues, including quarantine and pre-shipment use of methyl bromide, and proposed forms on reporting process agents, and on reporting laboratory and analytical uses. There is also a handbook on essential use nominations and associated documentation, as well as on critical use nominations.

Use of reported information: Reporting information is available through various dashboards, organized by "country profiles" (which includes ratification status with respect to the Protocol and its amendments), and by different data collected through reports. The data is use amongst other things to allow the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to review implementation and address compliance issues (see for example document UNEP/OxL.Pro.34.6).

Success of latest reporting round: The report to MOP-34 in October 2022 (UNEP/OxL.Pro.34.6) showed that all Parties had reported up to 2020, but that 24 Parties (12%) still had to report for 2021. A reports are dure nine months after the end of the year, these reports are clearly late.

Reviews of reporting:

3. Other global biodiversity-related agreements

The following seven entities together with the Convention on Biological Diversity are often collectively known as the "biodiversity-related conventions". Their secretariats work together through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions. Of course, there are also many other conventions that are relevant to biodiversity, including a number of regional agreements and agreements that relate to specific species or natural features. The agreements addressed are:

- Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage *(also known as the World Heritage Convention)*
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat *(also known as the Ramsar Convention, or Convention on Wetlands)*
- International Plant Protection Convention
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- International Whaling Commission

2.1 Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage

Webpage: Reporting and monitoring

Mandate: States Party provide periodic reports in response to Article 29 of the Convention following the process set out in the Operational Guidelines. Parties are also required to submit information on any property that that want considered for inscription on the World Heritage List, and they are also required to inform the Secretariat of anything that may have an impact of the Outstanding Universal Value of a listed property or its state of conservation.

Format and content: The format for periodic reports is set out in Annex 7 of the Operational Guidelines, which is reviewed at the end of each six-year cycle of reporting. The report includes one section for the national focal point to complete, and a second section where individual World Heritage Site managers need to complete content for the site that they manage.

Tools: The UNESCO World Heritage Centre has developed an online periodic reporting questionnaire for completion by States Party. Where the World Heritage Centre already holds information the questionnaire is now prefilled so that States Party can then verify/update it as necessary. Reports can be submitted in French or English.

Additional support: The UNESCO World Heritage Centre provides various tools to support periodic reporting, including a Handbook for Site Managers on the reporting process (also available as a series of training modules), a general video on reporting and a tutorial, a List of Key Terms, a document on Frequently Asked Questions, and a series of training modules. Most of these are available in multiple languages.

Use of reported information: During each six-year reporting cycle each region is covered once, so the Arab States in 2018-2019, Africa in 2019-2020, Asia and the Pacific 2020-2021, Latin America and the Caribbean 2021-2022, and Europe and North America 2022-2023, with the sixth year for evaluation of the process. Currently they are on the third cycle. The Secretariat and Advisory Bodies facilitate the State Parties to consolidate national reports into regional state of World Heritage reports which are presented to the World Heritage Committee (see for example WHC/21/44.COM/10A on the Arab States). This report informs development of targeted action plans at national and regional levels, which respond to the needs, challenges, threats, strengths and opportunities identified.

Success of latest reporting round: For the third cycle of periodic reporting in the Arab States launched in 2018, all 19 States Parties in the region responded (WHC/21/44.COM/10A). For the third cycle of periodic reporting in Africa launched in 2017, all 46 States Parties in the region responded (WHC/21/44.COM/10B). In both cases regional meetings/workshops played a significant role in the resulting reports, and the support of various bodies including the Advisory bodies is acknowledged.

Reviews of reporting: The Reflection Period after the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting (2015-2017), which included a survey for States Parties, identified a number of lessons learned and recommendations which are reported on in WHC/17/41.COM/10A. These include the following:

- adjustment to the reporting questionnaire to respond to the feedback received regarding such issues as specificity of questions, rating scales, and to provide more opportunity to provide additional information
- technical modifications to the online Periodic Reporting platform to allow for different types of question, prefilling where information was already held, and other changes to the interface in response to feedback
- request for the preparation of clear and comprehensive guidance for the Periodic Reporting questionnaire to support those tasked with completing it, both online and as an independent resource
- increase access to existing resources that will support those completing the questionnaires (some regions had produced resources not at the time easily available in other regions)
- creation of a dedicated position on Periodic Reporting coordinator to facilitate development of necessary materials, and ensure access to a dedicated helpdesk
- development and testing of a revised format Periodic Report for the third cycle using the modified platform, and responding to the feedback received before implementing the third cycle

2.2 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Webpage: Annual report; annual illegal trade report; implementation report; and ad hoc reports.

Mandate: Article VIII, paragraph 7 of the Convention obliges each Party to prepare periodic reports on its implementation of the Convention and to transmit to the Secretariat an annual report containing a summary of trade in specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III to the Convention, and a biennial report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce the provisions of the Convention. The most recent decision concerning reports and deadlines is resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev.CoP18), which also urges Parties to submit an annual illegal trade report. Requests for ad hoc reports are included in other COP resolutions or decisions. Submission of annual reports is subject to compliance procedures, but this is not the case for other reports. All reporting requirements are listed in a single document.

Format and content: The Secretariat produces Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of CITES Annual Reports; Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report; and a form for submission of the implementation report. The recommended formats of the annual reports and illegal trade reports are essentially databases or spreadsheets, which would include a number of defined categories. The form for the implementation report includes both check boxes and free text fields.

Tools: In some countries, annual reports are direct outputs from a national information management system that records/tracks trade-related and other activities undertaken by CITES authorities. The CITES Secretariat is working with Parties to facilitate direct reporting of trade in listed taxa through the eCITES initiative. A key element of this initiative is that it is not only concerned with reporting, but facilitates implementation of the Convention more broadly, of which reporting is only a part. Various tools are available to support this initiative, and there is a map of Parties working on national eCITES permitting systems or similar.

Additional support: Other tools supporting both implementation and reporting include the Checklist of CITES Species, and various identification materials to support the work of CITES authorities and

customs. The website Species+ is maintained by UNEP-WCMC as an authoritative information source on taxonomy, legislation, distribution and trade in MEA-listed species covering both CITES and CMS.

Use of reported information: Data from the annual reports is included in the CITES Trade Database maintained for the Secretariat by UNEP-WCMC, and this provides the basis for comparative trade analysis, review of signification trade, quota management, identification of Parties with high trade volumes under the National Legislation Project, reports to various fora and overall compliance with and enforcement of the Convention. Information in the CITES Trade Database can be visualised using the CITES Wildlife TradeView. Working with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, the Secretariat provides a range of analyses and reports based on the annual illegal trade reports submitted. The information in the implementation reports would be the basis for assessing progress in implementing the CITES Strategic Vision.

Success of latest reporting round: Failure to submit annual reports for three consecutive years without sufficient justification can lead to a recommendation to suspend trade. This currently applies to five Parties. Just over a third of the 184 Parties have submitted annual illegal trade reports for 2021 so far. Response rate for the implementation reports has always been below 50%, and since 2014 has been minimal. Renewed efforts have been made to increase the number of reports submitted in advance of COP19 in November 2022.

Reviews of reporting:

2.3 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Webpage: National reports

Mandate: Article VI, paragraph 3 of the Convention calls upon parties that are range states of listed species to inform the COP through the Secretariat on measures that they are taking to implement the provisions of the Convention for those species. Decisions 13.14 and 13.15 are the most recent on national reports, mandating the Secretariat and the Standing Committee to revise the format and guidance to reflect lessons learnt in the previous reporting round, and to address the outcomes of COP-13.

Format and content: The format and guidance for the 2023 report is available in English, French and Spanish. The format include check boxes, scoring and free text, and tables of information on the status of listed species found within the Party's territories.

Tools: The Secretariat has established a CMS Online Reporting System working with UNEP-WCMC. There is an online support centre for the Online Reporting System (which is a generic system), and a user guide for the CMS Online Reporting System.

Additional support: The guidance for national reporting identifies other reports to intergovernmental processes that may be relevant. The website Species+ is maintained by UNEP-WCMC as an authoritative information source on taxonomy, legislation, distribution and trade in MEA-listed species covering both CITES and CMS.

Use of reported information: An analysis of CMS National Reports was prepared by the Secretariat with the support of UNEP-WCMC, and presented to COP 13 in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.20. Particular effort was made with the reporting format developed in advance of COP 13 to align CMS national reporting with the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 so as to be able to track progress. The Convention website states that when the national reporting process is properly carried out, it can provide substantial benefits both to the instrument and to the country concerned helping them to chart their own progress and identify their future implementation priorities including by increasing awareness of national activities, helping mainstream biodiversity issues across sectors and encouraging further investment in national implementation of CMS and its instruments.

Success of latest reporting round: 79 national reports were available by the time the analysis of national reports was carried out (61% or Parties), and a further 10 reports were received before the

analysis report was completed. A total of 94 national reports (70%) were available by the time of the COP.

Reviews of reporting: Document UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.20 included lessons learnt for possible areas of improvement of the format and reporting process in the lead up to COP 13. There were some technical challenges communicated direct to UNEP-WCMC as developer of the Online Report System which are currently being acted on. There were also comments relating to improvement of the report format and associated guidance which are being addressed by the Secretariat in the revised format and guidance. Important was the positive feedback received on the support provided by Secretariat and the guidance documents provided.

2.4 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

Webpage: National reports can be accessed on the documents page of the website, but there is no obvious single page clustering all documents and resources relating to national reports. The direct link to all COP14 reports can be 'hard wired' but is lengthy.

Mandate: The text of the Convention does not explicitly mandate national reports on implementation, but this was deemed implicit in the mandate to COP to review implementation, and this was subsequently confirmed by COP decisions. It should be noted that in addition Parties are expected to provide information on sites listed by them as "wetlands of international importance", and under Article 3.2 of the Convention they are obliged to report to the Secretariat any changes or threats to the ecological character of their listed wetlands, so there are additional "notification" requirements even if this are not seen as reporting in the strict sense.

Format and content: The report format is focused on national implementation to address the goals and targets of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, and given a degree of consistency in format between COPs allows for progress (or otherwise) to be tracked. The most recent national report guide and format was approved by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting in June 2019, and includes both scored fields and free text.

Tools: The Secretariat has established a Ramsar Online Reporting System working with UNEP-WCMC. There is an online support centre for the Online Reporting System (which is a generic system), and a Ramsar Online Report System tutorial.

Additional support:

Use of reported information: The report of the Secretary General to COP on implementation of the Convention is heavily based on feedback through the national reports (Ramsar COP14 Doc.9.1). The guidance provided on national reports also identifies seven main purposes for national reports:

- provide data and information on how, and to what extent, the Convention is being implemented
- provide tools for countries for their national planning
- capture lessons and experience to help Parties plan future action
- identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from COP
- provide a means for Parties to account for their commitments under the Convention
- provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementing the Convention, and to plan its future priorities
- provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium

Success of latest reporting round: 122 reports were received by the end of the reporting period, just over half as MS Word files and just under half through the online reporting system. This represents 71% of Contracting Parties.

Reviews of reporting: Document SC57 Doc.22 which communicated the draft national report format to the Standing Committee noted a number of issues that had been taken into account in its preparation. These included:

- consistency with previous National Report formats is particularly important for continuity and to permit time-series analyses and reporting on progress in the implementation of the Convention
- adjustments to previous formats have been made in response to COP resolutions, so as to facilitate tracking of change and to inform future decisions
- responses in previous national reports were reviewed to determine whether certain questions might be duplicative or were difficult for Parties to answer, in order to inform adjustment

Additionally, the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 shows the synergies between Ramsar targets and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and accordingly the reporting format provides an opportunity for Contracting Parties to indicate how actions undertaken for implementation of the Ramsar Convention contributes to achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

2.5 International Plant Protection Convention

Webpage: The page on national reporting obligations covers all instances where the contracting party is expected to provide information.

Mandate: All reporting obligations derive from articles of the Convention as follows:

- description of its official national plant protection organization (Art. IV 4)
- phytosanitary requirements, restrictions and prohibitions which are currently in force (Art. VII 2b)
- specific points of entry (for consignments of particular plants or plant products required to be imported only through those specific points) (Art. VII 2d)
- lists of regulated pests which are currently in force (Art. VII 2i)
- occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests (Art. VIII 1a)
- emergency actions (Art. VII 6)

Format and content: Templates are included in the Guide to national reporting obligations. These include free text, check boxes, lists to make selections from, and upload of further information.

Tools: Reports are uploaded to the International Phytosanitary Portal, with guidance/support provided by the Guide to national reporting obligations. On the Portal existing data can be edited so that the report is updated, or a new report can be made. All data is retained and archived, even when updated.

Additional support: The Secretariat organizes training workshops on national reporting obligations (see for example the 2020 NRO virtual workshop for the Africa region) and there is also a FAQ page on the website.

Use of reported information: Reported information is used in an ongoing manner by Secretariat and Parties, and tables of the reports received can be found on the Countries page of the website. Also listed here are other requested inputs and voluntary submissions.

Success of latest reporting round: The reporting obligations are essentially 'ongoing' in nature, with reports expected when something happens, or changes are made. Existing reported information is essentially assumed as valid until new information is provided. Each meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures receives a summary report on national reporting obligations for the previous period and a workplan for the CPM 2022/12.

Reviews of reporting: In 2014 a first meeting of the national reporting obligations advisory group took place. The regular summary reports on national reporting (see for example CPM 2022/12) identify needs and actions relating to reporting obligations and capacities, and the action being taken by the Secretariat to address these.

2.6 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Webpage: There is no single point access to all relevant information on reporting, but it can all be found on the International Treaty webpages on the FAO website, following the "themes" and then "compliance" tabs.

Mandate: Article 21 of the Treaty mandates the Governing Body to identify and approve mechanisms to promote compliance, and through Resolution 2/2011 they approved "Procedures and Operational Mechanisms to Promote Compliance and Address Issues of Non-Compliance" which included *inter alia* the submission of reports by Contracting Parties.

Format and content: A Standard Reporting Format was first agreed in Resolution 2/2013, and an updated Standard Reporting Format was adopted in Resolution 7/2019). This includes check boxes and text boxes for further supporting information.

Tools: The Secretariat has established a ITPGRFA Online Reporting System working with UNEP-WCMC. There is an online support centre for the Online Reporting System (which is a generic system), and a user manual available on request to pgrfa-treaty@fao.org.

Additional support: The International Treaty website has a page on "How to Report" with instructions and links, and there is a "national reporting and monitoring" section in the FAQs on compliance. There is also a webinar on national reporting, and the presentation can be downloaded in PDF format.

Use of reported information: The Compliance Committee prepares a comprehensive synthesis and succinct analysis report for the Governing Body, based on the national reports. The latest synthesis and analysis can be found in Appendix 2 of document IT/GB-9/22/14.

Success of latest reporting round: National reports from 79 Parties (53%) had been received in time to be used by the Compliance Committee in preparing their synthesis and analysis, and a further 34 were received before the final document was completed. However not all reports used the same reporting format.

Reviews of reporting: This was the first reporting round, and as the Compliance Committee was concerned by the limited number of reports received, they made a number of recommendations (IT/GB-9/22/14), including:

- The Secretary to send additional reminders to Contracting Parties on the importance of reporting and on the resources and mechanisms available to support and facilitate the reporting process
- The Secretary to establish a help-desk on compliance, focusing on providing support to Contracting Parties in submitting their national reports
- Members of the Committee to play an active role, on a voluntary basis, for example by circulating information to national focal points of Contracting Parties in their respective regions
- The Secretary to organise training workshops, and virtual training and information sessions on reporting through webinars; promote the use of multimedia resources, and circulate an updated information note, in various languages, to national focal points on how to report
- The Secretary to identify and develop partnerships with other organizations and regional networks, as well as synergies with other FAO units at the headquarters and in the country offices, to raise awareness and to support Contracting Parties with their reporting

The Compliance Committee noted that in addition to increasing the number of national reports received, the organization of regional workshops on the implementation of the International Treaty had in the past been useful for identifying gaps and needs, as wells as possible options and solutions.

The Compliance Committee also emphasized the important role of information shared by Contracting Parties through their national reports in the context of monitoring progress in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, once adopted. This was thought to be a possible further incentive for Contracting Parties to submit their national reports and keep them updated.

2.7 International Whaling Commission

Webpage: There a single webpage on Scientific Committee national progress reports where all relevant information can be accessed. However, this does not cover voluntary conservation reports or catch information, which are referenced under the "sharing information" section on the webpage on participation.

Mandate: Article VIII paragraph 3 of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling requires Contracting Governments to transmit annually available scientific information relating to whales and whaling, including results of any relevant research undertaken. Contracting Governments are also required to report to the Commission any authorizations for killing, taking and treating whales (Article VIII paragraph 1), as any infractions of the Convention that come to their attention and the action they have taken as a result (Article IX paragraph 4).

Format and content: Guidelines for the national progress reports are developed by the Scientific Committee and adopted by the Commission. Information is requested across nine topics regularly addressed by the Scientific Committee.

Tools: An online submission and reporting system has been in place since 2012 for use by country representatives. This links directly to databases on the topics concerned. There is a guide to the online database and data submission, and an IT support contact.

Additional support:

Use of reported information: Reports can be accessed through the IWC Portal by those with appropriate permissions, while reports submitted before 2013 can be found directly from the page on national progress reports. The national progress reports are one of the sources used in developing the reports of the Scientific Committee to the periodic meetings of the Commission (see for example IWC/68/REP/SC/04). However, there is currently no associated report that summarises data, and it has been suggested that the availability of such a report might help encourage increased reporting (SC/69A/GDR/03), particularly if associated with improved data capture and management.

Success of latest reporting round: As of February 2022 concern was expressed (IWC.ALL.413) that in recent years there was an average of 15 reports received a year, which is only 17% of Contracting Governments despite concerns expressed by the Scientific Committee that this would impact on the quality of the advice presented to the Commission. Efforts were made by the Secretariat to further encourage reporting thought targeted communication, improving guidance and offering further support.

Reviews of reporting: The Scientific Committee at its meeting in 2022 discussed concerns of reporting rates (see section 21.3.2 of IWC/68/REP/SC/04) and recommended that an intersessional group develop a paper that describes the current state of reporting and presents options to address the lack of submissions. This work is still in progress and the issue was discussed again by the Scientific Council at its meeting in 2023 because of ongoing concerns.

UNITED NATIONS

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Draft elements for a capacity-building strategy for the Beyond 2020 Framework Instrument

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted and developed by the SAICM Secretariat, working in coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), "*Draft elements for a capacity-building strategy for the Beyond 2020 Framework Instrument*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received, without formal editing.

Annex

The Programme of Work and Budget 2021-2023[1] for the secretariat was adopted by the Conference via silent procedure on 07 December 2021.[2] The Programme of Work highlighted proposed activities for the secretariat for 2021-2023 based on the activities contained in the Overarching Policy Strategy.[3] It included a separate section on capacity building with four proposed activities, encompassing developing "a draft capacity building strategy, including elaboration of the capacity building activities discussed at a number of intersessional meetings, if decided by the Bureau in consultation with their respective constituencies."[4]

The secretariat has initiated a process for developing such a strategy. This process included commissioning an analysis of capacity-building gaps, needs, and priorities for the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020 and a series of consultations with stakeholders. The latter consisted of twenty-eight interviews held between February and June 2023 with a range of stakeholders on the basis of regional and sectoral representation. These included representatives from national governments, international intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, other civil society organizations and networks, and financial mechanisms. The final outcomes of the analysis will be made available to the Conference at its fifth session as an information document (SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/3).

The preliminary findings of the literature review and the analysis of the outcomes of the interviews have informed the preparation of draft elements for a capacity-building strategy, which is submitted to the Conference for its consideration at its fifth session. Considering the current status of the process for developing an instrument for the Strategic Approach for the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020, a capacity-building strategy to support its implementation could be further developed after adopting such an instrument. The outcomes of the session are integral to the development of a capacity-building strategy to support the implementation of the new framework instrument.

Possible action

The Conference may wish to take note of the draft elements as presented in the annex and further request the secretariat to continue the development of a draft capacity-building strategy for the new framework instrument to be submitted for its consideration at its next session.

[1] SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/4.
[2] SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/Report.
[3] SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II.
[4] SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/4.

Draft elements for a capacity-building strategy for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

I. Introduction and mandate

1. This document was prepared in response to the Programme of Work and Budget 2021 – 2023 for the secretariat of the Strategic Approach, which proposed developing a draft capacity-building strategy (the strategy).[1] The following sections of this annex identify core components that the Conference may wish to consider in the development of the strategy, namely: (II) rationale, (III) purpose, (IV) definitions, (V) objectives, (VI) guiding principles, (VII) strategic priorities for the implementation of the strategy, (VIII) institutional arrangements, (IX) roles of different stakeholders in implementing the strategy, (X) means of implementation, and (XI) monitoring, review and reporting.

2. Relevant policy and legal frameworks and instruments to inform and guide the development of the strategy may include: (a) the United Nations Assembly resolution 1/5, through which an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste was welcomed,[2] (b) Conference decision IV/4 on the strategic approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,[3] (c) Conference decision IV/1 on the implementation towards the achievement of the 2020 goal,[4] (d) Conference decision III/4 on the strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.[5]

II. Rationale

3. Capacity-building is crucial for the sound management of chemicals and has been a component of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) since its inception.[6] At the first session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1), held in 2006 in Dubai (United Arab Emirates), ministers, heads of delegations, and representatives of stakeholder groups expressed a commitment towards bridging the capacity gaps between developed and developing countries and strengthening the capacity of the latter for the sound management of chemicals and the development of safer alternative products and processes through partnerships, technical support, and financial assistance.[7] Since ICCM1, capacity building has been an important area of work in implementing the Overarching Policy Strategy,[8] the Global Plan of Action[9] and in pursuing SAICM's overall objective of achieving "the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment."[10]

4. The independent evaluation of SAICM for the period 2006 to 2016 found that the majority of stakeholders (70%) perceived the implementation of the Overarching Policy Strategy's objectives on capacity-building as having had "some success" or having been "very

[1] SAICM/ICCM.5/Bureau.TC.11/4.
[2] UNEP/EA.1/10.
[3] SAICM/ICCM.4/15, Annex I.
[4] SAICM/ICCM.4/15, Annex I.
[5] SAICM/ICCM.3/24, Annex I.
[6] For more information about SAICM, see *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: SAICM texts and resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management* (United Nations publication, 2018).
[7] Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex I.
[8] Overarching Policy Strategy, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II. The Overarching Policy Strategy, adopted at ICCM1, included nine objectives to promote capacity-building and technical cooperation. These included, inter alia, increasing capacity in all countries for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and developing and implementing sustainable capacity-building strategies in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
[9] Global Plan of Action, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex III.
[10] Overarching Policy Strategy, SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II.

successful."[11] It further noted that this success was largely attributed to the Quick Start Programme and capacity-building programmes delivered by United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the chemicals industry. However, the independent evaluation also concluded that "the extent and reach of these programmes has not been sufficient to address the capacity constraints within developing countries" due to a number of factors, including the *ad hoc* nature of the approach to capacity-building under SAICM.[12]

5. The analysis commissioned by the secretariat to inform the preparation of the strategy also pointed to the lack of a systematic approach and designated framework for delivering capacity-building under the current structure of SAICM.[13] In the draft intersessional process consolidated document, capacity-building is mostly addressed under section VIII, in the format of a "capacity building platform."[14] As outlined by the study, proposals for building a common framework for the role of the new framework instrument in delivering capacity-building are notably absent from the current draft.[15]

6. During the interviews, stakeholders also highlighted a number of capacity-building challenges in the context of SAICM, such as the (1) lack of a comprehensive framework for capacity building under the Strategic Approach, (2) limitations in the engagement and outreach of other sectors, beyond the environment sector, (3) limited availability and access to funding and financing for capacity-building, (4) limited access to funding and financing for capacity-building, (5) duplication of efforts and limited collaboration between different stakeholders, (6) low awareness of the objectives of the Strategic Approach, and (7) difficulties in collecting data, accessing, and sharing information. [16] To address that, the analysis of the consultation outcomes identified several priorities and suggestions from the stakeholders' input, including developing a capacity-building strategy to support the implementation of the new framework instrument that aligns with its strategic objectives, priorities, targets, indicators, and issues of concern; promoting meaningful engagement and increased representation of other sectors (e.g., agriculture, education, international affairs, finance, health, industry, labor) in designing and implementing the new framework instrument and related capacity-building strategy; and explore innovative options for developing a robust new financial mechanism (or similar instrument) to fund a capacity-building strategy and capacity-building activities under the new framework instrument.

III. Purpose and scope

7. The main purpose of the strategy would be to provide an integrated framework for the design and implementation of capacity-building activities and interventions to support the implementation of the new framework instrument. As appropriate, this may include following a differentiated approach that tailors technical assistance to specific needs of developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition.

IV. Terminology

8. The strategy could include definitions of key terms to support building a common ground for identifying and delivering capacity-building interventions in support of the implementation of the new framework instrument. The definitions below may be relevant for such purpose:

[11] Interim Report for the Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 – 2015, SAICM/IP.1/5.
[12] Interim Report for the Independent Evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 – 2015, SAICM/IP.1/5.
[13] SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/3
[14] SAICM/IP.4/11, Annex: Intersessional Process Consolidated Document.
[15] SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/3
[16]SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/3

a. *Capacity*: Capacity can be defined as the ability of people, organisations, and society as a whole to manage their affairs successfully. [17]

b. *Capacity-building*: Capacity-building is defined as the process of developing and strengthening the skills, abilities, processes, and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world.[18] In recent years, there has been a shift towards the term "capacity development" in different circumstances. For instance, various definitions of capacity development exist in the literature [19] and the context of development agencies. [20] The United Nations Development Group defines capacity development as "the process whereby people, organizations, and society as a whole unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time."[21] This involves, at the country level, support to national and subnational entities "in developing their capacities to lead, manage, achieve and account for their development priorities." [22]

c. *Technical capacities*: Technical capacities are those associated with particular areas of expertise in given sectors and/or areas. These include capacities to carry out technical tasks related to the sound management of chemicals and waste and the implementation of the new framework instrument.

d. *Functional capacities*: Functional capacities can be defined as broad, all-purpose skills (including soft skills) needed to uptake and sustain the objectives of the new framework instrument. They include cross-cutting capacities relevant to individual and organizational effectiveness, such as capacities needed to formulate, implement and review policies, strategies, programmes, and projects; capacities to create, access, manage, and exchange information and knowledge; capacities to create and maintain networks, alliances, and partnerships; strategic planning and leadership; budgeting, marketing, and resource mobilization.

e. *Capacity-building approaches*: Capacity-building approaches refer to the manner in which capacity-building interventions are planned to achieve a desired outcome(s).

f. *Capacity-building modalities*: Capacity-building modalities are the delivery methods employed to achieve specific capacity-building goals. As a rule, the selection of capacity-building modalities is informed by the target audience and their needs, as well as the approaches in which the modalities will be embedded.

V. Objectives

9. In the context of multilateral environmental agreements and other multilateral processes, capacity-building strategies and plans provide strategic guidance and direction in the development of targeted capacity-building interventions.[23] In relation to the new framework instrument, such a strategy could support its effective delivery.

10. The Conference could consider setting out a number of general and specific objectives for the strategy. A general objective could identify the overall goal to be pursued by implementing such a strategy. For example, "to support countries and other stakeholders in strengthening their capacities for the effective implementation of the new framework

[17] United Nations Development Group, "UNDG Capacity Assessment Methodology, User Guide for national capacity development" Report, February 2008.
[18] For more information, see the United Nations Academic Impact page dedicated to capacity-building (www.un.org/en/academic-impact/capacity-building).
[19] See, for example, Kempe Ronald Hope, "Capacity Development and Good Governance" in *International Development Governance,* Ahmed Shafiqui Huque and Habib Zafarullah, eds., vol. 19 (Milton Park, Routledge, 2009); Farhad Analoui and Joseph Kwadwo Danquah, *Critical Capacity Development* (Cham, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017); Müller et al, "Capacity Development" in *Protected Area Governance Management*, Worboys et al, eds (Canberra, ANU Press, 2015).
[20] European Parliamentary Research Service, *Understanding capacity-building/capacity development: A core concept of development policy* (Brussels, European Parliamentary Research Service, 2017).
[21] United Nations Development Group, "UNDG Capacity Assessment Methodology, User Guide for national capacity development" Report, February 2008.
[22] UNDG, 2008.
[23] See, for instance, UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36, UNEP/CMS/Resolution 9.12, IT/GB-9/22/6.1.

instrument." The strategy could then list a series of specific objectives regarding areas or activities that would be important for achieving the general objective. For this purpose, the following areas could be considered:

a. Increasing understanding about the scope, goals, and targets as well as other elements of the new framework instrument and the possible contribution and roles of different stakeholders for its effective implementation.

b. Institutional strengthening development of policy and legal frameworks for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

c. Strengthening the capacities of countries and other stakeholders for enhanced cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in implementing the new framework instrument.

d. Strengthening the capacity of countries and other stakeholders to monitor progress in the implementation of the new framework instrument and other related global commitments relating to the sound management of chemicals and waste, at the global, regional, and local levels.

11. Alternatively, the Conference could consider outlining a set of expected or intended outcomes and related objectives/outputs for their achievement.

VI. Guiding principles

12. The co-facilitators of the thematic group on financial considerations at the third meeting of the intersessional process developed proposed draft capacity-building principles as an outcome of the discussions.[24] Further input was received by stakeholders and consolidated into document number SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1.[25] The latest draft of the intersessional process consolidated document incorporates some of these draft principles in section IV, titled "principles and approaches."[26] The strategy has the potential to build on these principles, reinforce them, and suggest further guiding principles that may be relevant for its implementation.

13. The conference may wish to consider the following additional principles in the development of the strategy for the new framework instrument:

a. Promote tailored and demand-driven capacity-building that responds to identified needs and priorities;

b. Strengthen institutions at all levels for the sound management of chemicals and waste;

c. Encourage national and regional delivery of capacity-building activities/interventions;

d. Foster collaboration and coordination across multilateral environmental agreements and other international instruments relating to chemicals and waste, as well as across different sectors and stakeholders;

e. Foster a strategic, coherent, and gender-responsive approach to capacity-building for the new framework instrument in the context of a lifecycle approach for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste.

f. Promote and facilitate North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation to support capacity-building.

g. Promote an adaptive and iterative implementation of the strategy to allow for the identification of gaps, needs, and priorities over time;

[24] See SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1.
[25] See SAICM/IP.4/2/Rev.1.
[26] SAICM/IP.4/11, Annex.

h. Seek alignment with capacity-building activities developed under other multilateral environmental agreements and by stakeholders, engaging with and building on existing initiatives as appropriate. This includes seeking alignment with the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022−2025;[27]

i. Promote partnerships and encourage and support multi-stakeholder engagement and participation in the implementation of the strategy, including at local, national, regional, and global levels;

j. Apply a holistic approach, integrating instrument-specific activities with relevant sectoral and national policies, strategies, and programme, maximizing synergies through coordination of technical assistance activities implemented by various actors.

k. Consider sustainability and future-proofing in all capacity-building interventions, seeking to leverage additional resources and increasing impact over time through planning for sustainability and ongoing outreach from the start.

l. Promote a lifecycle approach to chemicals and waste management based on the legal-policy-science-business interface. This includes considering socio-economic implications, developing business cases, making use of social and economic incentives, and encouraging cooperation with academia and the private sector.

VII. Strategic priorities for the implementation of the strategy

14. The strategy could include a range of strategic priorities that would provide the basis for its implementation towards achieving the objectives set out above. In this regard, the Conference may wish to consider the following strategic priorities, among others:

a. *Promoting a coordinated approach to delivering capacity-building for the implementation of the new framework instrument, ensuring relevance and alignment with the framework instrument's strategic objectives and targets:* During the interviews, several stakeholders noted the need to align the process for developing a strategy, as well as its content, to the framework instrument under negotiation.[28] The draft intersessional process consolidated document includes five strategic objectives and a series of targets relating to, *inter alia*, implementing and enforcing legal and policy frameworks for the sound management of chemicals and waste, establishing appropriate institutional capacities at the country and regional levels, and securing funding for national chemicals management. Operative Paragraph A(1) also proposes the adoption by the Conference of "*Implementation Programmes to support actions to achieve the strategic objectives and targets of the instrument*" and their respective mandates, terms of reference, and work plans. Similarly, section VIII of the consolidated document outlines proposals (in brackets) for capacity-building.[29] Pending the outcomes of the intersessional process and the fifth session of the Conference, the strategy could be an adequate instrument to provide guidance on the alignment between the delivery of capacity-building for the sound management of chemicals and the new framework instrument;

b. *Building the capacity of regional and national focal points and other government officials, as appropriate, for the implementation of the new framework instrument:* Stakeholders highlighted during the interviews the need to support all national focal points and other government officials in building their capacities on the scope, objectives, and governance structure of the Strategic Approach.[30] In the draft intersessional process consolidated document, there are propositions for the

[27] UNEP/CHW.15/INF/29UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/17UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/29.
[28] SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/3
[29] SAICM/IP.4/11, Annex: Intersessional Process Consolidated Document.
[30] SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/3

designation of regional and national focal points in alignment with current practice.[31] Such strategic priority would respond to the needs identified in the interviews and improve the engagement of regional and national focal points in the implementation of the new framework instrument;

c. *Building the capacity of stakeholders, as appropriate, for the implementation of the new framework instrument at all levels and across different sectors relevant to the sound management of chemicals and waste*; and

d. *Support countries and stakeholders in building their capacities to address emerging policy issues and issues of concern, if applicable*.

15. Additional strategic priorities may focus on different stakeholder groups (e.g., regional and national focal points, countries, and other stakeholders) and at different levels (e.g., local, national, regional, and global). As an example, the analysis of the outcomes of the stakeholder consultations identified a list of priorities highlighted by stakeholders. This list is available in section 4 of document number SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/3.

VIII. Institutional arrangements

16. In implementing the strategy, the Conference may wish to consider defining specific roles for the Conference, an Open-Ended Working Group, the Bureau, and the Secretariat. These may include:

a. Conference: Approving the strategy and related instruments, inviting countries and stakeholders to report on progress made in the implementation of capacity-building strategy/activities, and providing strategic guidance and advise on the implementation of the strategy.

b. Open-Ended Working Group: Reviewing progress in the implementation of the strategy as well as delivery of capacity-building activities, preparing updates to the strategy and related instruments as needed, and submitting them to the Conference for consideration.

c. Bureau: Providing oversight on the implementation of the strategy and related instruments.

d. Secretariat: Facilitating the implementation of the strategy, liaising with stakeholders, establishing partnerships for the implementation of the strategy, exploring fundraising options for the delivery of the capacity-building strategy, *inter alia.*

17. Additionally, the Conference may wish to consider establishing and ad hoc working group or liaison group on capacity building to assist the implementation of the strategy, bringing together the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements from the chemicals and waste cluster, the Ozone secretariat, the nine Participating Organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, and other relevant stakeholders as appropriate.

IX. The roles of different stakeholders in the implementation of the strategy

18. Paragraph 2 of the Overarching Policy Strategy provides for the involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.[32] The following groups are listed as key in achieving the goals of the Strategic Approach: (a) governments, (b) regional economic integration organizations, (c) intergovernmental organizations, (d) non-governmental organizations, and (e) individuals[33] involved in the management of chemicals throughout their life-cycles from all relevant sectors, including, but not limited

[31] SAICM/IP.4/11, Annex: Intersessional Process Consolidated Document.
[32] SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II, Overarching Policy Strategy.
[33] According to the Overarching Policy Strategy, "individual stakeholders include consumers, disposers, employers, farmers, producers, regulators, researchers, suppliers, transporters and workers."

to, agriculture, environment, health, industry, relevant economic activity, development cooperation, labour, and science.[34]

19. During the interviews, several stakeholders stressed the importance of further engaging civil society organizations and networks in designing and implementing capacity-building initiatives for the new framework instrument. Stakeholders also underscored the need for more ownership and clearly defined roles in the delivery of capacity-building under the new framework instrument. Similarly, they expressed their concerns with the lack of representation of sectors other than the environment in the current governance structure of the Strategic Approach and called for increased cross-sectoral collaboration and exchange.

20. Within this context, the Conference may wish to consider identifying the possible roles and contributions of different stakeholders and sectors in implementing the strategy. Such possible roles and contributions could be identified through a consultative process facilitated by the secretariat, as part of the development of a future action/work plan to deliver the strategy.

X. Means of implementation

21. The Conference may wish to consider proposing the development of action/work plan(s) to implement the strategy. Such plan(s) could include, among others, clearly-defined outcomes, outputs, actions, and milestones; and sustainability and monitoring requirements for capacity-building interventions and actions. The plan(s) could also include provisions for their periodic update as appropriate.

22. During the interviews, stakeholders have expressed concerns with the current status of funding for capacity-building activities in the context of the Strategic Approach, as well as the difficulty in accessing institutional programmes such as the Special Programme. One stakeholder also noted the need to recognize the value of in-kind contributions. Within this context, the Conference may wish to request the secretariat to explore innovative ways to fund the strategy and seek alignment with existing programmes and initiatives under other multilateral processes and multilateral environmental agreements.

XI. Monitoring, review, and reporting

23. Capacity-building is a long-term and continuous process that requires effective planning, monitoring, and review of outcomes and outputs. In the context of the implementation of a strategy, monitoring and review are key to understanding progress, identifying challenges and needs, and allowing for adjustments as needed.

24. Depending on the resources and funding sources available, and the engagement of key stakeholders, including regional and national focal points, the Conference and/or an Open-Ended Working Group may wish to consider reviewing, at regular intervals, progress in the implementation of the strategy, including the effectiveness of activities employed in achieving its objectives and outcomes. Such an analysis may take into consideration the short, medium, and long-term impacts of capacity-building actions and interventions.

25. Section XI of the draft intersessional process consolidated document includes a proposal for taking stock of the progress in the implementation of the new framework instrument, in line with current provisions of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.[35] For instance, operative paragraph XI(1) of the consolidated document outlines an invitation to all stakeholders to report on their implementation efforts to the Conference through the secretariat.[36] The Conference may wish to invite countries and stakeholders to also report on capacity-building activities in such a stocktaking exercise for the new framework instrument.

[34] SAICM/ICCM.1/7, Annex II, Overarching Policy Strategy.
[35] SAICM/IP.4/11, Annex: Interssessional Process Consolidated Document.
[36] SAICM/IP.4/11, Annex: Interssessional Process Consolidated Document.

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Activities of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document prepared and submitted by the Special Programme secretariat on "*Activities of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Annex

Activities of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

I. Introduction

1. With a view to addressing the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and waste agenda, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) proposed the establishment of an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-seventh session, in February 2013.

2. The Governing Council, in its decision 27/12[1], section VIII, welcomed the integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, and underscored that the three components of the integrated approach, namely, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance, were mutually reinforcing and were all important for the financing of sound management of chemicals and wastes.

3. Furthermore, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA), is its resolution 1/5[2], section II, also welcomed the integrated approach to the financing of chemicals and waste management and adopted the terms of reference for a special programme, to be funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening[3] at the national level to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

4. The Special Programme was subsequently established and now forms part of chemicals and pollution action thematic subprogramme within the UNEP programme of work.

5. The objective of the Special Programme is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of the integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, taking into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, to increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle. The Special Programme is one of two complementary elements of dedicated external financing under the integrated approach, with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) being the further element.

6. The terms of reference of the Special Programme stipulate eligibility for support from the Programme as follows:

(a) Support from the Special Programme will be available for developing countries, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing states, and for countries with economies in transition, with priority given to those with least capacity;

(b) Applicants will be eligible if they are party to any one of the relevant conventions or have demonstrated that they are in the process of preparing for ratification of any one of the conventions; and

[1] Available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/12221/Governing%20Council%20Decision%2027-2.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

[2] Available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/17285/K1402364.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y.

[3] For the purposes of the Special Programme, institutional strengthening is defined as enhancing the sustainable institutional capacity of Governments to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation, as well as to gain access to financial and other resources for effective frameworks for the implementation of the Instruments for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle.

(c) Applications are to include identification of the associated domestic measures to be taken to ensure that the national institutional capacity supported by the Special Programme is sustainable in the long term.

7. The terms of reference also stipulate the following operational arrangements:

(a) The Special Programme will receive applications directly from national Governments;

(b) Applications should be outlined within the context of an overall country approach to strengthening institutional capacity;

(c) Applications should contain proposed measures and performance targets and information relating to long-term sustainability;

(d) Cumulative allocations to a country should be decided by the Executive Board, based on the contributions received and the needs expressed in the applications submitted. Of that total, an amount not exceeding 13 per cent may be retained for administrative purposes;

(e) Beneficiary countries will contribute resources equal to the value of at least 25 per cent of the total allocation. The Executive Board may reduce that percentage, commensurate with consideration of the specific national circumstances, capacity constraints, gaps and needs of the applicant; and

(f) Beneficiary countries are to submit annual reports on progress achieved; a final report and financial audit, including a full accounting of funds used and an evaluation of outcomes, as well as evidence of whether performance targets have been met, are to be submitted upon completion of each project.

8. In March 2022, UNEA adopted resolution 5/7 on chemicals and waste, paragraph 16 of which decided to extend the duration of the Special Programme for a period of five years, in accordance with paragraph 24 of the terms of reference adopted in Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, and to include the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in the Special Programme. Paragraph 10 of the same resolution encouraged the Executive Board of the Special Programme to review the procedures for application for funding in the light of the needs and challenges expressed by developing countries, including those related to operating costs, with a view to promoting an effective and efficient application of the eligibility criteria in line with the terms of reference of the Special Programme, without jeopardizing the ability of the Special Programme to receive funding from existing sources.

9. Following discussion on the matter, the Executive Board during its eighth meeting, held in February 2023, decided to revise the eligibility and appraisal criteria for funding under the Special Programme as set out in section III.J below.

10. The present document provides information on activities of the Special Programme to date.

II. Governance of the Special Programme

11. The Executive Board is the decision-making body overseeing the Special Programme with the support of the Secretariat. The term of its representatives is in a two-year rotation. The composition of the Executive Board reflects a balance between donors and recipients as follows:

(a) Four representatives of recipient countries, reflecting equitable, geographical representation, drawn from the following United Nations regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) One representative from a least developed country or a small island developing State on a rotational basis;

(c) Five donor representatives, which are not also recipient countries.

12. The countries that are serving on the Executive Board during its 2022-2024 term are:

(a) Africa: Ghana (member); Algeria (alternate)

(b) Asia and Pacific: Sri Lanka (member and alternate)

(c) Central and Eastern Europe: Georgia (member); Armenia (alternate)

(d) Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina (member and alternate)

(e) Small island developing states: Maldives (member and alternate).

13. The donor representatives on the Executive Board are the European Union, Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

14. At their first meeting held online from 28 March to 1 April 2022, the Executive Board elected Ms Irma Gurguliani (Georgia), representing recipient countries, and Ms Kay William (United Kingdom), representing donor countries, as co-chairs of the Executive Board.

15. The term of the current Executive Board will end on 2 February 2024. The Secretariat will work with UNEP's Governance Affairs Office to issue a call for nominations for the Executive Board in August 2023.

III. Meetings of the Executive Board

A. First meeting of the Executive Board

16. At its first meeting, held from 2 to 3 February 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland[4], the Executive Board reached an agreement on the Rules of Procedure for the operations of the Executive Board of the Special Programme, the application guidelines, and application forms.

17. The Executive Board also agreed to launch the first round of applications in April 2016.

B. Second meeting of the Executive Board

18. The first round of applications for funding from the Special Programme was launched on 4 April 2016. The deadline for the submission of applications to the Secretariat was 4 July 2016. Following the application deadline, the Secretariat received 54 applications from 45 countries.

19. The second meeting of the Executive Board was held from 11 to 13 October 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand[5]. The meeting was attended by 10 of the 10 Executive Board members and represented quorum for decision making in accordance with Rule 17 of the rules of procedure for the Executive Board of the Special Programme.

20. The main objective of the meeting was to review the 42 eligible and complete applications submitted for the first and pilot round of applications.

21. The Executive Board approved projects for the first and pilot round of applications, as outlined in table 1 of the appendix, amounting to US$ 1.75 million, taking into consideration regional balance and the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States.

22. The Board agreed that the second round of applications would be launched in February 2017.

C. Third meeting of the Executive Board

23. The second round of applications for funding from the Special Programme was launched on 22 February 2017. The deadline for the submission of applications to the Secretariat was 20 June 2017. Following the application deadline, the Secretariat received 43 applications from 37 countries.

24. The third meeting of the Executive Board was held from 2 to 3 December 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya[6]. The meeting was attended by 8 of the 10 Executive Board members and represented quorum for decision making in accordance with Rule 17 of the rules of procedure for the Executive Board of the Special Programme.

25. The Executive Board reviewed each of the applications submitted and approved 17 projects, as outlined in table 2 of the appendix, amounting to US$ 5,096,735, taking into consideration regional balance and the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States.

26. It was also decided that applicants whose projects were not approved during the second round would be invited to revise and submit their applications to the third and subsequent rounds of applications.

[4] The report of the first meeting of the Executive Board is available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22904/Special%20Programme%201st%20ExecutiveBoard_meeting_Report.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

[5] The report of the second meeting of the Executive Board is available at http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/17014/2nd_EBMR_Oct2016_advance_copy.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

[6] The report of the third meeting of the Executive Board is available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27357/boardRep.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

27. In addition, a communications strategy and a resource mobilization strategy were considered and endorsed by the Executive Board. The Executive Board noted that such strategies would allow the Special Programme to attract well-developed applications and donors in a competitive environment.

28. Furthermore, the Executive Board agreed that the third round of applications would be launched in early 2018.

D. Fourth meeting of the Executive Board

29. The third round of applications for funding from the Special Programme was launched on 23 February 2018. The deadline for the submission of applications to the Secretariat was 21 June 2018. Following the application deadline, the Secretariat received 37 applications, from 34 countries.

30. The fourth meeting of the Executive Board was held from 29 to January 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland[7]. The meeting was attended by 9 of the 10 Executive Board members and represented quorum for decision making in accordance with Rule 17 of the rules of procedure for the Executive Board of the Special Programme.

31. The Executive Board approved 18 projects amounting to US$ 4,703,849. The approved projects were selected taking into account the project's merits, regional balance and priority to countries with least capacity, taking into account the special needs of least developing countries and small island developing States, as outlined in table 3 of the appendix.

32. It was also decided that applicants whose projects were not approved during the third round would be invited to revise and resubmit their application to the fourth and subsequent rounds of applications.

33. In addition, the Executive Board requested the Secretariat to initiate the midterm evaluation for the Special Programme internal UNEP project in early April 2019.

34. With regards to resource mobilization, the Executive Board requested the Secretariat to develop a focused action plan that outlines activities and necessary resources to showcase the Special Programme's priorities over the following two years.

35. In addition, the Executive Board approved the proposed branding and visual identity of the Special Programme, and requested the Secretariat to use them, as appropriate. It was also agreed that relevant slogans would be included alongside the logo to highlight key aspects of the Special Programme, such as institutional strengthening. The Board also emphasised the importance of widely using the approved branding and visual identity of the Special Programme in order to facilitate the Programme's visibility to both donors and recipient countries.

36. The Board welcomed the proposed improvements to the Special Programme project database to include a search engine to facilitate the retrieval of information and the development of the application guidelines and e-learning modules and hoped that they would facilitate the application process and contribute to the improvement of the quality of the applications submitted.

37. Finally, the Board welcomed the proposed activities to be implemented under Phase II of the communications strategy.

E. Fifth meeting of the Executive Board of the Special Programme, October 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

38. The fifth meeting of the Executive Board of the Special Programme was held from 6 to 7 October 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, taking place back-to-back with the third meeting of the SAICM Intersessional Process[8].

39. At the meeting the Board members endorsed the revised documents of the application package for the fourth round of applications for funding from the Special Programme and the e-learning platform. The Board also agreed to make the guidance and guidelines available in five of the UN languages.

40. Furthermore, the Board requested the Secretariat to launch the fourth round of applications in the margins of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The launch was set to take place at a side event scheduled for Friday, 29 November 2019.

[7] The report of the fourth meeting of the Executive Board is available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27772/SPEB.4.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=ye.

[8] The report of the fifth meeting of the Executive Board is available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30853/SPEB5.8.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

41. The Board also reflected positively on the findings of the midterm evaluation of the Special Programme and approved the proposed timeline for the finalization of the evaluation report, which was expected to take place in January 2020.

42. The Executive Board endorsed the resource mobilization action plan as presented by the Secretariat. In addition, the Board requested that representatives from the private sector be invited the next meeting of the Board to discuss how to strengthen private sector engagement in the context of the Special Programme and the integrated approach to financing of chemicals and waste.

43. Furthermore, the Executive Board approved the proposed Request for Proposals for targeted communications with a view to facilitating the implementation of the second Phase of the Special Programme Communications Strategy.

F. Teleconferences of the Executive Board of the Special Programme

44. The second teleconference on the Executive Board took place on 3 February 2020. During the meeting, the Board adopted the report of the fifth meeting of the Executive Board, received an update on the progress with respect to nominations to the Board for 2020-2022, and an update on the operations of the Special Programme, including Secretariat activities and project implementation status. The meeting also discussed the final report of the mid-term evaluation of the Special Programme, the draft outline of a monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy and action plan, and received an update on the procurement process for the implementation of the Special Programme Communications Strategy.

45. An ad hoc extraordinary teleconference was held on 26 March 2020 with the (at the time) eight confirmed members of incoming Executive Board, to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fourth round of applications for funding. The Executive Board recognized that the pandemic had resulted in the imposition of requirements for social distancing and quarantine guidelines by many countries, which hindered the ability of stakeholders to conduct the necessary inter-sectoral meetings to discuss and validate proposals and seek letters of support. The Executive Board therefore decided to extend the application deadline to 4 September 2020 and postponed the sixth meeting of the Executive Board, at which the applications submitted during the fourth round of funding would be submitted for approval, from November 2020 to March 2021.

46. The fourth teleconference of the Executive Board was held online from 27 to 28 October 2020. During the meeting, the Board considered the difficulties it had encountered in finalising its membership for the current term and requested the Secretariat to prepare a report inventorying analogous processes that had been established under similar mechanisms, and in doing so to identify possible solutions to the challenges in constituting the Executive Board.

47. The Board provided guidance to the Secretariat in dealing with requests for extension of projects beyond the normal maximum of 36 months, particularly in light of the delays caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and requested the Secretariat to maintain a list of the extensions granted and the reasons provided for the delays.

48. During the teleconference, the Board approved the revised proposal submitted by Brazil in response to comments provided by the Board upon its conditional approval of the original proposal under the second round of funding and requested the Secretariat to follow up with the country to finalize the implementation arrangements.

49. The Board considered the possibility of the one-time extension of the duration of the Special Programme, in the context of paragraph 24 of the Terms of Reference adopted by UNEA resolution 1/5. In light of the likely impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the timing and format of UNEA-5, it was decided to postpone the adoption of the proposed draft recommendation. The Executive Board requested the Secretariat to refine the language of the draft recommendation, taking into account the comments made during the meeting, in order to facilitate discussions at a later stage. The Secretariat was also requested to prepare a brief background document addressing the future added value of the Special Programme.

50. The Executive Board endorsed the draft monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy and action plan and the related toolkit, which would be accompanied by training to assist countries in its implementation.

51. Finally, the Board considered a request from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that copies of project documents for projects approved under the Special Programme to be shared with the Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC) of the Basel Convention. The Executive Board expressed its reservations about the request, noting that the Special Programme and the ICC each have their own distinct mandates and responsibilities. In addition, the Board noted that a large amount of information was already available on the Special Programme website in an easily accessible format through the PowerBI knowledge management tool[9]. The Board indicated that if more information was needed than was available in the public domain, it would be more appropriate for the ICC to request the required information directly from the country concerned, and if clarification was required, the Special Programme Secretariat could be asked to provide it.

G. Sixth meeting of the Executive Board

52. Owing to the travel restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and given the heavy agenda, the co-chairs of the Executive Board decided to split the sixth meeting into separate sessions.

53. The first session of the sixth meeting of the Executive Board was held online from 1 to 5 March 2021[10]. During this session, the Board considered 24 eligible and complete applications submitted under the fourth round of funding and decided to approve 15 of them, with a total budget of US $3,768,824, as outlined in table 4 of the appendix. The Board also endorsed the arrangements for the launch of the fifth round of applications, including the guidance and guideline documents and application forms, subject to some edits. The fifth round was subsequently launched on 7 April 2021 with a closing date of 7 August 2021.

54. The Board received an update on the operations of the Special Programme, including an update on progress made in specific projects and an update on progress made under the recently concluded contract for implementation of the phase II of the communications strategy. The Board provided guidance to the Secretariat on allowing flexibility with respect to requests to move funds across budget lines of existing projects under the Special Programme in light of the pandemic and endorsed a proposed approach to dealing with protracted delays in finalising implementation arrangements on projects and approved the revised budget for 2021.

55. At the resumed session of the sixth meeting[11], held on 1 and 2 September 2021, the Executive Board adopted a recommendation to the United Nations Environment Assembly for the one-time extension of duration of the Special Programme for a period of five years, in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Terms of Reference of the Special Programme. The Board also adopted amendments to its Rules of Procedure, to streamline the nominations process for Executive Board membership and provide for the identification of alternates to Board members. The Board received an update on the operations of the Special Programme and approved the indicative budget for 2022.

H. Seventh meeting of the Executive Board

56. The seventh meeting of the Executive Board was held online from 28 March to 1 April 2022[12]. During this meeting, the Board approved nine new projects under the fifth round of funding with a total budget of US $2,641,160, as outlined in table 5 of Appendix I and endorsed the arrangements for the launch of the sixth round of funding. The sixth round was subsequently launched on 11 April 2022 with a closing date of 12 August 2022.

57. The Board held an initial discussion on the request from UNEA that the Board review the procedures for application for funding in the light of the needs and challenges expressed by developing countries, including those related to operating costs, with a view to promoting an effective and efficient application of the eligibility criteria in line with the terms of reference of the Special Programme, without jeopardizing the ability of the Special Programme to receive funding from existing sources. On that point, the Executive

[9] https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/special-programme-projects-database.

[10] The report of the first session of the sixth meeting of the Executive Board is available through the following link: https://www.unep.org/events/working-group-meeting/sixth-meeting-executive-board-special-programme-support-institutional

[11] The report of the resumed session of the sixth meeting of the Executive Board is available through the following link: https://www.unep.org/events/working-group-meeting/sixth-meeting-executive-board-special-programme-support-institutional

[12] The report of the seventh meeting of the Executive Board is available through the following link: https://www.unep.org/events/working-group-meeting/seventh-meeting-executive-board-special-programme-support

Board requested the Secretariat to arrange an intersessional meeting in the last quarter of 2022 to discuss the matter further and to provide a number of relevant documents to inform the discussion.

I. Intersessional meeting of the Executive Board

58. The intersessional meeting of the Executive Board was held online on 5 December 2022[13]. The Board considered the updated document prepared at its request by the Secretariat on classification of countries, including a legal opinion from UNEP and a comparative table depicting different classification lists, and exchanged views to better understand the issues surrounding the use of the OECD DAC list of ODA recipients as the basis for eligibility for funding. These discussions were held in preparation for further consideration of the matter in the context of the preparations for the seventh round of funding, during the eighth meeting of the Executive Board in February 2023.

J. Eighth meeting of the Executive Board

59. The eighth meeting of the Executive Board took place in hybrid format in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15 to 17 February 2023[14]. The Board considered eligible and complete applications under the sixth round of funding and approved nine new projects with a total budget of US $2,207,875, as outlined in table 6 of Appendix I.

60. The Board also endorsed arrangements for the launch of the seventh round, and in doing so revised the eligibility and appraisal criteria for funding under the Special Programme. The revised eligibility and appraisal criteria are as set out in the text box below and have been included in the documentation for the seventh round of funding, which launched on 6 April 2023[15]. In addition, the Board received an update on operations of the Special Programme including feedback from the assessment of closed projects [16] undertaken by the Secretariat in 2022

a. Under section 2.2 of the Guidance on the Scope of the Special Programme, 'Who can apply for funding under the Special Programme?':
"Eligible Governments can apply to the Special Programme.
'Governments' specifically refers to the national government ministry or department in charge of the chemicals and waste agenda at the national level. Affiliations of Governments and local governments are not eligible.
Countries should refer to paragraph 6 of the Terms of Reference for eligibility which states that 'Support from the Special Programme will be available for developing countries, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States, and for countries with economies in transition[1], with priority given to those with least capacity'.
Note that a number of donors have strict policies of funding only applications that meet the eligibility requirements of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of Official Development Assistance (ODA)[2] at the time of application.

[1] See United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects Report available at https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/document_gem/global-economic-monitoring-unit/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-wesp-report/ with annexes available at https://desapublications.un.org/file/1113/download?_ga=2.247642817.739791176.1676889344-1020178047.1591942680
[2]https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm"

b. Under Annex III to the Guidance on the Scope of the Special Programme dealing with Appraisal Criteria:
"1.5 Questions for prioritization on the basis of country capacity, in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Terms of Reference
These questions are for the Board to consider:
P1. What is the level of ownership, impact and sustainability of the project?

[13] The report of the intersessional meeting of the Executive Board is available on the Special Programme website at the following link: https://www.unep.org/events/working-group-meeting/intersessional-meeting-executive-board-special-programme

[14] The advance report of the eighth meeting of the Executive Board is available on the Special Programme website at the following link: https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/eighth-meeting-executive-board

[15] https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/applying-funding-through-special

[16] Available at the following link: https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/42168;jsessionid=27DCA23788110B7A372B7DBF3F12B8C1

P2. Is the country classified as high income by the World Bank?
If yes,
P2.1. Is the country able to implement the project by its own financial means and capabilities?
P2.2 Does the beneficiary contribution from the applicant exceed the minimum 25% threshold provided for in paragraph 21 of the Terms of Reference and if so by how much?
P 3. Are there other factors relating to the country's capacity that should be taken into account?"

IV. Status of the Special Programme Trust Fund

61. The generous contributions of donors to the Special Programme trust fund and its operations continue to be greatly appreciated by the recipient countries.

62. An update of donor contributions since the establishment of the Special Programme Trust Fund in September 2015 is shown in table 1 below.

Table 1
Contributions and pledges received 2015 – 2021 (all amounts in US$ as 1 June 2023)

Donor	**Total Amount USD (Pledge)**
European Union	19,631,656
Sweden	3,735,847
United States	1,640,000
Norway	2,102,459
Germany*	2,551,210
Finland	314,560
The Netherlands*	905,802
Austria	287,611
Denmark	2,078,362
Belgium	214,190
United Kingdom	849,115
Switzerland	430,353
Total Pledges and Contributions	**34,741,165**

*Pledge amounts will be adjusted with the exchange rate on the day of receipt

63. In line with the Special Programme terms of reference, all signatories and parties to the conventions and other Governments with the capacity to do so, as well as from the private sector, including industry, foundations and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, are encouraged to contribute to the Special Programme Trust Fund.

V. Status of the Implementation of Special Programme Funded Projects

64. The Special Programme has to date completed six rounds of applications for funding bringing the total number of approved projects to 75 in 65 countries. Arrangements for implementation of nine projects approved under the sixth round in February 2023 is under way. Detailed information on the project portfolio is provided in the Secretariat's PowerBI tool[17], available on its website. An update on project progress by round of funding is set out in the following paragraphs.

A. First (pilot) round of applications

65. At its second meeting, the Executive Board approved seven projects in Argentina, Benin, the Dominican Republic, Iraq, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tanzania, and Ukraine following the first (pilot) round of applications for funding from the Special Programme.

[17] https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/special-programme-projects-database.

66. The project in Ukraine was subsequently cancelled following financial difficulties encountered by the project's implementing entity. Five of the remaining projects have completed implementation and closed, and a summary of their achievements is provided below.

(a) Argentina established a Directorate of Chemicals, covering chemical substances, hazardous and pathogenic waste and transboundary movements; undertook extensive engagement with the private sector on a range of issues related to chemicals management; established four Scientific-Academic Working Groups which have produced key reports on substances of concern; created a national inventory of chemicals; prepared draft laws to improve the management of plastic waste, hazardous waste, batteries and PCBs and to improve safety in regard to the application of phytosanitary products; carried out extensive training in the public and private sector; and developed communications products including an awareness campaign on the use of chemicals in the home.

(b) The Dominican Republic established an electronic system for import and registration of chemical substances; updated regulations for the transport of hazardous substances and for the management of chemical substances and hazardous waste; developed two technical standards based on the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS); designed a website to promote the exchange of information among stakeholders engaged in chemicals management; adopted a risk management guide to support the national plan for emergency care for nuclear, biological, chemical, radioactive and explosive substances, and established a national coordination mechanism to respond to emergencies with chemical substances with a related training programme.

(c) Iraq's project was implemented in the context of support from other resources. It contributed to the country's ratification of the Minamata Convention, established a unit responsible for the Stockholm Convention, promoted intersectoral coordination through the formation of intersectoral committees related to the sound management of chemicals and waste in Iraq; adopted a chemical security strategy, as well as issuing classification controls for the oil industry and industrial and service sectors; and formed a committee to unify the chemicals related law and develop a plan for the implementation of the national chemical policies in place. In addition, training was delivered on the GHS and e-Licensing and two project proposals were developed in efforts to mobilize additional funding for future chemicals and waste related work.

(d) Kyrgyzstan developed an action plan to strengthen and improve the national legislative framework of the country, with proposed actions based on the identified gaps and deficiencies in the national legislation; issued a decree of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Land Irrigation "On approval of the Catalogue of pesticides and agrochemicals allowed for use in the Kyrgyz Republic"; and adopted legal regulatory acts to amend the government Resolution "On measures aimed at protecting the environment and public health from the adverse effects of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides".

(e) Tanzania established a national strategy on sound management of chemicals and waste; enhanced capacity of pesticides and industrial chemicals inspectors and improved the inspection modality of imports for controlled substances under Rotterdam Convention, to enhance the control of illegal trafficking of pesticides and chemicals at entry points; established an empty pesticide container collection programme in local agricultural communities; established a chemicals and waste information management system to facilitate reporting under the chemicals and waste related Conventions; and put in place regulations on the control and management of mercury releases, to strengthen enforcement on import of mercury including the management of mercury waste.

B. Second round of applications

67. At its third meeting, the Executive Board approved seventeen projects in Afghanistan, Belarus, Brazil, China, Ecuador, North Macedonia, the Gambia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Kiribati, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Uganda and Viet Nam.

68. Eight of these projects have completed implementation and have either closed or are in the process of closing. An overview the achievements of these eight completed projects is provided below. include the following:

(a) Afghanistan made excellent progress, with completed project deliverables laying the foundation for future activities to build upon; however, a change of regime in country resulted in the final activity under the project being halted and the project was closed. Key achievements of the project included the establishment of a national chemicals unit, development of a data acquisition and management plan, to support the government in obtaining and managing data on hazardous chemicals and wastes; a review of the available literature on chemicals and waste in the country, identifying gaps and recommendations to address them; and development of a handbook on sampling Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) along with survey forms, with training provided on sampling procedures. The terminal

assessment of the Special Programme project rated the project's success before the change in government as satisfactory or highly satisfactory.

(b) Belarus created a national infrastructure for the ratification and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, including the necessary legislative, information and institutional arrangements. This involved intersectoral and multilateral coordination and cooperation for the consolidation of functions aimed at mainstreaming the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, along with existing infrastructures that have been put in place for the implementation of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and the Minamata Convention.

(c) China analyzed regulatory gaps in terms of chemicals and waste management throughout their life cycle and proposed policy recommendations; strengthened the national inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for Stockholm and Minamata Conventions; conducted a study on the international synergy process among the MEAs in the chemicals and waste cluster; developed a database of toxic and hazardous chemicals databases; undertook research on inter-sectoral mechanisms on the management of chemicals and waste transboundary movement, and developed a scheme for such a mechanism with policy recommendations; carried out studies on selected technical documents relevant to the MEAs ; and developed training materials and video courses on the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Minamata Conventions and SAICM as well as undertaking awareness raising activities.

(d) Ghana developed a 10-year strategic plan (2021-2030) which was published in July 2022. The Industrial and Consumer Chemicals Bill 2021 was forwarded to the Attorney General's Department for onward transmission to Cabinet and Parliament for approval and gazetting. The Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490) Amendment Bill (The Environmental Protection Bill, 2022) which establishes a functional unified multi-sectoral/multi-stakeholder coordinating mechanism for SCMW will be considered for approval in the coming months and gazetted. Satellite Focal Persons from identified Focal Institutions were trained alongside the staff of the Chemicals Control and Management Centre (CCMC) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

(e) Kenya developed a National Chemical Policy which is linked to the Kenya Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination committee on Sound Chemical Management (MCCSCM) was established and launched with the mandate to guide on the issues of chemicals and waste in the country including endorsing draft policies and regulations. Kenya established a chemical portal with the necessary legal and policy framework established to support the development and sustainability of the database including and developed a Pollutant Release and Transfers and Register (PRTR).

(f) Moldova adopted a framework law on chemicals which promoted several normative documents into law, including the creation of a chemicals agency; created a mechanism for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention to provide more clarity on the import and export of certain hazardous chemicals; facilitated the enforcement of waste legislation including by building capacity of relevant private sector organizations to implement EPR principles; and supported the promotion and adoption of regulations on packaging and packaging waste.

(g) Nigeria prepared a chemicals and waste management co-ordination bill, along with reports on mainstreaming aspects in the national development process, the baseline status of cost recovery measures in a selected sector, the outcomes of the pilot study to test the feasibility of the recommended options for national cost recovery measures, a national implementation plan for cost recovery of chemicals and waste management in Nigeria as well as a training and awareness raising strategy on chemicals and waste management. The terminal evaluation of their project in 2022 provided a very positive report.

(h) Serbia worked towards the improvement of the overall management of chemicals and waste at the national level, in line with obligations towards the key MEAs, by, amongst other things, establishing an information system to facilitate data collection for national reporting as well as developing an enabling policy environment for synergistic implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Minamata Convention. Through the project, Serbia has conducted an assessment of remediation costs in line with national and EU legislation, guidelines and best available practices for two mercury contaminated sites in Serbia, to provide decision makers with detailed information for ratification of the Minamata Convention.

C. Third round of applications

69. At its fourth meeting, the Executive Board approved eighteen projects in Albania, Angola, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Eswatini, the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Kazakhstan, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Pakistan, Palau, State of Palestine, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Vanuatu.

70. Two of these projects have completed implementation and have either closed or are in the process of closing. An overview the achievements of these completed projects is provided below.

(a) Kazakhstan updated its national chemicals profile; produced a report and recommendations on the barriers to national legislation for the coordinated implementation of all chemical conventions, including a recommendation to ratify the Minamata Convention; drafted a number of regulations related to chemicals and waste management; and included mercury in the list of pollutants, emissions of which are subject of environmental regulation as well as the list of mandatory monitoring in environment. In addition, training and awareness raising activities were undertaken.

(b) Tajikistan created a national website on the sound management of chemicals and waste to provide multisectoral stakeholders with reliable and comprehensive information on new approaches to sound chemicals and waste management. Sixteen trainings were held to substantially increase Tajik ministries' capacity and local authorities, businesses and NGOs' knowledge on sound chemicals and waste management. These capacity building trainings also provided significant input into strengthening institutional capacity in Tajikistan and improving coordination among relevant stakeholders working on chemicals and waste in the country. The project also resulted in preparation and verification of draft legal documents for the accession to the Rotterdam and the Minamata Conventions.

D. Fourth round of applications

71. The Executive Board at its sixth meeting, in March 2021, approved fifteen projects in Armenia, Belarus, Burundi, Georgia, Malawi, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Peru, Rwanda, Sao Tome Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uzbekistan. These fifteen projects are currently under implementation. An overview of the projects and updates on their status of implementation is available on the Special Programme website[18].

E. Fifth round of applications

72. At its seventh meeting held in March 2022, the Executive Board approved nine projects from Argentina, Belize, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Serbia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The project in Burkina Faso is on hold owing to the 2022 coup in the country, the projects in Argentina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Serbia and Zimbabwe have been signed are either under way or about to begin implementation, and the Secretariat is working with the remaining three countries to finalise their project implementation arrangements.

F. Sixth round of applications

73. At its eighth meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15 to 17 March 2023, the Executive Board approved nine projects under the sixth round of funding, in Ecuador, the Gambia, Georgia, Kenya, Lesotho, the Maldives, Mali, Rwanda and Togo. The Secretariat is working with the successful applicants to finalise their project implementation arrangements and sign project cooperation agreements.

G. Seventh round of applications

74. At its eighth meeting, the Executive Board endorsed the package of documents prepared for the launch of the seventh round of funding, including the revised eligibility and appraisal criteria set out in section I above.

75. The seventh round launched on 6 April 2023 with a closing date of 11 August 2023. On 23 and 24 May 2023 the Secretariat, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM, held a series of online webinars to provide prospective applicants with information and guidance on what the Special Programme is and how to apply for funding. Applications under the seventh round will be decided upon by the Executive Board at its ninth meeting, to be held in March 2024.

18 Available at https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme/special-programme-projects-database

Appendix

Table 1
List of projects approved by the Executive Board at its second meeting

Country	Project Title
Argentina	Strengthening national capacity for the sound management of chemicals and waste
Benin	Legal and institutional strengthening for the sound management of chemicals in Benin
Dominican Republic	Strengthening institutional capacity for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM in Dominican Republic
Iraq	Develop and strengthen the institutional structure for the management of chemicals and waste in Iraq
Kyrgyz Republic	Strengthening capacities for national implementation of chemicals and waste related international agreements
Tanzania	Strengthening institutional capacity for sound management of chemicals and waste in the United Republic of Tanzania
Ukraine	Strengthening the enforcement of the Rotterdam Convention in Ukraine, and building capacity to counteract illegal trafficking of chemical

Table 2
List of projects approved by the Executive Board at its third meeting

Country	Project Title
Afghanistan	Enhancing the sustainable institutional capacity to regulate toxic chemicals
Belarus	Establish a sustainable national infrastructure to join and support the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in the Republic of Belarus
Brazil	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for the Sound management of Chemicals through the Establishment of necessary structure to implement the national legislation on industrial Chemicals
China	China-Strengthening institutional capacity for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions and SAICM
Ecuador	Strengthening of the national control system for the management of dangerous materials in Ecuador
Gambia, The	Institutional Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements in The Gambia
Ghana	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for the Sustainable Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste throughout their Life-cycle and the Effective Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Ghana
India	Institutional Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Chemical and Wastes with Special Focus on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
Kenya	Support to chemicals and wastes MEAs and SAICM implementation in Kenya
Kiribati	Strengthening legal systems, institutions and data collection infrastructure in Kiribati
Nigeria	Strengthening of the legal and institutional infrastructures for sound management of chemicals (SMC) in Nigeria
North Macedonia	Strengthening Institutional capacities for mainstreaming quadruple synergy schemes in implementation of the National Action Plans (NAPs) for implementation of SAICM and Inclusion of Minamata convention
Papua New Guinea	Strengthening the institutional framework and national capacity of key stakeholders in Papua New Guinea in wastes and chemical management
Republic of Moldova	Improving sustainable institutional and regulatory framework for chemicals and waste management throughout their lifecycle in the Republic of Moldova

Country	Project Title
Serbia	Strengthening the synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions at the national level in the Republic of Serbia
Uganda	Strengthening national institution capacity in sound management of chemicals and waste in Uganda
Viet Nam	Strengthening national capacity in sound chemical and waste management for the implementation of the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam, Minamata conventions, SAICM in Viet Nam

Table 3
List of projects approved by the Executive Board at its fourth meeting

Country	Project Title
Albania	Strengthening sound chemicals and waste management in Albania, demonstrating improvement of Health Care Waste (HCW) management**.**
Angola	Strengthening Angola's National Chemicals and Waste Management Programme by establishing sustainable, integrated, and coherent national structure with emphasis on Private Sector participation
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Special Program for the Strengthening of National Capacities for Chemical Substances and Hazardous Waste Management in the Plurinational State of Bolivia
Cambodia	Institutional strengthening in Cambodia for efficient and coordinated implementation of the chemicals and waste management international agreements
Ethiopia	Enhancing Ethiopia's Institutional Capacity for Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes and POPs Chemicals and Improving Reporting Obligation under Basel and Stockholm conventions
El Salvador	Institutional strengthening for El Salvador in the implementation of the Basel, Stockholm, Minamata and Rotterdam conventions and the Strategic Approach for the Management of Chemical Products at the International Level
Eswatini	Institutional Capacity development and strengthening for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in the Kingdom of Eswatini
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	The Implementation of Cleaner Production Practices to Manage Chemicals and Waste in Oil Refinery
Kazakhstan	Strengthening the National Capacity of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Regulate Chemicals Through Ensuring Compliance with Obligations Under International Multilateral Environmental Agreements
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for the Chemicals Management in the FSM
Nauru	Strengthening the national capacity for integrated chemicals and waste management in Nauru
Pakistan	Strengthening of national legislation and capacity building of stakeholders for sound chemicals and hazardous waste management in Pakistan
Palau	Strengthening the national institutional capacity for chemicals and waste management in Palau
Palestine (State of)	Strengthening the institutional capacity of the State of Palestine for sound waste and chemicals management and fostering stakeholder buy-in under the BRS conventions and supporting process towards ratification of the Minamata Convention
South Africa	Phasing out of lead in paint and the development of an action plan for SAICM emerging contaminants (lead in paint, HHPs, EPPPs, EDCs, & Cd)
Tajikistan	Strengthening institutional capacity for national implementation of the Stockholm and Basel international conventions and building capacity for accessing the Rotterdam Convention in Tajikistan
Tunisia	Institutional strengthening and capacity building project towards achieving Environmental Sound Management (ESM) of hazardous wastes and chemicals at the industrial level as well as enhancing compliance and implementation of chemicals and waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) including Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Vanuatu	Strengthening the National Institutional Capacity for Chemicals and waste management in Vanuatu

Table 4
List of projects approved by the Executive Board at its sixth meeting

Country	Project Title
Armenia	Strengthening National Capacity of the Republic of Armenia in Sound Chemicals and Waste Management for Implementation of the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam, Minamata conventions and SAICM
Belarus	National capacity strengthening for the sound management of chemicals by sustainable implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in the Republic of Belarus (GHS)
Burundi	Strengthening chemicals and waste management within a circular economy framework in Burundi
Georgia	Enhancing national capacities, reporting and synergies between Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions and SAICM for the sound management of chemicals and waste in Georgia
Malawi	Strengthening institutional capacity to plan, monitor and coordinate the implementation of policies, strategies and national programmes for the sound management of chemicals and waste
Moldova	Promoting good governance and building platforms on better coordination on sound management of chemicals and waste in the line with SAICM beyond 2020 in Moldova
Mongolia	Improvement of human resource and analytical capacity for enforcement of hazardous waste management legislations in Mongolia
Montenegro	Strengthening synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions
Morocco	Strengthening institutional national capacities for the sound management of chemicals, especially the pesticides used in hygiene and public health
Peru	Strengthening national capacities for the integral management of chemicals in Peru
Rwanda	Strengthening the institutional capacity for sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes
Sao Tome and Principe	Strengthening São Tomé and Príncipe's National Chemicals and Waste Management Programme by establishing sustainable, integrated, and coherent national structure using plastic waste management pilot to demonstrate private sector and community participation.
Sierra Leone	Institutional strengthening for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste within the framework of Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Sierra Leone.
Sudan	Enhancing the institutional capacities for sound and synergistic management of chemicals and waste in Sudan
Uzbekistan	Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the implementation of the Basel and the Stockholm conventions and GHS, as well as facilitate the accession to the Rotterdam and the Minamata conventions

Table 5: Fifth round of funding
List of projects approved by the Executive Board at its seventh meeting

Country	Project Title
Argentina	Strengthening of national capacities in the environmentally sound management of emerging pollutants and other dangerous substances in Argentina
Belize	Institutional Strengthening of the Department of the Environment for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes in Belize
Burkina Faso	Strengthening Burkina Faso's national capacities for sustainable management of chemicals and hazardous waste

Democratic Republic of the Congo	Strengthening DRC's National capacity to implement the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions including SAICM.
Madagascar	Strengthening preventive, promotional and preparatory health sector interventions for an effective response to chemical events and accidents in Madagascar
Serbia	Further strengthening of national capacity and risk management of Substances of International Concern throughout their life cycle
Uganda	Strengthening National Capacity to Implement Control Procedures under the Rotterdam, Stockholm Basel and Minamata Conventions in the Republic of Uganda
Zambia	To strengthen institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes in Zambia
Zimbabwe	Strengthening Legal and Institutional Infrastructures for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes in Zimbabwe

Table 6: Sixth round of funding

List of projects approved by the Executive Board at its eighth meeting

Country	Project Title
Ecuador	Improvement and sustainability for the management of hazardous and special waste and chemical products for industrial use in Ecuador.
Gambia	Capacity strengthening and technical assistance for environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes in the Gambia.
Georgia	Establish of a Poison Control Center (PCC) as an essential infrastructural element of sound chemicals management system and prevention of chemicals exposure and management of poisonings in Georgia
Kenya	Sound Chemicals and Waste Management Kenya (Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste)
Lesotho	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Coordination of Chemicals and Waste Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements and Mainstreaming Gender in their Implementation in Lesotho.
Maldives	Institutional strengthening and capacity building for the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the Maldives.
Mali	Strengthening Mali's National capacity to implement the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions including SAICM.
Rwanda	Strengthening institutional capacity to reduce environmental and health risks from lead exposures and contamination in Rwanda.
Togo	Setting up a cost recovery mechanism to support the establishment of a sustainable legal and institutional framework for the sound management of chemicals with a special focus on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention

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Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

"Global Cross-sectoral Transparency System" (GCTS) for information on the identity of chemicals in materials and products - rationale for and clarification of the elements in the alt B2 target in the IP4.2 co-chair's consolidated document

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by groundWork South Africa, Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport), and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) on *""Global Cross-sectoral Transparency System" (GCTS) for information on the identity of chemicals in materials and products - rationale for and clarification of the elements in the alt B2 target in the IP4.2 co-chair's consolidated document*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Information document: "Global Cross-sectoral Transparency System" (GCTS) for information on the identity of chemicals in materials and products - rationale for and clarification of the elements in the alt B2 target in the IP4.2 co-chair's consolidated document.

Submission by groundWork South Africa, Health and Environment Justice Support, and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation to the Fifth session of the International Conference for Chemicals Management (ICCM5) - Bonn, Germany, 25 - 29 September 2023

Background

Disclosing information about chemicals in solid manufactured materials and articles is a missing piece of information sharing, essential for achieving a safe toxic-free circular economy, and for fulfilling the right to know and precautionary principles.

While many countries already implement a voluntary UN globally harmonized system (GHS) for disclosing information on the identities of chemical elements and chemical mixtures, no similar system currently exists for disclosing information on the identities of chemicals in **solid** manufactured materials and products.

The absence of a globally harmonized system of chemical information disclosure for solid materials and products is an obstacle to informed decision-making for all life stages along material and product life cycles. It undermines possibilities to fulfil targets 12.4 and 12.5 to the Sustainable Development Goal 12 on sustainable production and consumption, including the creation of a toxic-free circular and resource efficient economy.

At the same time, "***systems for the transparent sharing of relevant data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life cycle approach***" is one of the core elements of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals[1].

This information document presents the case for how a harmonized "Global Cross-sectoral Transparency System" (GCTS) could easily be constructed based on already existing elements and suggestions in the Chemicals in Products Programme[2].

Furthermore, in this information document, we discuss how the alt B2 target originally suggested at IP3 and developed further at IP4.2 complements the B2 target and why they should ideally complement each other and be kept as separate targets, or alternatively be merged into one.

1 Overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals (https://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/ICCM4/doc/K1501995%20SAICM-ICCM4-6-e.pdf).
[2] Chemicals in Products Programme (https://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/ICCM4/doc/K1502319%20SAICM-ICCM4-10-e.pdf).

The B2 targets in the co-chair's consolidated document

At present, the draft text for the new instrument has a strategic objective B: "***Comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data and information are generated, available and accessible to all to enable informed decisions and actions***"[3].

It has two proposed targets to be further discussed in connection with a IP4.3 meeting in Bonn.

The original B2 target reads as:

"By 20XX, stakeholders in the value chain [endeavor to] [ensure that] reliable information on chemicals in [materials and]articles is available throughout their life cycle [including at the waste stage], [to enable informed decisions and safe management of chemicals in a [clean] circular economy].]"

And the alt B2 target reads as:

"By 2030, stakeholders in the value chain use at the minimum a globally harmonized minimum cross-sectoral transparency standard for [chemicals of concern] in materials and products to ensure that reliable [and understandable] information on chemicals throughout material and product life cycles, [including at the waste stage], is available, and is publicly accessible via a global database to enable informed-decisions and sound management of chemicals and waste in a clean circular economy.].

Based on the clarifications below, we suggest modified text to alt B2:

"By 2030, stakeholders in the value chain use ~~at the minimum~~ a globally harmonized cross-sectoral transparency system for at the minimum [chemicals of concern] in solid materials and products to ensure that reliable [and understandable] information on chemicals throughout material and product life cycles, [including at the waste stage], is available, and is publicly accessible via a global database to enable informed-decisions and sound management of chemicals and waste in a toxic-free circular economy.]

We argue that the alt B2 target has important complementary elements to the original B2 target, and this discussion is further developed in the following sections of the information document.

[3] Co-chairs consolidated document after IP4.2 (https://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP4_2/IP%20CO-CHAIRS%20CONSOLIDATED%20DOCUMENT_03%20March%202023.pdf).

How can the* Global Cross-sectoral Transparency System *(GCTS) be constructed and how will it work?

The alt B2 target mentions a "***globally harmonized cross-sectorial minimum transparency standard***". Some stakeholders in the IP4.2 meeting raised concern that there is yet no such "standard" available. However, the Chemicals in Products Programme[2] already outlines how it could be constructed. The next logical step would be to apply its suggestions in practise, and in a formalized and harmonized way.

Before going into details, we propose to change the name "**standard**" to "**system**", as "standard" to some stakeholders may suggest a binding modality for information disclosure, which will not be the case for the future instrument beyond 2020. However, it can further be adopted as a binding element in national legislation, similarly to GHS.

The words "**globally harmonized**" would ensure equal and harmonized access to information on chemicals in materials and products to all stakeholders in all jurisdictions.

Following the discussions at IP4.2, we understand that the word "**minimum**" in the originally suggested text of alt B2 "**a globally harmonized minimum cross-sectoral transparency standard**" was confusing, because the same word was used twice in the paragraph. Thus, we suggest keeping only the words "**at the minimum**" as explained in the paragraph below.

By moving the words "**at the minimum**" to the indicated position we highlight that this target should at the minimum ensure that information on hazardous chemicals in solid products is available. However, it does not exclude the option for disclosing all chemicals which should be the aspirational goal. The reason why chemicals of concern are a priority for disclosure to ensure a toxic-free circular economy is described in the WHO report "Circular Economy and Health: opportunities and risks"4. Chemicals of concern are chemicals with hazard properties prioritized for disclosure by SAICM Chemicals in Products Program.

Disclosure of the names of chemicals present in materials or articles should be triggered when defined thresholds are exceeded. Because only the name, and not concentrations of chemicals, are disclosed with this approach, the entire "recipes" for materials or products are protected.

The suggested "system" in the alt B2 target could be based on the already agreed upon SAICM Chemicals in Products Programme criteria for chemicals prioritized for information disclosure, based on their inherent hazard properties.

Furthermore, the initial negative list of chemicals to be disclosed by the system could quite easily be constructed by compiling examples of how the SAICM Chemicals in Products Programme criteria have been applied in practise to identify "chemicals of concern". The prime real-life example is arguably the EU Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs)[5], which can be seen as the EU implementation of the intent of the SAICM Chemicals in Products Programme. The EU Candidate List is mentioned in the ICCM4

[4] https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/342218/9789289053341-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

[5] Candidate List Chemicals (https://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table).

document Guidance for stakeholders on exchanging chemicals in products information[6]. The SIN list[7] is a more comprehensive shadow list to the Candidate List, but with no legal implication, and is also based on the Chemicals in Products Programme criteria. In addition, POPs and chemicals regulated in binding chemicals and waste multilateral agreements would also qualify as "chemicals of concern", based on the SAICM Chemicals in Products Programme criteria. The latter are either highly restricted or banned, and should, anyway, not be in material cycles, yet regularly confirmed to be present in secondary raw materials and products thereof[8, 9, 10] .

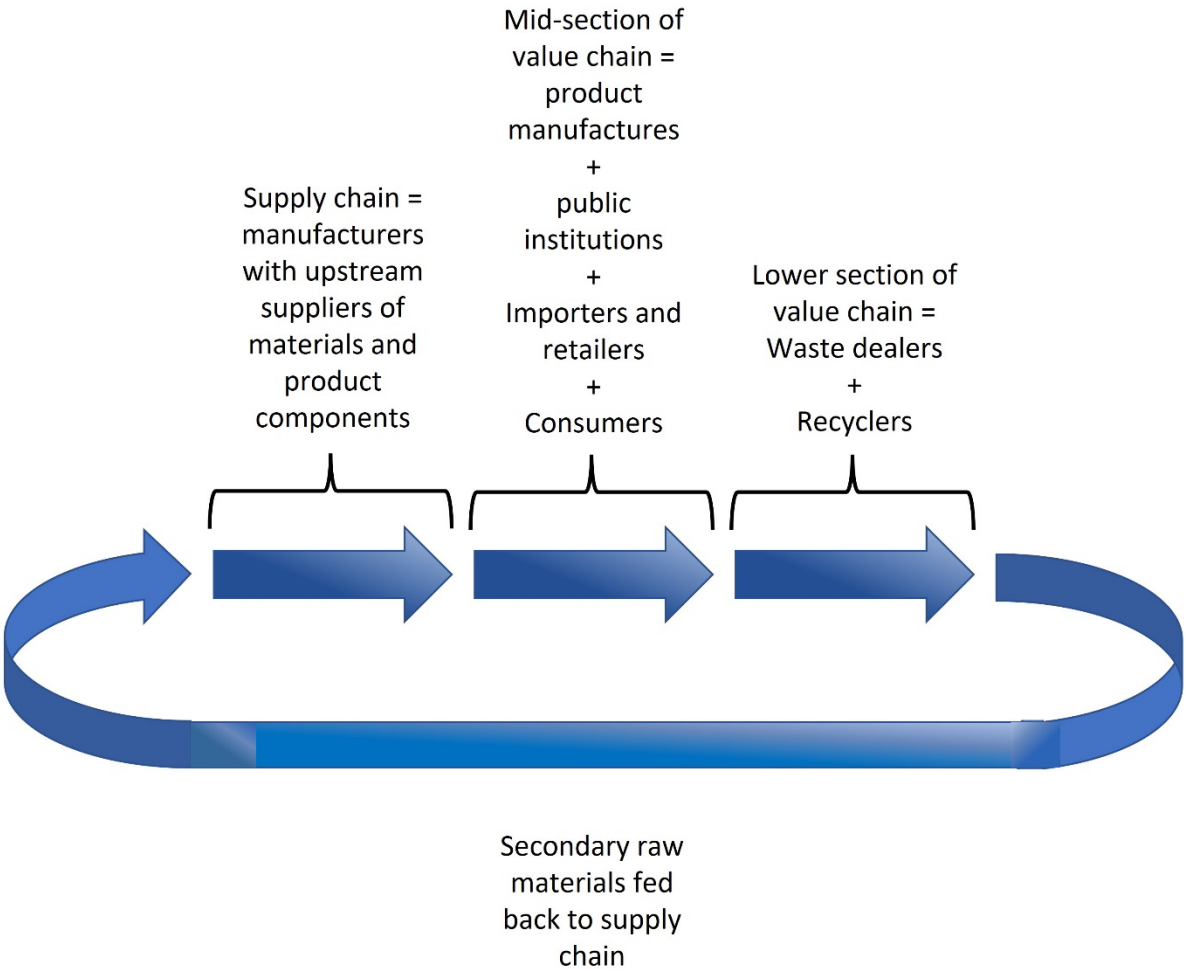
Different stakeholders have different information needs

The original and alt B2 targets address two different layers of information needs.

The original B2 target calls for **full information disclosure of chemicals in materials and products**. Among chemicals classified as non-hazardous today may be the future chemicals of concern, as new hazard and risk data expand our understanding.

Therefore, all companies should make sure that they can identify and track all chemicals in manufactured materials and products, throughout their supply chains.

[6] Guidance for stakeholders on exchanging chemicals in products information (https://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/ICCM4/doc/K1502355%20SAICM-ICCM4-11-e.pdf).
[7] SIN list (https://sinlist.chemsec.org/).
[8] Toxic toys or toxic waste: old POPs in new products (https://ipen.org/documents/toxic-toy-or-toxic-waste-old-pops-new-products).
[9] Widespread chemical contamination of recycled plastic pellets worldwide (https://ipen.org/documents/widespread-chemical-contamination-recycled-plastic-pellets-globally).
[10] Hazardous chemicals in plastic products (https://ipen.org/documents/hazardous-chemicals-plastic-products)



Full information disclosure should be provided to:

- Stakeholders of the supply chain;
- National agencies responsible for chemical safety;
- Regulatory units and legislators;
- Ideally to waste dealers, dismantlers, and to recyclers.

At the minimum, selected information disclosure about the presence of chemicals of concern should be provided to stakeholders of the mid and lower sections of value chains, including:

- Product manufactures;
- Public institutions;
- Importers and retailers;
- Consumers;
- Waste dealers, dismantlers, and recyclers.

Figure 1: Sections of material life cycles and full respective selective information disclosure for stakeholders in them.

In addition to within-supply-chain-disclosure, the following stakeholders need access to full information about the chemicals in materials and products:

a) National agencies responsible for chemical safety, to enable informed decisions in risk assessments and assessments of how various chemicals disperse with manufactured materials and products in their respective value chains;
b) Regulatory units and legislators, to make informed decisions about regulatory actions for chemicals;

Full information about the chemical composition of materials should, ideally, also be provided to waste dealers, waste dismantlers, and companies involved in reuse and recycling, to enable informed decisions for supply of toxics-free secondary raw materials of predictable qualities to circular economy, because even chemicals considered harmless may interfere with recycling processes and affect the properties of recyclates.

Potential issues around intellectual properties with respect to full information disclosure to the listed stakeholders, can be regulated through secrecy agreements.

On the other hand, the alt B2 target calls for **at the minimum selected information disclosure of chemicals in solid materials and products**.

Stakeholders downstream of material or product component supply chains, in the mid sections of value chains, upstream of stakeholders that supply secondary raw materials to circular economy, do not necessarily need access to full information disclosure of chemicals in materials and products. However, at the minimum, they need information about the presence of known chemicals of concern, which is also true for waste dealers, dismantlers, and recyclers. These stakeholders include, but may not be limited to:

a) Product manufacturers, because they need to be able to make informed decisions about design that is toxics-free to human health, environment, and for circularity;
b) Public institutions, because they need to be able to make informed decisions with respect to chemical composition of materials and products in public procurements;
c) Importers and retailers, as they need to be able to make informed decisions with respect to chemical composition of materials and products that they place on the market;
d) Waste dealers, dismantlers and recyclers, as it needs to be easy for them to identify the presence of chemicals of concern in waste they operate with and to make informed decisions to produce safe, toxic-free recyclate, so that their customers avoid recirculating toxic chemicals into new products made of recycled materials.
e) Consumers, because they need to be able to make informed decisions with respect to chemical composition when purchasing materials and products, as well as handle them safely throughout their respective life cycles, including as waste.

Consequently, the selected information disclosure modality outlined in the alt B2 target complements full information disclosure in the original B2 target.

Practicability

Another relevant factor to consider is that full information disclosure may not be a realistic target for many less well-resourced small- and medium-sized companies, particularly from low- and middle-income countries, in the short to medium term.

A "globally harmonized transparency system", on the other hand, would, to begin with, narrow the scope of information for disclosure to "chemicals of concern", which may help even small- and medium-sized companies to begin foster a culture of transparency work. Top priority should, anyway, be to keep track of, restrict and eventually ban, "chemicals of concern" in the material cycles.

However, the long-term goal for all companies should eventually be to gain control of all chemicals used in the supply chains of their materials and products, which is what the original B2 target calls for.

Level the playing field, including simple sharing of information on the identity of chemicals in materials and products

Supply chains nowadays often span several jurisdictions, with different legal requirements about the chemical composition of materials and products, and in addition may include companies that may have their own company specific transparency systems for information on chemicals in materials and products. The absence of a globally harmonized transparency system perpetuates multiple systems.

This potentially complicates trade. In particular, less well-resourced companies in low- and middle-income countries may not be able to conform with multiple company specific standards, and consequently cannot be part of some supply chains. **A "globally harmonized, cross-sectoral transparency system" would level the playing field, with respect to information disclosure on chemicals of concern in materials and products**.

Furthermore, in contrast to full information disclosure, **a "globally harmonized, cross-sectoral transparency system" would allow information disclosure to all stakeholders in the value chains, without complications due to issues around intellectual property claims**. If only the identities of chemicals of concern in materials and products are disclosed, using the SAICM Chemicals in Products Programme criteria, no confidential business claims are warranted with respect to §22 of the Dubai Declaration. Competitors can, namely, not easily replicate a product without knowledge about the concentrations of the chemicals.

Safety

Multiple company or industry sector transparency systems for information on chemicals in materials and products inevitably implies multiple disclosure thresholds for chemicals, defined by the individual companies or industry sectors themselves. Consequently, with full information disclosure, such as called for in the original target B2, and no guidelines, or other instructions, on what should be disclosed and at what concentrations, national chemicals and

waste agencies, and regulatory units and legislators, may in any case end up with fragmentary and insufficient data.

In the end, this may translate into unknown or hard to predict risks for human health and the environment.

A "globally harmonized, cross-sectoral transparency system" would create a modality for ensuring that everyone, irrespective of jurisdiction, can have access to a basic level of valuable information on chemicals in materials and products, to support informed decisions and actions, protect human health, environment and toxics-free material circularity. It is, thus, a complementary and necessary approach to full information disclosure.

Conclusions and recommendations forward

A "cross-sectorial globally harmonized transparency system" addresses a global information gap for information on identities of chemicals in materials and products, and provides a modality for easy communication of chemical identity information in muti-national supply chains. This can level the playing field for companies, facilitate trade, and help companies weak in resources to start fostering a culture of transparency for chemicals in materials and products.

The element of a "cross-sectoral globally harmonized minimum transparency system" in alt target B2 complements full information disclosure, **to meet information needs for all stakeholders in the value chains of materials and products**, so that the stakeholder can make informed decisions as needed. This cannot be easily achieved with full information disclosure, which may require considerations of intellectual property claims and may exclude stakeholders downstream of supply chains, in the mid-section of value chains upstream of waste dealers, waste dismantlers and reusers and recyclers, from relevant information, or complicate access to it, in particular to information on chemicals of concern that are hidden in full disclosure lists and require these stakeholders to be able to identify them.

The Chemicals in Products Programme provides us with hazard criteria for what chemicals could be included in the "cross-sectorial globally harmonized transparency system", and existing lists of "chemicals of concern" fulfilling these criteria can be compiled into an initial list that is a living list updated as the underlying elements are updated.

With these arguments in mind, we suggest that the original B2 and alt B2 targets are kept as separate targets.

Alternatively, if necessary, they can be merged into one, for example as suggested below:

Merged alt2 B2:

"***By 20XX, stakeholders in the value chain ensure that reliable information on chemicals in [materials and] articles preferably based on globally harmonized standards is available throughout their life cycle [including at the waste stage] to all in a suitable format, to***

enable informed decisions and safe management of chemicals in a [clean] circular economy."

Including language on "harmonized standards" also makes the call for full information disclosure stronger. We strongly believe that there is a need for, at a minimum, guidelines for harmonized disclosure threshold concentrations even for full information disclosure. Otherwise, we will end up with many different disclosure threshold concentrations decided upon by individual companies or industry sectors, and are at risk of having fragmented and incomplete information.

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About the transparency and traceability of chemicals in products and materials: https://www.globalchemicaltransparency.org/

Submissions and information regarding the SAICM intersessional process: https://hej-support.org/SAICM-networking/

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Assessment of effectiveness of Issue of Concern Implementation to Continue Work on a Particular Issue

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by a group of NGOs[1] on *"Assessment of effectiveness of Issue of Concern Implementation to Continue Work on a Particular Issue*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

[1] groundWork South Africa, Health and Environment Justice Support, (HEJSupport), the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Pesticide Action Network Germany (PAN Germany), Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PANAP), Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)

Information document: Assessment of effectiveness of Issue of Concern Implementation to Continue Work on a Particular Issue

Submission by "a group of NGOs"[1] to the Fifth session of the International Conference for Chemicals Management (ICCM5) - Bonn, Germany, 25 - 29 September 2023

Background

Paragraphs 9 and 10 in Chapter VII, sub-section C Mechanisms for Implementation, of the Intersessional Process Consolidated Document, are about extension or termination of the work with an Issue of Concern (IoC).

Paragraph 9 outlines the arguments to motivate further work with an IoC:

a) a full explanation of the rationale and recommendations on a way forward
b) options on how to meet the defined targets for the IoC;
c) progress evaluation of the activities listed in a workplan for the IoC.

In this information paper, we suggest further steps for meeting paragraph 9 approaches.

Issues of Concern

IoCs are priority issues that affect humans and the environment across jurisdictions and administrative borders, such as regions and countries.

The adoption of an IoC by the stakeholders of the instrument is a recognition of the cross-sectorial importance of the IoC for the sound management of chemicals and waste specifically and its significance for creating conditions for the fulfilment of the Agenda 2030. Thus, for the sustainable development agenda, IoCs have universal importance that cannot be captured with just an IoC specific workplan.

The existing IoCs are a good example of how this approach has been implemented by stakeholders of the current SAICM. All eight IoCs are of global value while their specific workplans, listed in Annex I, IV/2: Emerging policy issues of ICCM 4 report, only invite relevant stakeholders to report on progress, conduct information and education campaigns or provide financial and technical resources. Thus, implementation of these workplans alone will not help meaningfully address IoCs as issues of global importance or substantially reduce the associated environmental and health risks or consider an IoC as solved.

The IoCs workplans are developed in a way that they are realistic and implementable within a given time frame, thus, making the scope of an IoC workplan, by necessity, narrow. It cannot capture the full range of relevant aspects of an IoC to the Agenda 2030, their cross-cutting

[1] groundWork South Africa, Health and Environment Justice Support, (HEJSupport), the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Pesticide Action Network Germany (PAN Germany), Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PANAP), Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)

character, including their relevance to multilateral agreements, such as the Convention of Biological Diversity and others.

Therefore, if the need to continue work on an IoC is evaluated only against its workplan, we are at risk of prematurely sunsetting chemicals and waste issues of universal importance to the sustainable development agenda. For example, just ticking boxes of the workplans for existing IoCs may result in sunsetting nearly all of them. However, according to SAICM independent evaluation of 2006-2015, progress in addressing the IoCs is mainly limited to information collection, and few concrete risk elimination or risk reduction measures have been undertaken.

Consequently, we argue that a full explanation of the reasons for extending the work with an IoC should be captured by a set of criteria complementary to the workplan, and that can be in an annex to the new instrument. The reason why criteria are necessary is that the explanation should be based on an assessment method that is as reproducible as possible.

The criteria should be accompanied by indicators that match these criteria, including time-bound goals, a process of critical evaluations against these goals, and the process for including increased obligations on stakeholders if assessment against the criteria demonstrates insufficient progress on an issue.

Complementary criteria for the universal importance of an IoC

Complementary criteria to IoC workplans should capture the universal importance of an IoC for the Agenda 2030 and be understandable in terms of the principles and approaches, as well as the strategic objectives and targets, of the instrument.

In connection with the IP3 meeting, a "group of NGOs" presented a set of "trigger criteria". These were the starting-point at the IP4 meeting for developing the Paragraphs 9 and 10 in Chapter VII, sub-section C Mechanisms for Implementation, of the Intersessional Process Consolidated Document. The essence of the trigger criteria could easily be reworked into criteria complimentary to IoCs' workplans. The assessment against these criteria will help better understand the universal value of an IoC and its importance to achieve the specific objectives and targets of the new instrument, as we illustrate in the table below.

Table 1: Suggested IoC criteria capturing their universal importance to the sustainable development agenda, and relevance to the principles, approaches and strategic objectives of the updated instrument.

IoC universal criteria	**Justification with reference to the principles, approaches and strategic objectives**	**Examples of specific relevant targets**
National and regional regulations and institutional mechanisms are absent or have failed to achieve sufficient improvement in the IoC	The suggested IoC criterion is relevant, e.g., to the principles "human rights" and "preventive approaches".	Target A1 – [By 2030], [governments] [countries] have adopted, implemented and enforced legal

	It is clearly linked to the strategic objectives A and E of the instrument.	frameworks and established appropriate institutional capacities to prevent or where not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals and waste. [Target A2 - A Code of Conduct on chemicals and waste management, is developed and countries [include measures to prevent and significantly minimize adverse effects of chemicals through their lifecycle and waste] [have incorporated its provision in their national legislation].] [Target E1 – Policies for sound management of chemicals [and [their] waste] are integrated into local, national [and] regional development strategies.] [Alt E1. By 2030 governments have mainstreamed the sound management of chemicals and waste through implementation in all relevant national sectoral plans, [economic budgeting processes,] development assistance policies and programmes.]

Failure to make available the information necessary for addressing an IoC This includes, but may not be limited to: a) Transparency of information on chemicals relevant to an IoC in value chains for materials and products; b) Insufficient monitoring of human and environmental impacts by chemicals relevant to an IoC; c) Insufficient efforts made to use sustainable solutions and safe substitutions to hazardous chemicals and groups of chemicals relevant to IoC	The suggested IoC criterion is relevant, e.g., to the principles "knowledge and information", including support by the best available science and "transparency". It is clearly linked to the strategic objective B, and is a prerequisite for meeting strategic objective D.	Target B2- By 20XX, stakeholders in the value chain [endeavor to] [ensure that] reliable information on chemicals in [materials and]articles is available throughout their life cycle [including at the waste stage], [to enable informed decisions and safe management of chemicals in a [clean] circular economy].] [Alt B2. By 2030, stakeholders in the value chain use at the minimum a globally harmonized minimum cross-sectoral transparency standard for [chemicals of concern] in materials and products to ensure that reliable [and understandable] information on chemicals throughout material and product life cycles, [including at the waste stage], is available, and is publicly accessible via a global database to enable informed decisions and sound management of chemicals and waste in a clean circular economy.] [Target B3 – [By [20XX] [2030]], [[Governments][and relevant] [stakeholders to generate]] [require

		the generation of] [robust]] data on production [and consumption] of chemicals, releases and emissions of chemicals and waste to the environment [based on lifecycle approach] and [gender and age disaggregated on] [concentrations of chemicals in humans][, burden of human disease], biota, and environmental media is generated and [made] [publicly] available [at regional and global [all] levels] [and harmonized research protocols are developed and used to [promote] [ensure] coherence and comparability of this data].] [Target D8 – By xx, minimum [requirements] [criteria] for third-party/private [sector]/non-governmental standards, labels and certificationschemes are defined [, implemented,] and reviewed on an ongoing basis[.] [, potential for harmonization is explored and adherence increased and applied by private sector [and monitored by governments and other stakeholders]].]

Failure to reduce the impact of chemicals relevant to an IoC on human health and the environment. This may, but are not limited to, components such as: a) Failure to reduce levels of chemicals relevant to an IoC in environmental media and biota; b) Failure to reduce acute poisoning and/or chronic effects by chemicals that are relevant to IoCs; c) Failure to reduce the volume of the production, use and disposal of substances of very high concern relevant to an IoC.	The suggested IoC criterion is relevant, e.g., to the principles "human rights" and "groups in vulnerable situations". It is clearly linked to the strategic objectives A and C.	Target A3 - By 20xx, measures identified to prevent or, where not feasible minimize adverse effects from chemicals [and [their] waste] throughout their life cycle, are implemented by companies. Target A7 – [By 2030], the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides is [eliminated] [phased out] from agriculture.] Target A6 - By 20XX All countries have access to poison centers equipped with essential capabilities to prevent and respond to poisonings [as well as access to training on chemical risk prevention and clinical toxicology]. [T
Significant costs for society in the absence of action to address an IoC This may include, but may not be limited to: a) Healthcare costs for individuals and the state; b) Loss of IQ and productivity; c) Loss of pollinators; d) loss of biodiversity;	The suggested IoC criterion is relevant, e.g., to the principles "human rights" and "groups in vulnerable situations". It is clearly linked to the strategic objective A and E.	Target E3. [Predictable and sustainable new] Financial [and non-financial] resources needed to achieve [support] the sound management of chemicals [and [their] waste] are identified, [and] mobilized [, and increased by at least XXX amount per year according to our common but differentiated responsibilities, [to

e) costs of chemical contamination of natural resources, such as air, soil and water including but not limited to large-scale environmental clean-up and remediation costs		address national needs and realities]] in all sectors by and for all stakeholders. Target E5. By [2030], [governments][relevant stakeholders] [have implemented and enforce adequate] [are securing funding for national chemicals management, including through] [and globally coordinated] cost recovery mechanisms [to contribute to internalizing costs of the sound management of chemicals and waste, [through different approaches to extended producer responsibility][and polluter pays principle]].]

Conclusions

IoCs are recognized of particular importance to the Agenda 2030, and of cross-cutting importance to the chemicals and waste work in particular. As such, they should not be airily sunsetted without a thorough evaluation also of their universal values.

Universal values beyond a narrow and time-limited workplan can be captured by overarching IoC criteria, such as we tried to illustrate in the table above.

Therefore, we urge the stakeholders to consider including the suggested criteria, or corresponding, into the Annex of the instrument.

If the instrument cannot efficiently address an IoC, stakeholders must consider raising the ambition level via other channels, including increasing obligations, e.g. via other multilateral agreements if doable. This should be part of the explanation for the way forward for an IoC outlined in paragraph 9 in Chapter VII, sub-section C Mechanisms for Implementation, of the Intersessional Process Consolidated Document.

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Implementing SAICM: Challenges and Options for Funding the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by the German Environment Agency on *"Implementing SAICM: Challenges and Options for Funding the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Annex

Submission by the German Environment Agency

Implementing SAICM: Challenges and Options for Funding the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste

1. Introduction

At the fourth meeting of the SAICM Intersessional Process (IP-4), the preliminary results of the study[1] "Overview of possible funding sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste" were presented at a Technical Briefing meeting. From the interaction with participants of IP4.1, it became clear that there was a keen interest from countries and organisations to learn more about the possibilities to support the implementation of SAICM objectives.

Therefore, a follow-up phase to that study was commissioned by the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA), in order to address a number of concerns raised during IP4.1, as well as to look into possible options for converting the results of the study into a practical help tool for interested countries. At IP4.2, a very brief summary of the preliminary findings of that study was presented.

The present submission builds upon the results of the studies mentioned above, as well as on the outcome of the discussions at IP4.2 on Chapter VIII of the Single Consolidated Document (version 3 March 2023) with regard to capacity building.

2. Challenges

Among the key findings of the Global Chemicals Outlook II[2], it is stated that, while international treaties and voluntary instruments have reduced the risks of some chemicals and wastes, progress has been uneven and implementation gaps remain. Addressing legislation and capacity gaps in developing countries and emerging economies remains a priority.

The same challenge was flagged in a study that was presented at IP3[3] which stated that a major barrier to the achievement of the SAICM 2020 goal had been the persistent lack of capacity in many countries to develop and implement policies and programmes for the sound management of chemicals and waste, and that addressing this lack of capacity requires access to resources including finance, technology, technical skill, regulatory systems and institutional infrastructure by governments, civil society and the private sector.

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[1] Funding for this paper was provided by the German Environment Agency under AZ 97 282/0046.

[2] UNEP (2019), Global Chemicals Outlook II. From legacies to innovative solutions. Synthesis Report.

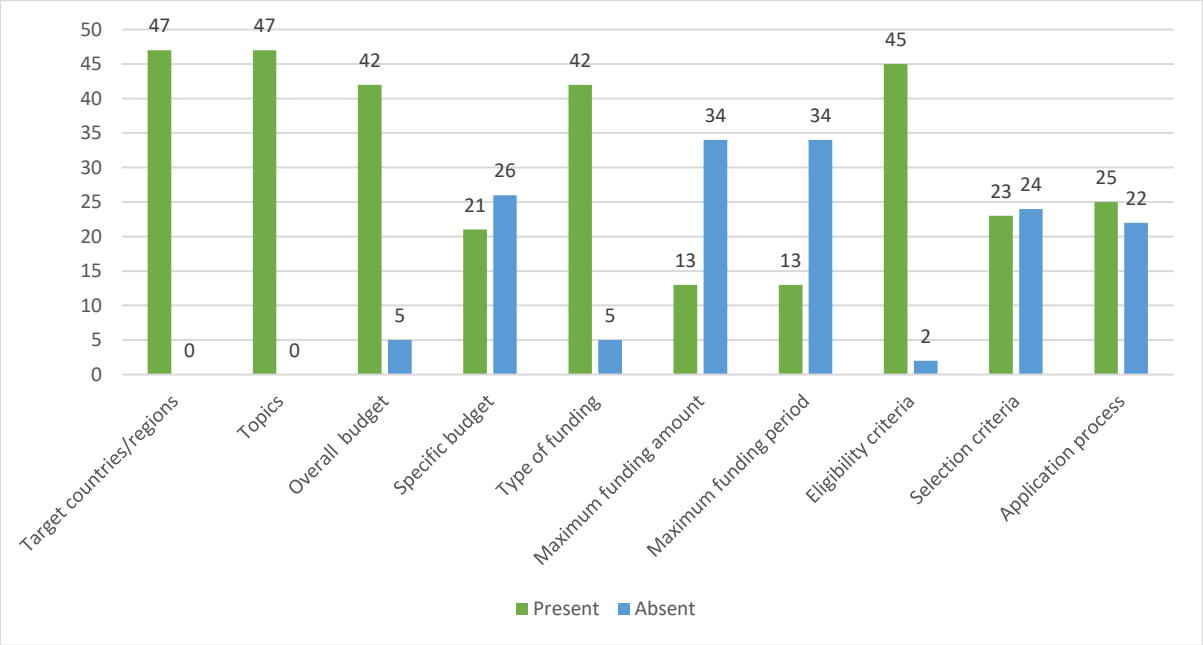
[3] SAICM/IP.3/INF/4, Submission from the German Environment Agency – Enhancing the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (Summit outcomes – Adelphi 2019)

The same study also noted that there is a plethora of international finance mechanisms available, but no fit for purpose process or mechanism to facilitate, coordinate and guide the coherent and efficient mobilisation and deployment of these resources.

3. Funding sources

The study "Overview of possible funding sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste"[4] registered 47 entities and concluded that the information available provides a fairly complete picture of what countries need in order to identify which entities may support them: the topics that may be funded, in which countries and regions, who is eligible for the funding and in which way the funding is provided. Other aspects of the entities are less well documented. (Fig. 1).

Figure 1: Presence/Absence of information in relevant categories



The main recommendation of the study suggests to look into the feasibility of making the overview operational and keeping it updated for practical use, by defining its functions and exploring options for formats that can convert the overview in a permanent tool.

4. Mechanisms for support

The challenges related to capacities and resources mentioned earlier, are not particular to the sound management of chemicals and waste, nor SAICM specifically. As a matter of fact, they are common to most, if not all, environmental and sustainability issues. Therefore, the

[4] Umweltbundesamt (2023), Overview of possible funding sources for the sound management of chemicals and waste. The full report can be accessed here.

follow-up phase of the "overview" study looked at how other MEAs have addressed similar challenges, i.e. what kind of arrangements or mechanisms they have put at the disposal of their parties.
Information was collected from the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, the UN Forum on Forests' Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. It is summarised in terms of functions, objectives, administration and name category in Table 1.

Table 1: Overview of support mechanisms under MEA's

Name	Function(s)	Objective	Administrator	Category
Forests (UNFF)				
Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network	Promote the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management (SFM); Facilitate access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms; Serve as a clearing house on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned from successful projects.	Forest financing Contribute to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets	UNDESA secretariat	Clearing house +
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)				
Clearing-House Mechanism	Provide effective global information services	Facilitate implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity	CBD Secretariat	Clearing-house
Biosafety Clearing-House	Exchange information on Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)	Facilitate implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	CBD Secretariat	Clearing-house
Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House	Exchange information on access and benefit-sharing	Facilitate implementing the Nagoya Protocol	CBD Secretariat	Clearing-house
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)				
Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer	Repository of information on insurance and risk transfer		UNFCCC Secretariat	Clearing-house
Green House Gas (GHG) Help Desk	Collaboration platform for in-depth technical advice	GHG inventory planning, preparation, development and management	UNFCCC Secretariat	Help desk
MRV/Transparency helpdesk	Technical resources	Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV); Enhanced transparency framework	UNFCCC Secretariat	Help desk
Capacity-building Portal	Provide active information	Interactive tool on projects, tools, courses and other resources to enhance capacity	UNFCCC Secretariat	Portal
Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform	Promote exchange of experiences and good practices;	Capacity-building for LCIPs	UNFCCC Secretariat	Platform

	Build capacity for engagement; Provide diverse ways of knowing for designing and implementing climate policies and actions			
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)				
Capacity Building Marketplace	Centralise information on science, technology, and human capital	Facilitate implementing the Convention	UNCCD Secretariat	Marketplace
Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)				
Clearing-house	Provide information on persistent organic pollutants, including information provided by Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations		SC Secretariat	Clearing-house
Minamata Convention on Mercury				
Information exchange (Art. 17) Secretariat (Art. 24)	The Secretariat shall facilitate cooperation in the exchange of information referred to in this Article To assist parties in the exchange of information related to the implementation of this Convention;		Minamata Secretariat	No specific name
Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund				
Clearinghouse under the Multilateral Fund	Identify the needs for co-operation through country-specific studies and other technical co-operation. Facilitate technical co-operation to meet these identified needs. Distribute information and relevant materials, and holding workshops, training sessions, and other related activities. Facilitate and monitor other multilateral, regional and bilateral co-operation available to developing countries.	Enable countries to meet and sustain their compliance obligations under the Montreal Protocol	UNEP OzonAction through Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP)	Clearing-house
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)				
Knowledge Platform	Provide information about SAICM emerging chemical policy issues with resources and publications, news and articles, chemicals and waste-related events and communities of practice for exchanging with other stakeholders		SAICM Secretariat	Platform

This non-exhaustive list of support mechanisms under MEA's includes clearinghouses, portals, platforms, marketplaces and helpdesks. Although these concepts are not always clearly defined and may display very similar functions, they all have one common feature which is to provide information.

Clearing houses vary from a rather passive information repository (UNFCCC Fiji CH), over a more active form of information exchange (CBD BCH and ABSCH), to being a tool for promoting scientific and technical cooperation (CBD CHM).

Portals, platforms and marketplaces seem to be very similar to each other and to clearing houses in general, in that they are mainly characterised by an exchange of information function.

Helpdesks seem to be the mechanisms that are most practical action-oriented, because they are a place to ask specific questions and raise particular issues with regard to well-defined aspects of convention implementation.

The Facilitating Network of UNFF combines clearinghouse and help desk functions, specifically for the financial dimension of an agreement (information, access, strategies).

5. Inter-sessional process towards ICCM5

In the course of the inter-sessional process towards ICCM5, several ideas about information collection and sharing have been presented at different times and in different places in the Single Consolidated Document text, with varying names. They have finally crystallised under chapter VIII on capacity building, in the form of an original and alternative proposal (Table 2).

Table 2: Comparison of IP4.2 proposals under VIII. Capacity building of the Consolidated text

Original text (O)	Alt text (A)	Comments
1. [To support implementation efforts and build capacity, the secretariat facilitates, upon request by a government, voluntary [peer] reviews.]		Both: Sec to facilitate reviews
2. [[The [governing body] shall mandate] the Secretariat should [to create a technical expert group, to expedite the establishment of] [establish] an online Capacity Building platform that enables stakeholders that lack capacity to achieve the SAICM objectives, to request support. The Capacity Building platform will serve as a matchmaking tool to connect the capacity needs to the most suitable provider(s) for building capacity assistance, including in-kind and financially.]	2. [Certain stakeholders would benefit from increased financial assistance, capacity building and transfer of technology enabling them to address the increasing challenge on the sound management of chemicals and waste. To this end, the establishment of an online [matching/support] platform could play an important role between suppliers and recipients.	O: creation of expert group establishment of online CB platform with matchmaking function A: establishment of matchmaking platform for FA, CB and TT[5]
3. [The Capacity Building Platform should serve as a global platform open for all SAICM stakeholders to identify concrete projects serving SAICM objectives, mobilize dedicated external funds and human resources, facilitate [for] knowledge generation and sharing in support of Strategic Objective B and developing cooperation and partnership[, thereby strengthening private sector involvement (by funding projects and/or providing in-kind technical[and technological] expertise)].]	3. The online [matching/support] platform should serve as a global, transparent, central matchmaking tool to connect the non-financial and/or financial capacity to the most suitable provider(s) for building capacity	O: platform to identify projects, mobilise external funding and human resources, facilitate knowledge generation and sharing, develop cooperation and partnership, strengthening private sector involvement A: platform to be central matchmaking tool on non-financial and financial capacity
4. [Many stakeholders are in urgent need of financial assistance, capacity building and transfer of technology enabling them to address the ever-increasing challenge on the sound management of chemicals. To this end, establishment of data bank	4. The Beyond 2020 Secretariat/IOMC/UNEP should facilitate the creation and management of the online [matching/support] platform.	O: establishment of databank to receive needs of stakeholders on CB, TA, TT, to identify needs of DCs upon request, to identify suppliers, to identify gaps in financial and technical needs

[5] CB: capacity-building; FA: financial assistance; TA: technical assistance; TT: technology transfer

could play an important role between suppliers and recipients. Amongst others, the data bank could contribute to the followings: a) All stakeholders have the right to provide their needs and request technical and capacity building assistance and transfer of technology, b) Identifying the needs of developing countries upon request, c) Identifying suppliers that are (in a position to do so) to provide necessary assistance, d) Secretariat would compile the information by the recipient and suppliers of the identified needs and assistance and would make them available to all stakeholders and sections in an online platform, e) Identifying the gaps in addressing the financial and technical needs of developing countries].		Secretariat to compile the info and make it available in online platform A: Secretariat/IOMC/UNEP to create and manage the online platform.
	5. The platform allows proposing, identifying and tracking concrete projects, as well as mobilizing dedicated external funds, technological expertise and human resources, facilitating knowledge generation and sharing in support of the Beyond 2020 Strategic Objectives.	A: platform to propose, identify and track concrete projects, mobilise dedicated external funds, technological expertise and human resources, facilitating knowledge generation and sharing
	6. Amongst others, the online [matching/support] platform could contribute to the following: a) Facilitating requests for technical and capacity building assistance, and transfer of technology b) Identifying projects of developing countries / countries with economies in transition, and other stakeholders as appropriate c) Identifying suppliers/donors volunteering to provide necessary assistance, technological expertise and/or financial support to specified projects d) Identifying and promoting funding opportunities and calls for applications of projects at global level e) Identifying the gaps and overlaps in addressing the financial and technical needs of developing countries f) Tracking and reporting progress in the implementation of projects to support the monitoring of progress of the Beyond 2020 framework/instrument g) Identifying gaps and replicable best practices and projects for other regions h) Ensuring transparency and efficiency for all actors i) Making available the results, outputs and outcomes of projects to all.	A: facilitate requests for TA, CB, TT, identify projects, identify suppliers of TA, CB, TT and funding, identify and promote funding opportunities, call for applications at global level, identify gaps in FA and TA, track and report progress of projects, identify gaps and replicable best practices for other regions, ensure transparency and efficiency, make available results, outputs and outcomes
	7. All stakeholders have the right to submit their project proposals and request technical and capacity building assistance, or offer financial and non-financial support.	A: all stakeholders to submit project proposals and request TA, CB and FA
	8. The Beyond 2020 secretariat / IOMC / UNEP would compile the information provided by the recipient and suppliers of the identified needs and assistance and would make them available to all stakeholders and sections in an online platform.]	A: secretariat / IOMC / UNEP to compile the information provided by the recipient and suppliers and make it available to all stakeholders and sections

Both versions of the proposal coincide on several aspects: the mechanism is called a platform; it should be an online mechanism for matchmaking between suppliers and recipients of financial and non-financial support, with the SAICM Secretariat playing a role in the administration of it. Further details of the functions, the form and the components of the platform also show great similarities, including in the extension of functions beyond the services usually associated to these types of mechanisms, e.g. identifying and tracking concrete projects, mobilising external funding, calling for applications, etc.

6. A mechanism for support under SAICM

On the basis of the analysis of the support mechanisms under different MEA's and the proposals of IP4.2, a first tentative draft Terms of Reference for a support mechanism under SAICM is presented below.

Considering that such a mechanism should be a practical tool for its users, it is suggested to call it a web-based, online helpdesk. Such a helpdesk could take the form of a data bank which gathers information on possible sources of funding for all the identified needs with regard to capacity-building, technical assistance, transfer of technology and investments. The helpdesk could then match the information from those sources to stakeholders' requests, and assist stakeholders, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in gaining access to these sources, similar to what the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network under UNFF provides.

It speaks to reason that, at the start, such a helpdesk covers the basic functions of a support mechanism and includes provision for reporting back, as well as a periodic review element in order to track its performance and eventually fine-tune or extend its functions.

This first tentative of draft Terms of Reference is put before the SAICM stakeholders to facilitate further reflection, discussion and decision at ICCM5.

The draft Terms of Reference for a SAICM helpdesk could be composed of the following elements:

Terms of Reference for a helpdesk facilitating support and access to resources (draft)

(i) Objective

Provide support to all SAICM stakeholders, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to help them accessing the necessary resources for projects and activities with regards to capacity building, technical assistance, technology transfer and investment, that address the challenges of the sound management of chemicals and waste.

(ii) Functions

The helpdesk shall be the repository of information about the possible providers of support in the areas of capacity building, technical assistance, transfer of technology and investment.

The helpdesk shall assist stakeholders, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in gaining access to resources available.

The helpdesk shall update and improve the repository in light of the changes that the possible providers may undergo.

The helpdesk will receive from all SAICM stakeholders, in particular from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, expressions of their general needs with regards to the areas above. The helpdesk may also receive expressions of concrete needs in the areas above, in the form of project proposals and requests for support.

The helpdesk will endeavour to match project proposals and requests for support with its information about possible providers, and facilitate the communication and further development of the projects/actions/activities among requester and supplier.

The helpdesk will maintain a register of all requests and their follow-up activities and make it publicly available.

The helpdesk will report on all the above to each session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

(iii) Working modalities

The helpdesk shall be located in the SAICM Secretariat.

The repository could be a databank hosted by the SAICM website and be publicly available for consultation.

The possible providers of support will come from all sources including, but not limited to, international organisations, international financing institutions, regional economic integration organisations, bilateral co-operation institutions, private sector companies, national budgets, philanthropy, …

(iv) Review

On the basis of its report, the Help desk shall be reviewed by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at each of its sessions.

The review of the helpdesk shall be performed on the basis of Terms of Reference to be decided by the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

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Commitment Platforms and the Global Agenda for Chemicals and Waste Management

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by Sweden on "*Commitment Platforms and the Global Agenda for Chemicals and Waste Management*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.



Commitment Platforms and the Global Agenda for Chemicals and Waste Management

May 2021

CENTER FOR GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY
University of Massachusetts Boston

UMASS BOSTON

Commitment Platforms and the Global Agenda for Chemicals and Waste Management

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Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CiP	Chemicals in Products
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
EDCs	Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals
EMAS	EU's Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
EPI	Emerging policy issue
EPPPs	Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical pollutants
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter
HLPF	High-level Political Forum
HPP	Highly hazardous pesticides
HSLEEP	Hazardous Substances within the Life Cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products
ICCM	International Conference on Chemicals Management
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
LPAA	Lima-Paris Action Agenda
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
MPAs	Marine protected areas
NAZCA	Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action
NBSAP	National biodiversity strategy and action plans
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OPS	Overarching policy strategy
PFCs	Perfluorinated Chemicals
PFAS	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation to the UNFCCC
KemI	Swedish Chemicals Agency
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small-Island Developing States
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGC	United Nations Global Compact
VBC	Voluntary Biodiversity Commitment
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development



Summary

Problem statement

One of functions of the of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is to call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action as identified in the paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS). In 2015, the Fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-4) initiated the development of the framework for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 that is envisaged to be adopted in the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-5). This process currently includes issues of concern as one of its recommended five strategic objectives. This shows continued interest in addressing issues of concern, including hazardous chemicals, groups of chemicals, mixtures, and materials. An efficient approach for dealing with issues of concern, one which can fully harness the multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral character of the new Framework, is needed.

Objective

In this report, selected international mechanisms for encouraging voluntary commitments are presented, and their main functions and principles outlined. It then deliberates on how such a mechanism could be part of addressing issues of concern identified to warrant international action in the new global agenda for chemicals and waste management. This report is intended to inform discussion in the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the framework for sound management of chemical and waste beyond 2020.

What are voluntary commitments and commitment platforms?

Voluntary commitments were central to the global sustainable development conferences, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (2012). In 2015, the State leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17. SDG 17 highlights the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships and calls for revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development, including promoting effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships. Consequently, non-state actors—including business groups, civil society organizations, local governments, international organizations, and collaborative groupings — have mobilized an increasing number of voluntary commitments, alongside undertakings or agreements by states.



This growth has been followed by several voluntary commitment platforms that operate independently or in conjunction with existing UN bodies or multilateral environmental agreement (MEAs); these platforms aim to catalyze new commitments and track progress in meeting them. Since 2014, such voluntary commitments have become a significant part of the climate regime with the emergence of the Global Climate Action Agenda and, since 2018, of the biodiversity regime with the announcement of the Action Agenda for Nature and People. They have also emerged in areas that lack legally binding frameworks, as witnessed with the emergence of two voluntary platforms for oceans: Our Ocean Conference and the UN Ocean Conference. These platforms provide a space to explore innovative ideas and develop cooperative approaches that spur world-wide concrete action.

What can be learned from existing models?

Before considering the development of a possible global voluntary commitment platform within the framework for sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, it is useful to understand experiences gained from existing initiatives. This report has been prepared by examining how ten existing voluntary commitment platforms have stimulated voluntary commitments on sustainability issues, based on expert interviews and a literature review. This report also identifies a preliminary non-exhaustive list of key principles and functions of global commitment platforms.

Key principles that provide guidance for establishing a commitment platform:

- Transparency: Commitments, progress reports and other relevant information are made publicly accessible online to generate trust and confidence
- Credibility: Greenwashing is avoided by ensuring that commitments are substantive and significant and represent a genuine attempt to progress from status quo
- Accountability: Achievements are regularly reported, and performance reviewed to understand outcomes and impacts
- Leadership: Champions are identified and empowered at various level to extend the reach and influence of the platform
- Inclusiveness: All relevant stakeholders are engaged, enabling to create collaborative efforts between industry, government, and other stakeholders



Key functions in exiting commitment platforms:

1. Implementation modalities

- Targets play an important role in providing aspiration
- Workplans may take different forms, ranging from declarations to detailed work programmes

2. Commitment procedures

- Criteria for the content of commitments ensure that they fulfill desired characteristics
- Validation of commitment proposals, ideally facilitated by an independent review committee
- Launch of commitments in conjunction with conferences to ensure visibility
- Peer-learning is facilitated by organizing events, often in conjunction with conferences

3. Monitoring of progress

- Reporting on commitments on a regular basis, either as voluntary or mandatory requirement
- Review of collective progress, on a regular basis, to identify best practices and understand outcomes

4. Communication

- Registries used for showcasing commitments and displaying achievements online
- Campaigns can be organized to enhance communication to the general public

What can a commitment platform offer for issues of concern?

The second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook highlights that "all relevant stakeholders could be challenged to make voluntary yet clear public commitments and pledges, specifying concrete plans and steps to be taken" with the view to "facilitate the success of the global collaborative framework on chemicals and waste" (UNEP, 2019a). Indeed, the development of a possible voluntary commitment platform in the framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is highly pertinent and provides an opportunity to reinforce the 2030 Agenda, and in particular support the implementation of targets 3.9, 6.3 and 12.4. Given the importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste for sustainable development, it will be critical to ensure that the Framework will effectively enable joint efforts. A commitment platform



could help increase engagement of actors to be part of an international movement operating under the UN umbrella. More specifically, a voluntary commitment platform for chemicals and waste could help to promote action on identified issues of international concern including on reducing risk from hazardous substances that are not covered by existing MEAs but may still warrant global action.

What is wanted for a mechanism for commitments related to issues of concern?

Such elements should provide for accountability, credibility, transparency, capitalize on leadership and be inclusive to all relevant stakeholders. To this end, elements that could enable the development of a dynamic and credible agenda to catalyze commitments for issues of concern include:

1. Set time-bound targets for adopted issues of concern and develop work plans to operationalize them. Assign operative co-leads from governments, intergovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders to deepen the impact of the action plans. Accompany targets with indicators to enable measuring of progress.
2. Agree on commitment procedures towards identified actions in the agreed workplan to encourage substantive and significant commitments, including criteria for content, and validation of proposed commitments. In addition, provide a space for their announcement in conferences, ideally at the high-level, and arrange opportunities for peer-learning either face-to-face or electronically.
3. Develop procedures on reporting and tracking of progress on the commitments linked to the governance structure for the Beyond 2020 Framework. Monitoring results of commitments and pledges made should focus both on qualitative and quantitative aspects, striving to measure outcomes and impacts.
4. Develop a dynamic, accessible, and updated online interface - or use an existing online registry such as the Partnerships for SDGs online platform - to showcase commitments and illustrate progress. Outreach can be further enhanced with public campaigns.

The role of commitments in the action plan for agreed issues of concern could consists of varying forms. Main options for encouraging commitments though workplans include:

1. Encourage **open-ended commitments**, including individual and joint commitments, partnerships, and campaigns, to meet the activities outlined in the agreed workplans in an organized manner
2. Outline **high-level principles** and actions that guide the work of all



actors that become signatories to the principles, including set an initial minimum bar and gradually raise the level of ambition

3. Outline **performance levels** for activity areas in the workplans, so that countries, companies, and other stakeholders are encouraged to gradually progress from level 1 to level 5 in activity areas

The science-based recommendations could be prepared by the possible scientific body, also discussed in context of the Beyond 2020 Framework, to inform the development of the action plans, in particular to address substances of concern. The commitment platform would be managed by the secretariat, in cooperation with working groups, or by an assigned organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). The sessions of ICCM provide an opportunity for regularly taking stock of overall progress, as well as announcing commitments and launching partnerships to ensure recognition and visibility, as well as discussing achievements and challenges among peers. Synergies should be sought with existing commitment platforms, including the Partnerships for SDGs online platform hosted by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).



1. Introduction

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a policy framework to promote chemical safety on a global scale. It plays an important role in addressing gaps between the capacities of different countries to manage chemicals safely, complementing the existing MEAs and providing overall coordination for existing efforts. In 2015, the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-4) initiated an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (SAICM, 2015). The new framework is envisaged to be adopted at the fifth session of ICCM (ICCM-5) to be held in Bonn, Germany.

Within the intersessional process, five strategic objectives for achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste have been outlined and the development of targets under these objectives is ongoing. Objective C on Issues of Concern is one of the draft objectives to be considered by ICCM-5 (SAICM, 2020). During the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual working group has refined modalities for Issues of Concern, including nomination, adoption, implementation and tracking progress (SAICM, 2021).

In order to generate required implementation of the actions needed to address issues of concern, greater involvement from all stakeholders and relevant sectors is needed. This provides an opportunity to include a possible mechanism for encouraging voluntary commitments from all stakeholders within the process for nominating, adopting, implementing and tracking progress on issues of concern to secure the delivery of actions towards agreed issues of concern. This responds to the second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook that highlights that "all relevant stakeholders could be challenged to make voluntary yet clear public commitments and pledges, specifying concrete plans and steps to be taken" to "facilitate the success of the global collaborative framework on chemicals and waste" (UNEP, 2019a).

The report is structured in six sections. Section one outlines an introduction, while section two provides a background to the evolvement of issues of concern in the context of SAICM. Section three describes the role of voluntary commitments, describes existing global commitments platforms, and explains their main functions and underlying principles. Section four outlines elements for a global commitment platform for issues of concern in the framework of chemicals and waste and section five deliberates options for detailing workplans to spur commitments. Conclusions are provided in section six.

1.1 Objective and scope

The objective of the study is to analyze how global commitment platforms have been used internationally and how such a mechanism could be developed to support implementation of, and follow-up on, issues of concern as part of the broader global agenda for sound chemicals and waste management.

The scope of the report focuses on issues of concern that warrant global action that refer to broader thematic policy areas, including harmful materials and products, as well as specific substances and groups of substances of concern.



Substances of concern identified as issues of concern that warrant global action refers to specific substances and groups of substances of concern that are not restricted by existing MEAs and for which national action is not sufficient for risk reduction.

1.2 Methodology

The preparation of the report is based on a literature review, including of scientific and grey literature, focusing on how commitment mechanisms have been included in relevant international agreements and voluntary instruments. In addition, ten semi-structured interviews were conducted with relevant key stakeholders involved in existing commitment platform in order to gather facts and information about current commitment mechanisms. The study of existing mechanisms forms a basis for understanding best practices that can be applied to sound chemicals and waste management. Interviewees included predominantly current officials in relevant UN bodies, as well as consultants and other experts. The interviews, which are included in this report, were anonymized through a random two-digit number designation.

The study has been funded by the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI). It builds on and complements work conducted in the context of the Nordic Council of Ministers (Honkonen & Khan, 2017) to enrich the knowledge base for discussions leading to the formulation and, eventually, the adoption of the global agenda for chemicals and waste management replacing SAICM beyond 2020.

1. Paragraph 14(g)



2. Advancing on issues of Concern

2.1 Existing Modalities

The overarching policy strategy (OPS) of SAICM includes as one of its aims for risk reduction "to ensure that existing, new and emerging issues of global concern are sufficiently addressed by means of appropriate mechanisms" (SAICM, 2006).[1] The modalities for bringing proposals on emerging policy issues for the consideration of the ICCM are set out in the annex to ICCM Resolution II/4 (SAICM, 2009). The current nomination modalities are focused on providing the relevant information necessary to assess an issue. Proponents need to clarify why an issue is considered as an emerging policy issue based on current levels of scientific information on significant adverse effects on human health and/or the environment. The secretariat is tasked with verifying that the nominations follow the definition and the general information to be provided when submitting proposals (see annex 1).

Since 2009, ICCM has recognized six "emerging policy issues" (EPIs): lead in paint, chemicals in products (CiP), hazardous substances within electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP), nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPPs). In addition, ICCM has recognized two so called "other issues of concern": perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) and highly hazardous pesticides (HPP). These issues are broad policy areas in general and are not necessarily restricted to substances. In this report, the term "issues of concern" is used to collectively refer to the recognized emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, as well as to any new issues included in the framework that is yet to be adopted. Table 1 provides an overview of current issues of concern currently recognized under SAICM; the last column identifies the organization(s) from the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) that has been identified as taking the lead on each issue of concern.



Table 1. Overview of current issues of concern recognized under SAICM

Issue of Concern	Objective	Adoption	IOMC Lead(s)
Chemicals in Products	Improve the availability of and access to information on chemicals in products in the supply chain and throughout their life cycle (Res. II/4 C, para 1)	2009	UNEP
Hazardous Substances within the Life Cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products (HSLEEP)	Phase out, where feasible, hazardous substances contained in electronic and electrical products (Res. II/4 D, para c)	2009	UNIDO
Lead in Paint	Promote phasing out the use of lead in paints (Res. II/4 B, para 1)	2009	WHO / UNEP
Perfluorinated Chemicals (PFCs) and the transition to safer alternatives	Reduce emissions and the content of relevant perfluorinated chemicals of concern in products and to work toward global elimination (Res. II/5, para 1)	2009	OECD / UNEP
Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials	Facilitate the exchange of information on the sound management of manufactured nanomaterials throughout their life cycle (Res. II/4 D, para 4)	2012	UNITAR / OECD
Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)	Implement cooperative actions on EDCs with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding (Res. III/2 F, para 5)	2012	UNEP / WHO / OECD
Highly hazardous pesticides (HPP)	Address highly hazardous pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach (Res. IV/3, para 1)	2015	FAO / WHO / UNEP
Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPPs)	Implement cooperative actions on EPPPs with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding (Res. IV/2 III, para 4)	2015	WHO / FAO / UNEP

The SAICM Secretariat commissioned an independent evaluation of SAICM from 2005-2016 delivered in 2019. This report highlights that the adoption of issues of concern has helped to raise their international profile and that some progress has been achieved in their implementation (SAICM, 2019a). Progress has been most notable in addressing lead in paint, where the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint has helped spur the adoption of regulations to control lead in paint in many countries. In addition, the voluntary international programme for information on chemicals in products has been endorsed for operationalization as mandated by ICCM4. However, the evaluation expresses concern that progress on issues of concern has been slow, modest and uneven and generally limited to information collection, with few concrete risk elimination or risk reduction measures. The main challenges are summarized in Figure 1.

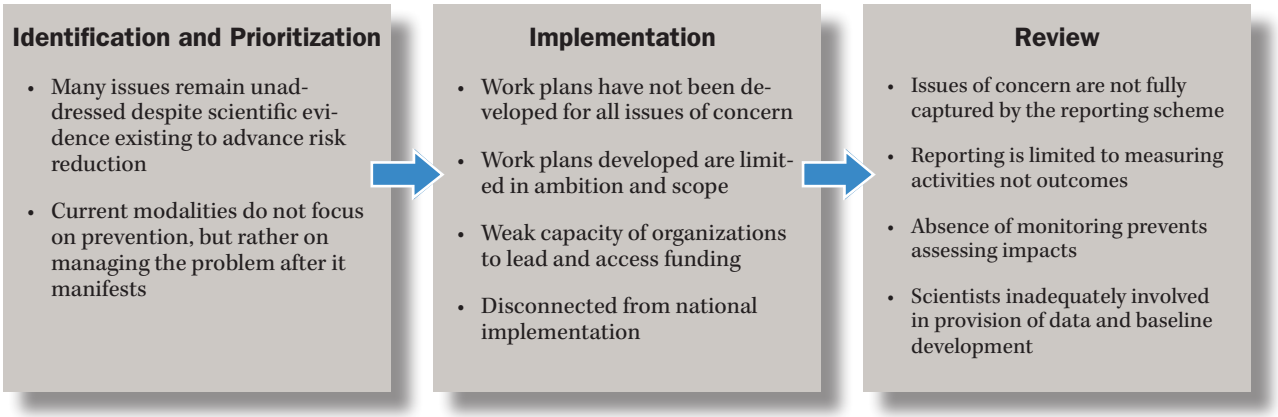


Figure 1. Summary of main challenges in the identification, prioritization, implementation and review of issues of concern (SAICM, 2019a; Health and Environment Justice Support et al., 2020; UNEP, 2017; SAICM 2019b; UNEP 2019a).

The current modalities in Resolution II/4 state that in nominating an emerging policy issue for consideration by the Conference, a proponent will be required to complete a format that addresses the criteria listed in the resolution. After a new issue of concern has been adopted, it is usually taken up by an organization within the IOMC. However, IOMC organizations are accountable to their own governing bodies, which sets limitations to the development and operationalization of workplans (Urho, 2018). The role of governments and other stakeholders in relation to issues of concern is undefined, thus they are insufficiently reflected in national implementation plans and poorly funded within national budgets (Health and Environment Justice Support et al., 2020). Furthermore, the level of industry engagement remains limited (UNEP, 2019b).

2.2 Process for Defining Modalities

The co-chairs' paper prepared for the third session of the Open-Ended Working Group for SAICM (OEWG-3), held in April 2019 in Montevideo, Uruguay, presented issues of concern



as Strategic Objective C. The proposal was welcomed by stakeholders, and the co-chairs presented a paper on issues of concern including revised modalities for the third meeting of the intersessional process held in October 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand (SAICM, 2019c). A compilation paper covering all areas has been prepared for the fourth meeting of the intersessional process that proposes a draft mechanism for adoption of issues of concern, this paper has been further refined through series of virtual working group meetings (SAICM, 2020). The resulting proposal (dated 1 February 2021) from the co-facilitators of the virtual working group outlines the following elements for the mechanism for issues of concern (SAICM, 2021):

1. Nomination, selection and adoption process
    - Nomination of issues
    - Initial review and publication of nominations
    - Decision-making and adoption
2. Mechanisms for implementation
    - Workplans
    - Tracking progress
    - Determining the need for further work on an issue

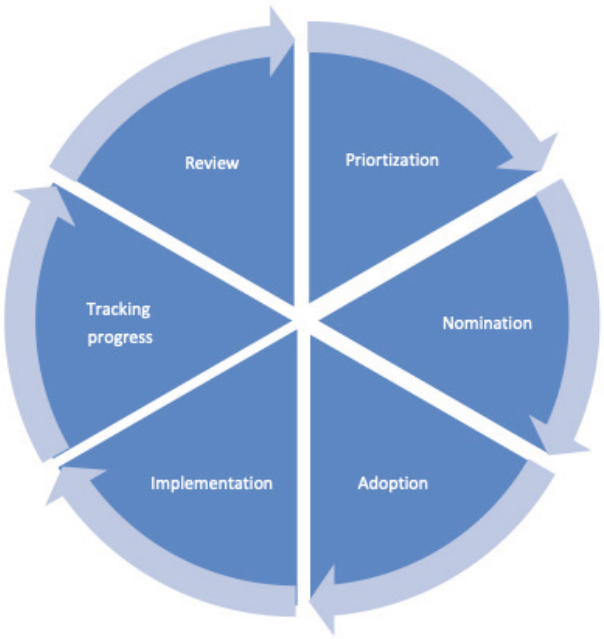
The co-facilitators' 2021 proposal is more detailed concerning the mechanisms for implementation compared to existing modalities under SAICM. First, it details that actions are to be guided by workplans that have clear timelines and milestones. Second, it proposes the establishment of multi-stakeholder committees to guide progress towards implementation of the workplans and to oversee monitoring and reporting back from stakeholders.

The proposal from the co-facilitators also outlines information to be submitted with a nomination of issues of concern (SAICM, 2021).

With regard to identification of substances of global concern, in February 2020, the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI), and the University of Gothenburg, co-hosted a technical workshop on criteria for substances of global concern (UNITAR, 2020). Based on a study published by the University of Gothenburg (Backhaus et al., 2020) and the discussions at the workshop, a proposal on information relevant for identification and nomination of substances, or groups of substances, of global concern was developed by KemI. See Annex 1 for a table summarizing existing modalities and the proposal on issues of concern distributed by the co-facilitators and the proposal of KemI.

2.3 Way Forward

Given that the implementation of issues of concern has been uneven in the past, it is important to consider new ways to encourage more robust implementation by all governments and other stakeholders (SAICM, 2019a). In other words, it is important to consider how governments, the private sector and other stakeholders can better address agreed issues of concern, including through voluntary commitments towards specific actions adopted in workplans. Figure 2 illustrates a comprehensive approach for addressing issues of concern at the international level. The potential role of a voluntary commitment platform in inducing stronger implementation is discussed in the following section.



- *Prioritization* refers to identification of issues of concern against specified information
- *Nomination* refers to the process for nominating issues of concern for consideration by ICCM
- *Adoption* refers to the decision taken by ICCM to adopt the issues of concern
- *Implementation* refers to procedures established to support implementation of issues of concern by all stakeholders
- *Tracking* progress refers to procedures established for regularly taking stock of implementation
- *Review* refers the regular revision and update of issues of concern

Figure 2. Comprehensive approach for addressing issues of concern under the Beyond 2020 framework.

3. What are Voluntary Commitments?

3.1 How did Commitment Platforms Evolve?

Voluntary approaches in environmental policy represent a "third wave" of management in the environmental field. "Command and control" was the first wave that is based on uniform emission standards and other regulatory measures that need to be enforced through extensive monitoring and severe sanctions (Croci, 2005). The second wave focused on altering "natural" market mechanisms to include externalities across the value-chain using, inter alia, taxes, levies, and subsidies (Croci, 2005). Regulatory and market-based approaches are policies supported by legislation. Voluntary approaches are secondary instruments that can help to reinforce and complement legislation. The chemical industry's Responsible Care programme is an example of voluntary self-regulation for going beyond regulatory compliance. Figure 3 summarizes steps for environmental policymaking for chemicals safety, where voluntary approaches can help to fortify the legislative framework.

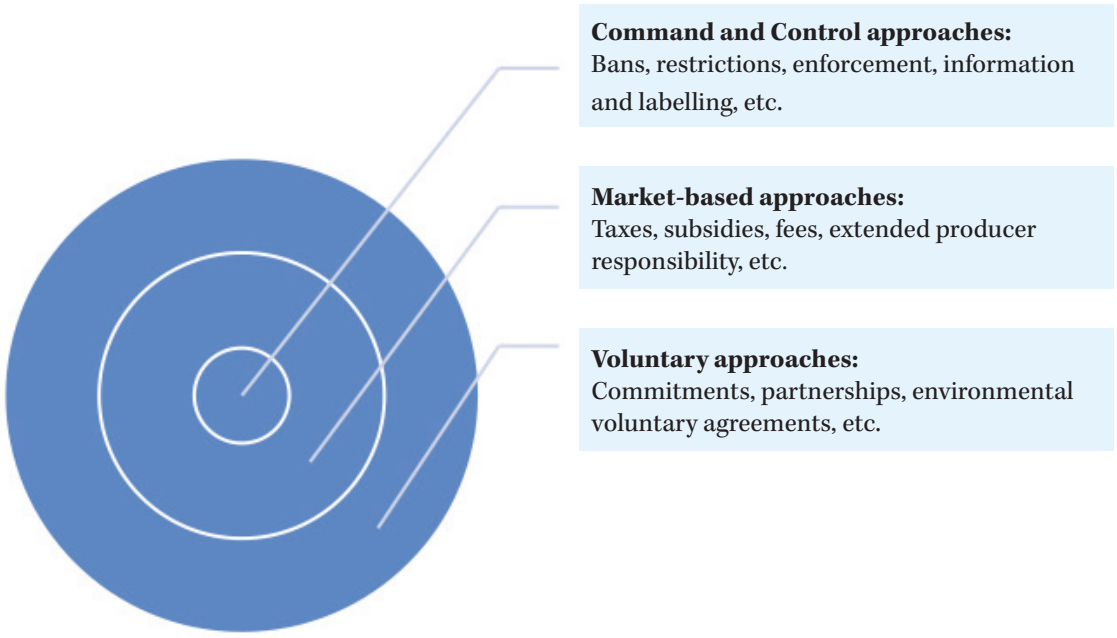


Figure 3. Three waves of environmental policymaking.



Croci (2005) has identified six forms of voluntary approaches to environmental policy described in box 1. Voluntary approaches include environmental voluntary agreements where public and private counterparts are identified, and industry is primarily responsible for implementation. This includes voluntary public schemes, negotiated agreements, industry's unilateral commitments recognized by the public administration, which encourage businesses to go beyond regulatory compliance (Croci, 2005). Environmental voluntary agreements can be deployed at the national or international levels. In this context, SAICM could be classified as an environmental voluntary agreement that falls within the subcategory of a negotiated agreement.

At the international level, sustainable development institutions took the lead in promoting voluntary commitments. In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) adopted the Johannesburg Plan of implementation. More than 200 partnerships for sustainable development were announced at the Summit, linked to the implementation of commitments in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (Bäckstrand, 2006). The partnerships were collectively branded as "type II agreements" and were registered in a database managed by the Secretariat of the then Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Type I outcomes refer to negotiated agreements between states, such as declarations, action plans and treaties.

The rationale of the partnerships was to translate multilateral commitments on sustainable development into concrete action (Bäckstrand, 2006). According to the UN definition, partnerships are "voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common goal, share risks and responsibilities, pool resources and deliver mutual benefits" (UN, 2014). The overarching idea was that the "implementation gap" in sustainable devel-

Box. 1 voluntary approaches to environmental policy (Croci, 2005)

1. **Voluntary public schemes** are standardized schemes, designed by regulators (e.g., the EU's Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and ecolabel schemes)
2. **Negotiated agreements** are agreements that result of a negotiation process between the public administration on one side and one or more firms or an association of firms on the other side
3. **Unilateral commitments recognized by the public administration**
4. **Unilateral commitments** are set by the industry (either individual firms or associations of firms) without a public counterpart (e.g., Responsible Care programme)
5. **Third-party initiatives** are programs designed by third parties open to the participation of individual firms (e.g., ISO 14000 and the UN Global Compact)
6. **Private agreements** are reached through direct bargaining between polluters and pollutees



opment could be reduced by "results-based" and "outcome-oriented" partnerships (Bäckstrand, 2006). In practice, the partnerships' hybrid governance structure represents "coalitions of the willing" among non-state and state actors. This new policy paradigm opened the door to flexible, decentralized, voluntary market-oriented approaches to environmental problem solving, as an important complement to traditional top-down state-centric decision-making.

While some type II partnerships produced results, they have been criticized as being ineffective, since the partnerships criteria were vaguely defined, a consistent monitoring process was missing, and the online platform was not accessible (Ramstein, 2012; Bäckstrand & Kylsäter, 2014). An issue of particular concern was that the type II partnerships model was not accompanied by a mechanism to track progress. Lessons learned from type II partnerships show that effective monitoring requires a solid framework for regularly reviewing commitments, that commitments are funded, and dynamic exchanges of experiences via online platform and regular (in-person) meetings (Ramstein, 2012). In addition, measurable targets and timetables are needed (Bäckstrand, 2006).

The 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) adopted the voluntary commitments system, which is conceptually broader than the preceding partnerships model. The term "commitment" implies a shift in emphasis to implementation and outcomes rather than the union of different actors. According to the definition used by the UN Ocean Conference, voluntary commitments are initiatives voluntarily undertaken by states, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, NGOs, academic and research institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropies, and other actors either individually or in partnership (DESA, 2021).

In response to the call at Rio+20, DESA developed a global registry of voluntary commitments (known today as the Partnerships for SDGs online platform) endeavoring to compile and transparently present different commitments.[2] The Rio+20 Outcome Document "The Future We Want" specifies that commitments need to be specific, measurable, funded, and new; include at least one tangible deliverable and a timeline for completion; and define resources for delivering commitments.

Since the Rio+20 Conference, voluntary commitment platforms have expanded to cover almost all areas of sustainable development. These platforms are international initiatives that enable non-state actors operating on par with states to submit voluntary commitments and establish partnerships to achieve sustainability goals. Commonly, voluntary commitment platforms have developed organically, and there has usually been little if any explicit planning. DESA encourages registering global commitment platforms as "action networks" in the Partnerships for SDGs online platform, which aims to function as an umbrella platform.

3.2 Selected Global Commitment Platforms

Commitment platforms exist and operate in conjunction with UN bodies and MEAs, while others operate more independently. Some commitment platforms have been registered as action networks in the Partnerships for SDGs online platform. Table 2 summarizes key information regarding ten global commitment platforms that are examined for this study.

2. Paragraph 283



Table 2. Summary of key information on ten voluntary global commitment platforms.

Platform	Established	No. of intiatives (as of 10 March, 2021)	Host	Thematic Area(s)
Partnerships for SDGs online platform	Initially 2002 (builds on type II partnerships, redeveloped in 2015)	5,366 commitments	DESA	17 Sustainable Development Goals
UN Global Compact	2000	12,600 business signatories	UN	1) Human rights labor and social sustainability, 2) Environment and climate, 3) Global governance
SIDS Action Platform	2014	Over 500 partnerships	DESA	Sustainable development in the Small-Island Developing States (SIDS)
UN Ocean Conference	2017	1,642 commitments	DESA	1) Coral reefs, 2) Implementation of international law as reflected in UNCLOS, 3) Mangroves, 4) Marine and coastal ecosystems management, 5) Marine pollution, 6) Ocean acidification, 7) Scientific knowledge, research capacity development and transfer of marine technology, 8) Sustainable blue economy, 9) Sustainable fisheries
Our Ocean Conference	2014	1,345 commitments	Independent	1) Marine protected areas, 2) Climate change, 3) Sustainable fisheries, 4) Marine pollution, 5) Sustainable blue economy, 6) Maritime security
UNEA platform	2017	Over 400 commitments	UNEP	1) Pollution reduction and control, 2) Removing barriers, 3) Education and public-awareness campaigns, 4) Research and development
Clean Seas	2016		UNEP	Marine litter
New Plastics Economy Global Commitment	2018	Over 500 business, government, and other signatories	Ellen MacArthur Foundation and UNEP	Plastic packaging
Global Climate Action Agenda	2014	27,782 commitments	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1) Land-use, 2) Oceans and costal zones, 3) Water, 4) Transport, 5) Human settlements, 6) Energy, 7) Industry
Action Agenda for Nature and People	2018	198 commitments	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1) Food systems and health, 2) Freshwater, coastal and ocean ecosystems, 3) Conservation and restoration of land ecosystem, 4) Climate change mitigation and adaptation, 5) Conservation and sustainable use of species, 6) Sustainable consumption and production, 7) Stewardship/ good governance, 8) Urban sustainability, 9) Green finance, 10) Biosafety, 11) Access to benefit-sharing

3. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/



3.2.1 Partnerships for SDGs Online Platform

Partnerships for Sustainable development have evolved through UN Conferences starting from the WSSD (2002) and culminating in the Partnerships for SDGs online platform that is the global registry of voluntary commitments for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.[3]

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, partnerships and voluntary commitments have become even more prominent. Target 17.16 of the 2030 Agenda specifically requests to "enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources." The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) has been mandated to "follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments"[4] and to provide a "platform for partnerships".[5] In connection with sessions of the HLPF, a one-day Partnership Exchange is organized to review the role and impact of the initiatives. In addition, an informal progress report is presented to HLPF annually.

The registry currently lists 5,366 entries accompanied with information, including description, objectives, schedule for deliverables and resources mobilized. The registry requires defining commitment deliverables following the smart (specific, measurable, achievable, resource-based and time-based) criteria and reporting annually that significantly improve accountability. A traffic light system has been introduced to indicate status of reporting for commitments. The platform registry shows that 4% of the initiatives have reported in a timely manner (green light), 18% have failed to report within a year (yellow light), and 66% are inactive (red light). The traffic light system was introduced to incentivize reporting, as explained by one interviewee: "the traffic light system has yielded more engagement, but with varied results. Some people take it very seriously - especially if the light turns red – others do simply not know it is there, which then defeats the overall purpose of greater engagement" (interview 63).

DESA has organized many voluntary commitments into 'action networks'. Many of the action networks have evolved independently and have pioneered some best practices that have been accommodated to other partnerships, notably the accountability frameworks of SE4All (Abbott, 2017).

3.2.2 UN Global Compact

The UN Global Compact (UNGC) was established in 2000, and it has emerged as the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative that operates in 160 countries and involves 12,600 companies. UNGC consist of universal principles and aspirational standards of conduct by committing companies to ten principles incorporating values of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption, and motivating companies to integrate the SDGs into their core business strategies and operations.

In 2005, UNGC adopted a governance Framework that was later reviewed in 2017. The updated Framework consists of the following components:

- Leaders' Summit, a triennial gathering of top executives

4. A/RES/67/290 (para 2)
5. A/RES/70/1 (para 84)



- Board with 25 members from business, civil society, labor, and the UN that meet annually
- Office entrusted with overall management
- Local networks, self-governed groups that exist in 68 countries
- Annual Local Network Forums to share experiences and compare progress
- Inter-agency team represented by seven UN agencies
- Donor group with 17 donor countries that meet annually

UNGC has made efforts to increase transparency and accountability. In 2015, a mandatory disclosure framework was introduced; it requires participating companies to produce an annual Communication on Progress that details how their work embeds the ten principles into their operations (UNGC, 2015). Failing to communicate progress on an annual basis results in a downgrading of participant status from active to non-communicating. Participants who do not communicate progress for two years in a row are expelled. To date, over 47,000 Communications of Progress have been posted. While the reporting requirements ask for including measurement of outcomes, what this entails is very loosely defined and thus does not provide meaningful information on signatories' performance over time.

The initiative has been praised for creating a space for dialogue, learning, and partnerships, helping formerly discordant parties to explore common ground under the umbrella of the UN system (Rasche & Waddock, 2014). However, UNGC has also been accused of "blue-washing" with criticism focusing on the insufficient attention being paid to assurance of conformity to the principles (Deva, 2006; Nolan, 2005). The controversy illustrates the potential dangers of the lack of screening of proposals for commitments and their meaningful monitoring, and the confusion between a registry for voluntary commitments and a certification mechanism (Ramstein, 2012). In response, the UNGC has enhanced its due diligence mechanism and screening of reporting, as one interviewee explained "we want to detect whether there is any sort of fraudulent communication, and put a minimum threshold of expectations, so if there's no progress under a certain period of time, the company is delisted from our initiative" (interview 85).

3.2.3 SIDS Action Platform

The Third International Conference for Small-Island Developing States (SIDS) was held in 2014 in Apia, Samoa, which resulted in an intergovernmental agreed outcome document – the SAMOA Pathway - and the launch of 300 multi-stakeholder partnerships devoted to sustainable development in SIDS. A key request from the SAMOA Pathway was establishing a SIDS Partnership Framework. This Framework was to monitor progress of existing partnerships and stimulate the launch of new partnerships for sustainable development in SIDS. In 2015, the UN General Assembly decided to establish the SIDS Partnership Framework that outlines the following elements:[6]

- A member state driven steering committee
- An annual global multi-stakeholder dialogue
- Regional and national dialogues
- A standardized reporting process

This commitment platform is unique in the sense that it is part of an intergovernmental

6. A/70/472/Add.2 (para 11)



process itself, as pointed out by an interviewee: "one of the elements of the SIDS Partnership Framework is its annual partnership dialogue with member States and partners to ensure engagement of stakeholders around partnerships. Another key aspect is the intergovernmental steering committee, which meets regularly to discuss the annual workplan" (interview 63). To date, over 500 partnerships have been registered. At the global level, the majority (52%) of partnerships are led by UN organizations, while regional organizations and/or governments generally lead the majority of partnerships in the regions (Göransson et al., 2019a). Participation by the private sector and academia is low.

The SIDS Action Platform is the main online resource for SIDS partnerships, with details of all registered partnerships.[7] In 2019, a SIDS Partnerships Toolbox was launched that includes a set of policy tools for enhancing capacity around the design of partnerships for SIDS, and for assisting stakeholders in monitoring and reviewing partnerships (Göransson et al., 2019b). It outlines smart criteria and norms to help to articulate commitments and register it to the SIDS Action Platform. The SIDS Partnership Framework is the first intergovernmental framework devoted to reviewing and monitoring partnerships. To date, 65 progress reports have been submitted by partnership focal points since the reporting template was launched in 2016, representing not even 20% of all registered partnerships.

3.2.4 UN Ocean Conference

The UN Ocean Conference held in June 2017 in New York City culminated in the outcome document Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action and the launch of close to 1,400 voluntary commitments to advance implementation of SDG 14 (Life Below Water). The role of this Conference was pivotal to attracting commitments, as mentioned by an interviewee: "I think you need to have something to focus minds on - a deadline - as we had with the 2017 Conference. That was a big push to get commitments posted before the end of the Conference" (interview 54). To date, the registry has 1,642 commitments, most of which are led by governments (39%), NGOs and civil society organizations (29%) or intergovernmental organizations (12%). Only 6% are led by academia and 7% by the private sector.[8] The financial contribution is significant evidenced by 541 commitments that provide for funding that amounts to USD 25.5 billion (DESA, 2017).

The registry includes nine thematic Communities of Ocean Action. Each Community is coordinated by designated focal points. These focal points work together with DESA and with the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thompson, in carrying out the activities. Each community is expected to organize on a regular basis virtual global webinars and face-to-face expert meetings. The registry is open to anyone wishing to register a voluntary commitment to advance implementation of SDG 14. The registration process is fairly simple and encourages specific, measurable, achievable, resource-based and time-based commitments and specification of means of implementation, such as financing or capacity building. Stakeholders with a registered commitment are encouraged to share their experiences by being featured in a monthly Ocean Action Newsletter.

Impacts on the ground could be significant if commitments are realized. For instance, commitments related to marine protected areas

7. https://sidspartnerships.un.org/
8. https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/



Table 3. Challenges and Solutions faced by Communities of Ocean Action[9]

Challenges	Solutions
Resource deficiency, in particular financial challenges	Introduce a matchmaking mechanism between sponsorship proposals and interested sponsors
Weak participation from philanthropic organizations, scientific community & academia, and private sector	Direct outreach to stakeholder groups that are not aware of the challenges and/or possibility to contribute through the registry Develop a special interface, such as google maps for exploring the registry and promote it among industry
Reporting mechanism is weak and reporting rates are low	Define methods, data and indicators to support follow up Consider how reporting can support formalized reporting under SDG14 Introduce regular reporting with minimum common elements Review commitments and incorporate progress reports to assess individual and collective progress in a transparent manner Develop incentives for reporting e.g., by offering recognition in the form of certificates for commitments where progress is demonstrated

(MPAs) could contribute an additional 3% to the global coverage of MPAs (DESA, 2017). However, analysis of voluntary commitments and community-specific interim assessments reveal challenges and potential solutions summarized in Table 3. A notable gap is the absence of a formal reporting and accountability mechanism. Furthermore, implementation could be improved by introducing community-specific strategic plans (DESA, 2019).

3.2.5 Our Ocean Conference

Since 2014, the Our Ocean Conference has become a high-profile platform to announce ocean commitments.[10] This platform is changing social norms among leaders of countries and others, making it desirable and commendable to act, or announce actions, in this setting (Grorud-Golvert et al., 2019). To date, these annual conferences have been hosted by the United States (2014 & 2016), the Republic of Chile (2015), the European Union (2017), the Republic of Indonesia (2018) and Norway (2019). Invitees are encouraged to announce major commitments in six thematic areas: MPAs, climate change, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, sustainable blue economy, and maritime security. The host country makes decisions on accepting new commitments.

Currently, Our Ocean Conference is undergoing institutionalization. Recently, an Advisory Group has been established to ensure greater continuity between Conferences. It consists of past and confirmed future hosts, and special advisors invited by the Advisory Group, not to exceed three special advisors in total. The establishment of a permanent secretariat is also under way.

The Conference hosts have consistently articulated their strong expectation of accountability for all announcements. Our Ocean Conference asks for reports on the completion status

9. DESA, 2019; DESA & WRI, 2019; UNEP & International Coral Reef initiative, 2018
10. https://www.ourocean2020.pw/



of the project (from 25-100 %) and this functions as an incentive for reporting and helps the secretariat review progress. Efforts are under way to increase validation of proposals for commitments to ensure that they are substantive and significant, as one interviewee exemplified: "when we receive a commitment, we forward it to a specialist who knows more about the facts and what a protected area commitment should involve to ensure it is credible and ambitious" (interview 02).

Third-party reviews have also been carried for some of the thematic areas. Promisingly, a third-party review of 143 commitments on MPAs found that 46% of the commitments have been completed and 49% show some progress (Grorud-Golvert et al., 2019). It also found that 40% of the groups making MPA commitments are in developing countries. Since the first Our Ocean Conference, 1.4% of the surface area of the ocean has been protected through voluntary MPA commitments that have almost doubled the surface area of MPAs worldwide.

3.2.6 UNEA Platform

In December 2017, the third session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) was organized in Nairobi, Kenya. UNEA-3 adopted a Ministerial Declaration entitled "Towards a Pollution-free Planet" and a number of resolutions connected to managing different forms of pollution. The Assembly was informed by the Executive Director's report "Towards a Pollution-free Planet" that underlines the importance of political leadership and partnerships (UNEP, 2017). In the run-up to UNEA-3, UNEP welcomed voluntary commitments from state and non-state actors as long as they met the following criteria:[11]

- Relate to pollution of air, water, land, coastal and marine, and cross-cutting chemicals and waste
- Consist of concrete targets or actions to avoid, reduce, mitigate, measure, monitor, report, and/or manage pollution
- Include implementation period and time frame
- Encourage wide participation by stakeholders

By the end of 2017, about 400 voluntary commitments had been submitted by governments, civil society and business (UNEP, 2018). These voluntary commitments address all areas of pollution, with 29% targeting specifically chemicals and waste. The commitments fall into four action categories: pollution reduction and control, removing barriers, education and public-awareness campaigns, and research and development.

The role of UNEA has been key for attracting commitments, as on interviewee noted "I think you need a strong political arena to reach the highest political levels, to do something about it. And it goes back to visibility, to showing political leadership at a level that is visible with your internal audience and externally" (interview 21). In the future, the UNEA platform is envisaged to evolve by encouraging new commitments to support the implementation of the UNEA theme that changes from one session to another. Plans are under way to help the UNEA platform to function as an "umbrella process" for all voluntary commitments, regardless of their theme.

In the run-up to UNEA-3, the #BeatPollution campaign was launched to raise awareness of the many forms of pollution and to encourage individuals, governments, businesses,

11. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/unea



and civil society to commit to action. Almost 2.5 million individual social media pledges were made through an online platform (UNEP, 2018).

3.2.7 New Plastics Economy Global Commitment

In 2018, the New Plastics Economy launched its Global Commitment in conjunction with Our Ocean Conference. The Global Commitment is led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in collaboration with UNEP. Ellen MacArthur Foundation leads the engagement with the private sector signatories of the Global Commitment, and UNEP leads the engagement with government signatories. The initiative has over 250 business signatories, over 200 endorsers and over 20 national, subnational and local level government signatories.[12] Companies representing more than 20% of all plastic packaging used globally have committed to this initiative.

The Global Commitment outlines specific commitment areas for both government and business signatories, which makes it an interesting hybrid platform to encourage action from both public and private spheres. The initiative encourages signatories to set ambitious 2025 targets and to report annually and publicly on the implementation of these commitments and on progress made. Moving from qualitative to quantitative reporting is an ongoing effort, as highlighted by an interviewee: "The good thing is governments are committed to report annually back to the to the global community about their progress. So far, most of the inputs that we collected from the governments are kind of in narrative, but we are exploring with government signatories ways to measure their progress with quantitative data" (interview 48). An annual progress report is prepared by aggregating reporting data: the 2020 progress report draws from reports provided by 98% of business signatories and 85% of government signatories, allowing for quantitative and qualitative assessment of progress.

The New Plastics Economy initiative has also created the Plastics Pact, a network of public and private parties at the national or regional level, to help meet the Global Commitment. Plastic pacts are environmental voluntary agreements and can resemble voluntary extended producer responsibility schemes. So far, national Plastic Pacts have been developed in Chile, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, the UK and the United States. The first regional Plastic Pact was developed in Europe. Each initiative is led by a local organization that unites governments, businesses, and citizens behind a common vision with a concrete set of targets. Annual reporting helps to determine where members stand against the targets and to identify gaps and future priorities.

3.2.8 Global Climate Action Agenda

Negotiations under the UNFCCC have long been strongly intergovernmental. Outside of UNFCCC processes, however, non-state actors have initiated numerous climate commitments, partnerships, and other voluntary initiatives since the 1990s. Since 2014, the UNFCCC has begun to integrate such commitments into the climate regime.

In 2014, France and Peru launched the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-20) to showcase existing commitments

12. https://www.newplasticseconomy.org/projects/plastics-pact



and action initiatives, help them scale up, and catalyze new ones. LPAA welcomed both individual commitments and cooperative initiatives from local governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and multi-stakeholder coalitions. In parallel to LPAA, COP-20 launched the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) portal, an interactive online map, managed by the UNFCCC Secretariat, that showcases voluntary non-state commitments.[13] The Paris Agreement acknowledges the LPAA and encourages registration on the NAZCA portal.

In 2015, COP-21 initiated a process for nominating High-Level Champions who serve normally for two years for the "scaling-up and introduction of new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions."[14] In 2016, two High-Level Champions were appointed. They initiated the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action commonly referred as the "Global Climate Action Agenda" that outlines seven themes for mobilizing action (land-use, oceans and costal zones, transport, human settlements, energy and industry) and sets the following criteria for commitments (UNFCCC, 2016):

- Relevance: advance the goals of the agreement
- Scale: should be of sufficient size to have an impact
- Specific: have clear, quantifiable outcomes with targets enabling to assess progress
- Transparency in progress: report progress and results on a periodic basis
- Impact-oriented: need to be focused on concrete, real-world action
- Ownership: carried out by entities with responsibility to deliver results and mobilize resources

The Global Climate Action Agenda catalyzes action and helps to connect and share experience gained from organizing different events. During the session of the COPs, thematic action events and roundtables are organized to showcase progress on the first week, and high-level events are organized for making new commitments on the second week. In addition, regional climate weeks are organized to catalyze concrete climate action on the ground, in particular in developing countries.

At present, the Global Climate Action Portal does not track progress of individual commitments made. However, in 2019, the COP requested the Secretariat to continue engaging with non-Party stakeholders and enhancing the effectiveness of the NAZCA platform, including the tracking of voluntary action.[15]

Overall progress is tracked via The Yearbook of Global Climate Action, initiated by the High-level Champions. The yearbook highlights that the Global Climate Action Agenda is helping to close the gap in action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 2018). As of January 2021, the portal listed 27,513 commitments from around the world, including from companies (15%), cities (40%), regions (1%), investors (4%) and organizations (7%).

The High-level Champions have initiated several influential campaigns. The Race to Zero campaign encourages net-zero commitments, which have seen a significant increase, nearly doubling from late 2019 to late 2020 (UNFCCC, 2020).[16] The High-Level Climate Champions have established an Expert Peer Review Group tasked with reviewing Race to Zero

13. https://climateaction.unfccc.int/
14. Decision 1/CP.21, paras 121-123
15. Decision 1/CP.25, para 29
16. https://racetozero.unfccc.int/



partner applications and providing independent recommendations to the Champions on whether the initiatives meet the minimum criteria for participation. A sister campaign, the Race to Resilience campaign aims, by 2030, to catalyze action by non-state actors to build the resilience of 4 billion people from groups and communities who are vulnerable to climate risks.[17]

In addition, in 2018, COP-24 launched the UN ActNow campaign with a call by Sir David Attenborough in conjunction with the award-winning "People's Seat" initiative that has attracted 1,541,062 individual actions on climate and sustainability.

3.2.9 Action Agenda for Nature and People

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is currently calling for parties to submit Voluntary Biodiversity Commitments (VBCs) as a mechanism for increasing ambition and traction ahead of COP-15 (scheduled to be held in October 2021). In 2018, COP14 committed to the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People encouraging non-state actors to make voluntary commitments to contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework development process.[18] The action agenda aims to raise public awareness, inspire and help implement nature-based solutions, and catalyze cooperative initiatives across sectors and stakeholders.

The Action Agenda is hosted on an online platform intended to receive and showcase concrete commitments and contributions to biodiversity ranging from large-scale collaborative efforts to individual actions. The online platform lists several criteria for VBCs: actions need to be scientifically sound, biodiversity relevant, include tangible and measurable actions, and contribute to transformational change. The platform is intended to enable the mapping of global efforts on biodiversity, in order to estimate impact and to identify key gaps. To date, it has received 198 commitments, including 70 in Europe, 26 in Eastern Europe, 36 in Asia, 27 in Africa, 23 in Latin America, 13 in North America and 3 in Australia.

There has been some confusion over the role of the VBCs and whether they are being proposed as an additional instrument alongside the national biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAP) and national reporting processes. Clarity has now been given by the CBD Secretariat that the VBCs should build upon and be an add-on to, and not in replacement of, the NBSAP.

How states and non-state actors can contribute best to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (currently under negotiation and to be adopted at COP-15 in late 2021) has not been decided. Three different options for commitments in addition to the NBSAPs will be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) (spring 2021, tbc).

3.2.10 Clean Seas and Global Partnership on Marine Litter

In 2017, UNEP launched Clean Seas with the aim of engaging governments, the general public and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic pollution.[19] Clean Seas is a campaign that uses #CleanSeas on social media. The campaign contributes to the goals of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter

17. https://racetozero.unfcc.int/race-to-resilience/
18. https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/
19. https://www.cleanseas.org



(GPML), a voluntary open-ended partnership for international agencies, governments, businesses, academia, local authorities and NGOs hosted by UNEP. GPML has a steering committee that sets priorities on the strategic directions of the GPML.

To date, Clean Seas has members from 62 countries, many companies and individuals. Membership provides for use of the Clean Seas Logo that provides an incentive for participation. An interviewee noted benefits of Clean Seas for both countries "to show the leadership that they are taking in joining the campaign and a platform for them to share what they're doing" and the Secretariat "to see what's happening in different regions and try to compile that information into the global processes that are going on the topic" (interview 75).



3.3 Characteristics of Global Commitment Platforms

The interviews and the literature review conducted for this study identified a non-exhaustive list of functions and principles for global voluntary commitment platform.

3.3.1 Key Functions

Functions identified in this study to be key include: I) implementation modalities (targets and workplans), II) commitment modalities (criteria, validation, launch, and peer-learning), III) monitoring of progress (reporting and review), and IV) outreach (registry and communication). Table 4 provides a summary of the main functions in ten existing voluntary global commitment platforms. Their applicability for issues of concern is explained in section 4. It is important to note that the number of functions deployed does not equal to the efficiency of the platform. In addition, the functions may be realized with different levels of stringency, for example although reporting is an inherent part of almost all commitment platforms, it is mandatory only in the UN Global Compact.

Table 4. Summary of Main Functions in Ten Voluntary Global Commitment Platforms

	Implementation		Commitment modalities				Monitoring of progress		Outreach	
	Targets	Work plans	Criteria	Validation	Launch	Peer-learning	Reporting	Review	Online registry	Public campaign
SDGs Online Platform	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
UN Global Compact		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SIDS Action Platform	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
UN Ocean Conference	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Our Ocean Conference		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
UNEA Platform		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓
GPML & Clean Seas		✓								✓
New Plastics Economy	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
Global Climate Action Agenda		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CBD Action Agenda			✓		✓		✓		✓	
Generates:	COMMITMENT		CREDIBILITY		VISIBILITY		ACCOUNTABILITY		TRANSPARENCY	



The main functions (I-IV) identified in ten global commitment platforms are briefly discussed below, along with examples of best practices.

I. Implementation modalities

1. **Time-bound targets** play an important role in encouraging aspiration. When accompanied with indicators they enable measuring progress.
   - The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment lays down a set of time-bound targets for achieving circular economy for plastics by 2025. The targets constitute a "minimum bar" and are regularly reviewed, and the level of ambition raised to ensure the initiative continues to evolve.
   - The Race to Resilience is a campaign established by the High-level Champions for Climate Action that specifies a set of time-bound targets for relevant actors, including policymakers, businesses, investors, innovators, and citizens.
2. **Workplans** developed by commitment platforms may take different forms, ranging from strategies to detailed work programmes. They may be accompanied with working groups or task forces to assist in operationalization.
   - The follow-up the UN Ocean Conference (2017) is delivered by nine Communities of Ocean Action. Each community is coordinated by two designated focal points from civil society and the UN system. Each community is expected to organize on a regular basis virtual global webinars and face-to-face expert meetings. The communities are also responsible for reviewing progress within their thematic area.

II. Commitment modalities

1. **Criteria** for commitments aim to ensure that they fulfill the desired characteristics. Most commitments platforms seek specific qualities from commitments using the "smart criteria" meaning that they should be specific, measurable, achievable, resource-based, and time-bound, although different nuances exist in their articulation between commitment platforms.
   - The SIDS Action Platform pioneered the use of smart criteria: "the reason behind the smart criteria is to get information for accountability and also for us to be able to do an analysis much easier", one interviewee noted, and "we have a big data set and with all this information we can do a lot of analytical work" (interview 63).
2. **Validation** of commitment proposals is needed to generate substantive commitments. Ideally this is facilitated by an independent review committee.
   - Race to Zero is a campaign established by the High-level Champions for Global Climate Action to encourage net-zero commitments. An Expert Peer Review Group has been established to review Race to Zero partner applications and provide independent recommendations to the Champions who then decide whether the initiatives meet the set-out minimum criteria.
3. **Announcement** of commitments are made in conjunction with conferences to ensure visibility that functions as an important incentive: "the idea is that there is this connection between making commitments and getting a spotlight to talk about it in front of



ministers, CEOs and so on" (interview 2).

- Activities of the Global Climate Action Agenda are highlighted in several events during the sessions of the UNFCCC COP, which includes the organization of high-level events during the second week for announcing new commitments.

4. **Peer-learning** is facilitated in conjunction with conferences by organizing events to present and discuss successes and challenges.
    - The SIDS Action Platform organizes an annual global multi-stakeholder dialogue which provides a global platform for SIDS and partners to review progress, launch new initiatives, and for all stakeholders to exchange lessons learned, identifying good partnering practices, and engage in dialogue.

III. Monitoring of progress

1. **Reporting** is often voluntary, and descriptive in nature, which prevents measuring outcomes.
    - The UN Global Compact has a mandatory disclosure framework that requires participating companies to produce an annual Communication on Progress detailing their work to embed the ten principles into their operations. Failing to communicate progress on an annual basis results in a downgrading of participant status from active to non-communicating. Participants who do not communicate progress for two years in a row are expelled.
    - The Partnerships for SDGs Online Platform uses traffic light colors to incentivize reporting: green light signals reporting in a timely manner, yellow light signals failure to report within a year, and red light means the initiative is inactive due to lack of reporting within two years.
2. **Reviewing** collective progress on a regular basis to identify best practices and understand outcomes.
    - The Yearbook of Global Climate Action is produced annually with the help of partnering institutions.
    - Third-party analysis has been carried out for select Areas of Action of Our Ocean Conference.
    - An annual Progress report, illustrating outcomes has been prepared by the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment.

IV. Outreach

1. **Registries** are used for showcasing commitments and displaying collective progress online. It can also function as a platform for submitting progress reports.
    - The NAZCA Climate Action portal functions as an megaportal that aggregates information provided by data partners.
2. **Campaigns** can be organized to communicate to the general public.
    - The UN ActNow campaign launched, in 2018, has yielded 1,541,062 individual actions on climate change and sustainability.



3.3.2 Key Principles

On the basis of the research presented above, five key principles that underpin the functions of an effective global commitment platform are identified below.

1. ***Transparency:*** *Commitments, progress reports and other relevant information are made publicly accessible online to generate trust and confidence*

Transparency of commitments can be achieved with an online registry that provides up-to-date information of commitments and progress made. Moreover, clarity and transparency in reporting can help to further the platform's public image and encourage new commitments.

2. ***Credibility:*** *Greenwashing is avoided by ensuring that commitments are substantive and significant and represent a genuine attempt to progress from the status quo*

Inactive commitments burden many commitment platforms. Announcements often takes place with great fanfare, but then are never implemented, raising doubt and suspicions that the new announcement is nothing more than "greenwashing." In response, commitment platforms have developed incentives to encourage reporting to ensure that registered commitments are active. This includes using traffic light colors to distinguish commitments for which progress is reported in a timely manner from those non-reporting commitments. In addition, early validation of proposal for commitments may help to ensure that commitments are substantive and genuine.

3. ***Accountability:*** *Achievements are regularly reported, and performance reviewed, to understand outcomes and impacts*

Most commitment platforms seem to be weak on reviewing progress. First, reporting formats are normally not designed to collect quantitative information: "It's an open reporting format so we are not able to aggregate any information" (interview 85). Second, reporting rates are generally low, as one interviewee noted "there's been a lot of challenges in terms of, you know, asking people to update" (interview 54). It is relevant to consider the introduction of outcome-oriented indicators to collect quantitative data, design incentives to encourage reporting, and have the secretariat encouraging reporting.

4. ***Leadership:*** *Champions are identified and empowered at various level to extend the reach and influence of the platform*

Identifying champions and using leadership at many levels is important, as one interviewee noted "champions are essential to ensure visibility on a very packed development agenda" (interview 63). Another interviewee remarked: "a global champion can bring it all together, keep it moving forward and be the link between the UN agencies and national governments and give it a face" (interview 54). This is exemplified by the Paris Agreement's use of High-level Champions for spurring voluntary climate commitments. In this case, the inaugural outlined an ambitious agenda that was adopted the following year. The champions are appointed by the current and incoming COP presidencies, and they have helped to generate political ownership and institutionalize key functions.



5. ***Inclusiveness:*** *All relevant stakeholders are properly engaged, enabling the creation of collaborative efforts between industry, government, and other stakeholders*

Defining the target audience of the commitment platform is important: who is ultimately expected to act? The audience may include public authorities, the public at large, civil society, local communities, municipalities, academia, indigenous peoples and industry and anyone in the supply chain. Although private sector engagement is featured in all global commitment platforms, its role in often small in comparison to that of other stakeholders. A promising example comes from the New Plastic Economy Global Commitment that engages with private sector through the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, whereas UNEP leads work with governments. The Global Climate Action Agenda has provided a particularly important entry point for encouraging action by municipalities.

3.4 Role of voluntary commitments for issues of concern

The international community has adopted MEAs to address some hazardous substances, including persistent organic pollutants, mercury, ozone-depleting substances and certain greenhouse gases. However, there currently does not exist a comprehensive mechanism to identify and regulate hazardous substances that are not covered by existing MEAs but may still warrant global action.

The Executive Director's report for UNEA-3 highlighted that scientific evidence exists to further advance risk reduction on many substances, including on phosphorus, nitrogen, lead, cadmium, arsenic and chromium and selected flame retardants (UNEP, 2017). The second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook expanded this list with bisphenol A, glyphosate, neonicotinoids, organotins, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, phthalates and triclosan (UNEP, 2019a). While the link between chemicals safety and human health is indisputable, the COVID-19 pandemic has further revealed that certain immunotoxic chemicals, namely Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are associated with an increased risk of a more severe course of the coronavirus disease (Grandjean et al., 2020).

The nomination of issues of concern under SAICM would aim to fill the international regulatory gap through voluntary action. The current proposal from the virtual working group on issues of concern provides the following definition: "an issue of concern is an issue involving any phase in the life cycle of chemicals and which has not yet been generally recognized, is insufficiently addressed or arises from the current level of scientific information and which may have significant adverse effects on human health and/or the environment" (SAICM, 2021).

One goal would be to achieve risk reduction including from hazardous chemicals. Such risk reduction in the SAICM text refers to restricting production and use of chemicals that pose an unreasonable and otherwise unmanageable risk to human health and the environment based on a science-based risk assessment and considering the costs and benefits as well as the availability of safer substitutes and their efficacy (SAICM, 2006).

4. Elements for a Global Commitment Platform for Issues of Concern

This section explains how a dynamic, voluntary and credible commitment platform for contributing to addressing issues of concern could be developed based on experiences from existing commitment platforms. Elements identified in section 3 are used to tailor an agile commitment platform for issues of concern that fulfills main principles, including accountability, credibility and transparency, as well as ensures leadership and inclusiveness.

4.1 Targets and action plans (implementation modalities)

Set clear time-bound targets for issues of concern and develop action plans to operationalize them. Assign operative co-leads form governments, intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders to deepen the impact and reach of the action plans.

Targets are needed to provide aspiration and guide action by all stakeholders. Targets can also help to measure progress when they are accompanied by indicators. Commitment platforms that function in conjunction with MEAs and the 2030 Agenda often encourage reaching goals specified therein, thus function as their implementation arms. More nuanced targets can also be developed for specific initiatives, workstreams and/or campaigns that operate under the umbrella of the commitment platform.

Workplans help to determine responsibilities and enhance implementation. Workplans for issues of concern could describe main measures and set time-bound targets for achievement for issues of concern, as illustrated in Figure 4. Workplans could be led by co-chairs or "sherpas" who would enable "building a community" of the like-minded. This community building would help in networking and outreach. To ensure that workplans are useful for achieving action on issues of concern it will be important to pay attention to their clarity, specificity, level of detail, and the assigning of roles and responsibilities to stakeholders. See section 5 for more discussion on the role of workplans.



Figure 4. Workplans would constitute an inherent part of a platform and possible commitment mechanism.



4.2 Modalities for Commitments

Outline clear procedures for commitments, including to guide the preparation of proposals, validation of proposed commitments, and modalities for their public announcement and for peer-learning.

Criteria for preparation of commitments is needed to elicit stronger commitments and facilitate accountability. The premise is that commitments need to be substantive and significantly contribute to activities to achieve the agreed workplan. The requirements (criteria) for commitments could include a combination of any of the following:

- Contributes to achieving activities outlined in workplan
- Uses common metrics for measuring progress
- Is realistic and specifies resources
- Includes a timeline for its deliverables
- Reports on progress and results on a periodic basis
- Encourages wide participation by stakeholders
- Contributes to transformational change
- Is scientifically sound

Validation of proposed commitments can help to ensure that commitments are substantive and credible, and do not result in "greenwashing." Initial validation should take place prior to the publication or announcement of new commitments. This could happen through a review by operative leads of respective issues of concern. More ambitiously, review could be carried out by independent experts put in charge of keeping standards constant.

Announcement of commitments serves as an important incentive and most commonly occurs in the realm of international conferences. Public launches help to amplify political leadership, as well as interest from the private sector and NGOs. To this end, the sessions of the ICCM could be accompanied with an event focusing on launching the most ambitious commitments, which could attract high-level participation and facilitate new networks around issues of concern.

Peer-learning can be facilitated by organizing sessions for issues of concern in conjunction with the ICCM session for sharing experiences and presenting achievements between partners, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders. This will facilitate networking and development of new partnerships, as well as allow for the replication of successful initiatives.

4.3 Tracking Progress

Ensure that progress on issues of concern is tracked with reporting and a periodic collective review, focusing on quantitative data to understand outcomes and impacts, and embedded in the reporting and review modalities of the Beyond 2020 Framework.

Reporting on performance is fundamental for tracking progress. Clarity and transparency in reporting would further the public image of issues of concern, provide confidence within the chemicals and waste community and among the public, and encourage other organizations to make and deliver commitments. Reporting would be specific to the voluntary commitments and targeted to the institutions championing them, thus it would complement any



regular reporting under the new agenda. At a minimum, reporting should be able to distinguish between active and inactive initiatives. The possibility of attaching supporting documents (e.g., list of regulations, management plan, etc.) would increase accountability and enhance the transparency needed for evaluating outcomes. The setting of targets and/or indicators to assess outcomes could also be considered.

Review of progress is needed to assess collective progress. Proactive review, monitoring, and accountability processes in a regular manner can provide crucial information on the performance of commitments and avoid the creation of low-impact or short-term activities that do not allow progress in reaching targets. However, quality control and ensuring that commitments are effective and impactful will be difficult to achieve. This results from a lack of quantitative data and thus difficulties in aggregating information. Reviews can be carried out by the Secretariat and/or scientific institutions and NGOs can be tasked with undertaking independent reviews.

4.4 Outreach

Develop a dynamic, accessible and updated online interface - or use the infrastructure of an existing online registry - to showcase commitments and illustrate progress. Enhance outreach via targeted public campaigns.

An online registry - accommodated in the reporting system - would promote transparency. The registry should be maintained and updated regularly, ensuring open and transparent access to data and information. The registry could provide grounds for developing and applying indicators and analytical frameworks for monitoring and evaluating performance and impacts. The registry could also be a vehicle for the sharing of best practices. It could be part of an existing online registry; for example the Partnerships for SDGs online platform hosted by DESA provides the possibility to register a commitment platform as an "Action Networks for the SDGs" and thereby benefit from its digital platform maintained by UN system entities.

Campaigns have proven to be very important in reaching out to the broader public. Similarly, a campaign could be launched to bring awareness of issues of concern. The campaign could outline activities that individual consumers or users could take in their daily life across all issues of concern. Alternatively, a campaign could be tied to a target related to certain substances of concern, encouraging producers, manufactures and retailers to commit to voluntary action. These actions could be featured in the online registry indicating level of progress i.e. either being in process to working towards achieving the target or having achieved it – and thus a campaign could provide an incentive for the public to monitor progress.



5. Options for Progress on Issues of Concern

This section elaborates options for developing a voluntary mechanism for commitments linked to agreed Issues of Concern in the agenda, focusing on how activities and science-based recommendations could be articulated in the workplans to generate commitments from all stakeholders.

First, one option could be to encourage **open-ended commitments**, including individual and joint commitments, partnerships, and campaigns, to meet the activities outlined in the agreed workplans in an organized manner. Both state and non-state actors could pledge and register open-ended commitments preferably in an online registry. The most ambitious and substantive commitments could be put in the spotlight in conjunction with ICCM sessions. The process developed should ensure that commitments are substantial and significant, and that reporting will take place until commitments are completed. This approach allows for flexibility and possibly innovative solutions and actions.

For addressing specifically substances of concern that warrant global action, the workplans could outline and recommend possible risk reduction measures, including phase-out of production and uses. To help detail actions needed, a scientific body could develop **science-based recommendations** concerning substances of concern. Stakeholders that sign on to the recommendations could be listed in the registry, which would encourage participation and demonstrate performance to their respective constituencies.

Another option entail outlining **high-level principles** and actions that guide the work of all participating actors, including governments, the private sector, and others. Actors may become signatories to the principles – and any adjunct targets – and commit to adapt them to their own context (e.g., national context or company operations). This would require actors signing on to set targets and identify measures in line with these principles, and periodically report on progress. Credibility could be ensured by setting a clear minimum level of ambition for signatories that will be reviewed — and will become increasingly ambitious — over time to ensure the commitment continues to provide leadership and drive change. This model would be suitable to broader thematic policy areas, in particular harmful and problematic products and materials, such as electrical and electronic products. The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment provides a successful precedent for this option.

A fourth option would outline **performance levels** for certain activity areas. In practice, this would mean that activity areas would have 4-5 performance levels and the aim would be to progress from level 1 to level 5 in all of them. Performance levels should be tailored for governments and industry to accommodate their different roles. The Cradle to Cradle Certified Products Standard provides a possible precedent. The Standard uses five categories, and each has five performance levels (Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute, 2016). Similarly, WHO's International Health Regulations outlines 24 activity areas graded in five performance levels to be reported upon annually against a simple checklist (WHO, 2005). The strength of this approach is that it would encourage continuous improvement and reporting would reveal how performance differs across nations, regions and sectors.

To conclude, an approach combining options discussed above is illustrated in Figure 5. After an issue is identified by the ICCM as an issue of concern for international concerted action, a working group could be established to further develop and promote implementation of a workplan. To support in detailing actions needed, science-based recommendations for actions and risk reduction measures could be prepared by the possible scientific body envisaged to also support the Beyond 2020 Framework. The commitment platform would be managed by the secretariat, in cooperation with the working group, or by an assigned IOMC organization. The ICCM sessions would provide the opportunity for organizing events for peer-learning as well as high-level events for announcing new commitments, as well as for regularly taking stock of overall progress.

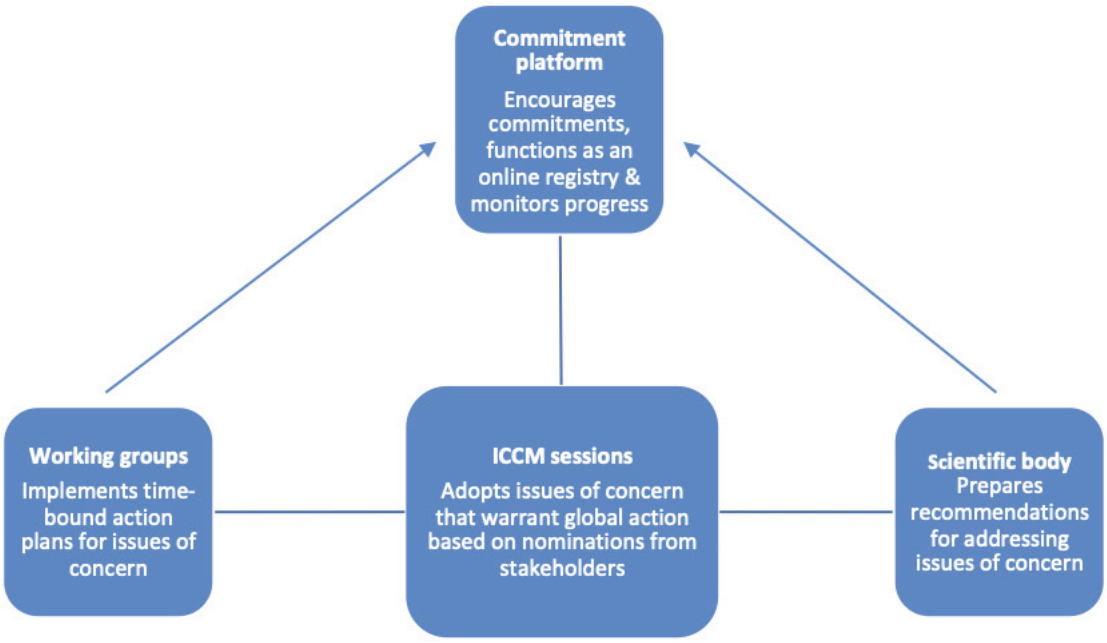


Figure 5. Illustration of the hybrid option for the commitment platform.



6. Conclusions

Chemicals and waste governance has not yet seized the full opportunity presented by voluntary commitment systems. Orchestrating a collective effort within the new agenda - for transparent voluntary commitment systems that enhance implementation of agreed issues of concern - makes it possible to incentivize innovation and action, while ensuring accountability and transparency.

The main rationale for voluntary commitments is based on the concept that responsibility for implementing complex and cross-sectoral issues cannot be limited to governments but has to be diffused across wider sectors of society. Though not replacing state measures to implement legally binding agreements, voluntary commitments hold great additional potential for driving transformative change for chemicals safety in a way that supports global agreements but also complements them.

It is expected that a process will be established at ICCM-5 to identify, prioritize, and address issues of concern that warrant global action. Within such a process, time-bound commitments for the implementation of various actions or measures related to addressing identified issues of concern could be valuable. Structures to initiate a process for all actors to equally take on commitments with specified actions would be central to such a process as well.

To this end, by presenting the elements of, and options for a commitment platform, this report endeavors to mobilize action across all sectors and stakeholders, and to help deliver on workplans for agreed issues of concern. To date, voluntary action has been taken through a range of commitments and pioneering partnerships to advance issues of concern. Thus, valuable practices are emerging that need to be scaled up. A global commitment platform provides an opportunity to enhance the impact and transparency of existing efforts and catalyze further action by all actors.

Such a platform could support to mobilize actions and means for improving chemicals and waste management, support the creation of new partnerships across different sectors, and facilitate learning processes and exchanges of innovative practices. Moreover, a commitment platform could help to raise visibility and build greater momentum for developing a dynamic global agenda for chemicals and waste management that speaks to and draws in non-state and substate actors to be part of an international movement operating under the UN umbrella. More specifically, a voluntary commitment platform could help to promote action on reducing risk from hazardous substances that are not covered by existing MEAs but may still warrant global action. Through voluntary commitments lengthy negotiations to reach consensus on the actions can be avoided.

Many areas that warrant further research have only been touched upon in this study. This includes examining in more detail the role of third-party standards and certification programs as a voluntary tool to encourage self-regulation of the private sector, building on the study prepared by Hengstmann and Nuguid (2019). The role of a scientific body in relation to the Beyond 2020 Framework has been studied by Wang et al. (2019) and Kohler & Templeton (2020), but its possible role for identifying and addressing issues of concern would benefit from a detailed analysis to understand the scope of recommendations as well as possibilities for supporting effective implementation through national commitments.



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Annex 1.

Existing modalities and new proposals for identifying and nominating issues of concern and substances of concern

Existing modalities for emerging policy issues (Annex of Resolution II/4)	Proposed information to be submitted for issues of concern (1 Feb 2021 proposal from co-facilitators of the virtual working group)	Proposal on information related to substances of concern (KemI)
In nominating an emerging policy issue for consideration by the Conference, a proponent will be required to complete a questionnaire that includes the criteria listed below in subparagraph (b). The information to be submitted to the secretariat should include: a. Information demonstrating why a given issue is considered to be an emerging policy issue, in particular how it is consistent with the definition of an emerging policy issue, i.e., an issue involving any phase in the life cycle of chemicals and which has not yet been generally recognized, is insufficiently addressed or arises from the current level of scientific information and which may have significant adverse effects on human health and/or the environment b. Information demonstrating how the issue meets the following criteria: - Magnitude of the problem and its impact on human health or the environment, taking into account vulnerable subpopulations and any toxicological and exposure data gaps - Extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies, particularly at the international level, and how it is related to, complements, or does not duplicate such work - Existing knowledge and perceived gaps in understanding about the issue - Extent to which the issue is of a crosscutting nature - Information on the anticipated deliverables from action on the issue	To nominate an issue, the following information should be provided: a. Why the Beyond 2020 Framework is best placed to advance the issue b. Impacts on human health and/or the environment related to the issue, taking into account inter alia women, children and other vulnerable populations, biodiversity ecosystems and any toxicological and exposure data c. How the issue is integral to the vision of the Beyond 2020 Framework, is ongoing, and needs to be addressed to enhance basic chemicals and [associated] waste management and/or advance the implementation of innovative and sustainable solutions, particularly taking into account the needs of developing countries /countries with economies in transition d. How the issue is integral to the Sustainable Development Goals e. Extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature including at the sectoral level f. Extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies, at the regional or international level, and how the proposed action to address the issue is related to, complements, or does not duplicate such effort g. Existing knowledge and perceived gaps in understanding about the issue h. A list of priority actions and related timelines to guide implementation and the elaboration of a proposed workplan, including opportunities for multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral engagement	During the process of identifying and nominating substances or group of substances as issue of concern, this information could support their identification and prioritization: a. Chemicals that are: (i) Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBTs); or (ii) Very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB); or (iii) Assessed as being persistent and mobile in the aquatic phase and toxic (PMT); or (iv) Assessed as being very persistent and very mobile in the aquatic phase (vPvM); or (v) Carcinogens, mutagens or reprotoxic (CMR) or that adversely affect, inter alia, the endocrine, immune or nervous systems; or (vi) Toxicity or ecotoxicity data indicate the potential for damage to human health or to the environment of equivalent level of concern; and; (vii) With a monitored or potential long-range transport in air, water, migratory species or through trade with products; or (viii) High production volumes and wide dispersive uses; or other negative effects on human health or to the environment, including effects on climate, biodiversity, ecosystem services, circular economy, resource efficiency, food production, or increased antimicrobial resistance.

This report explores opportunities for upscaling ambition and action from a wide array of social actors and institutions, alongside with governments, for achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste. Based on an analysis of existing global commitment platforms, the report identifies key functions and principles therein. It then proposes how they can be applied for increasing commitment to ensure the needed action to address issues of concern that warrant global action, including harmful chemicals, materials, and products. The report aims to inform the development of the global agenda for chemicals and waste management. Its findings may also help other foras seeking to unlock the potential of all actors.

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) Proposal for the Establishment of a Platform for Capacity Building Hub in the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by the International Council of Chemical Associations on a "*Proposal for the Establishment of a Platform for Capacity Building Hub in the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument*" and related proposed draft resolution (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Annex

ICCA's Proposal for the Establishment of a Platform for Capacity Building Hub in the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument

July 2023

Introduction

Progress toward the objectives for the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument instrument depends on adequate resources including financing and in-kind contributions to build capacity in recipient countries to develop, implement, and enforce chemical management regulations.

Currently, numerous governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), industry associations and companies, and civil society organizations undertake and fund capacity building activities supporting chemical management and sustainability in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. These activities, however, seem largely uncoordinated and are often duplicative. The main challenge with such capacity building activities is that they are ad-hoc, fragmented and lack continuity and ownership by both the receiving as well as the providing party.

To address the abovementioned challenges and implement these recommendations, ICCA proposes the creation of a "Capacity Building Hub" under the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument (see attached a proposed resolution).

For any questions or suggestions to this proposal, please reach out to ICCA at Raleigh_davis@americanchemistry.com .

Background

The Capacity Building Hub will provide an online platform for stakeholders to upload their specific capacity building needs and offers. It will facilitate matchmaking between those seeking assistance and those willing to provide support, fostering effective partnerships and resource mobilization. This feature will enable targeted and efficient collaboration, connecting individuals and organizations with complementary capacities and expertise. Additionally, The Hub will serve as a database for those willing to upload project information, deliverables and KPIs, thus ensuring that the outcomes and knowledge generated from various initiatives are accessible to others. This will enable stakeholders to benefit from successful projects, learn from best practices, and replicate effective approaches in their own capacity building efforts. As a result, the Capacity Building Hub will serve to bridge the gap between knowledge, resources, and needs to ensure effective chemicals and waste management and sustainability and will allow greater transparency, facilitate the replication of successful projects and track progress. The Capacity Building Hub is designed to benefit all stakeholders, both donors and recipients, particularly States, NGOs, and SMEs from least developed countries and small island developing States.

Why do we need to promote capacity building?

1. **Effective implementation:** Capacity building enhances the ability of individuals, organizations, and institutions to effectively implement policies, programs, and projects. It equips them with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to carry out their responsibilities and achieve desired outcomes.

2. **Sustainable development:** Building capacity is essential for sustainable development. It enables countries to address environmental, social, and economic challenges by strengthening their capabilities in areas such as environmental management, resource conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and sustainable livelihoods.

3. **Empowerment and self-reliance:** Capacity building empowers individuals and communities, enabling them to take control of their own development. It helps to unlock their potential, build confidence, and foster self-reliance, as they acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to identify and address their own needs and challenges.

4. **Effective governance:** Strong capacity is crucial for good governance at all levels. It promotes transparency, accountability, and the efficient and equitable delivery of public services. Capacity building enhances the capacity of governments and institutions to make informed decisions, formulate effective policies, and implement them efficiently.

5. **Addressing complex challenges:** Many global challenges, such as environmental degradation, climate change, and public health crises, require multidisciplinary and collaborative approaches. Capacity building fosters cooperation, coordination, and knowledge sharing among diverse stakeholders, enabling them to work together to address complex challenges more effectively.

6. **Resilience and adaptation:** Building capacity strengthens the resilience of individuals, communities, and institutions to cope with and adapt to changing circumstances. It equips them with the skills and knowledge to respond to shocks and stresses, recover from crises, and adapt to new circumstances, including emerging threats and opportunities.

7. **Bridging gaps and promoting equity:** Capacity building helps bridge gaps in knowledge, resources, and skills between different stakeholders and regions. It promotes inclusivity and equity by ensuring that marginalized groups, disadvantaged communities, and developing countries have the opportunity to build their capacities and participate fully in decision-making processes and development initiatives.

8. **Knowledge transfer and innovation:** Capacity building facilitates the transfer of knowledge, best practices, and innovation. It enables the exchange of experiences and expertise between different actors, fostering learning and promoting innovation in approaches, technologies, and solutions to address shared challenges.

What are the benefits of establishing a Capacity Building Hub?

1. **Targeted support:** The Hub will address the specific needs of developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, while aligning with the objectives of the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument.

2. **Enhanced collaboration:** The Hub will promote collaboration among governments, regional organizations, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, NGOs, and other stakeholders. It will facilitate partnerships, knowledge sharing, and synergy to maximize the impact of capacity building efforts.

3. **Holistic approach:** The Hub will take a comprehensive approach, ensuring a holistic and integrated response to capacity building needs. It will cover various aspects such as funding, training, technical resources, information sharing, and project implementation.

4. **Regional and local coordination:** The Hub will promote coordination at the regional and local levels, ensuring that relevant partners with expertise and resources in a specific region play a key role in executing projects matched to that region.

5. **Leveraging expertise and learnings:** The Hub will recognize the value of leveraging expertise and learnings from completed capacity building activities, enabling the transfer of knowledge and best practices to similar capacity building efforts.

6. **Centralized access:** The Capacity Building Hub will provide a single platform for accessing funding, training, information, and technical assistance, streamlining the process for countries to build their capacities and effectively manage chemicals and waste.

7. **Monitoring and evaluation:** The Hub will emphasize the importance of monitoring and evaluation, allowing for project participants to submit Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) throughout the project lifecycle. This ensures transparency, accountability, and informs future funding decisions.

8. **Long-term sustainability:** By focusing on building sustainable capacity, the Hub will contribute to long-term impact and resilience in chemicals and waste management. It aims to create lasting change and support countries in meeting their long-term objectives.

What type of projects will be eligible for matchmaking?

The Capacity Building Hub will provide matchmaking services to connect needs with offers of assistance and will offer a range of functions, including capacity-building activities, technology transfer, technical resources, financial resources, and designing and implementing projects.

1. Capacity-building activities could include training, events, information sharing and behaviour change initiatives. Through the platform, educational programs could be provided, such as fellowship programs.
2. Technology transfer could include, but is not limited to, chemical and waste management technologies/unit, such as a recycling plant or a wastewater treatment plant for an industrial site.
3. Technical resources could include operational and technical guidelines, manuals and sourcebooks, implementation plans, toolkits, policy recommendations, new technologies, and monitoring and analysis tools, best environmental practices (BEP), and best available technologies (BAT).
4. Financial resources could include grants, loans, investments, blended finance, crowdfunding, and donations, among others, provided by multilateral or bilateral donors, governments, private not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, or individuals.
5. Project design and implementation could include identifying and selecting project ideas, providing technical and financial support for project implementation, and tracking project progress and impact. The platform could also serve as a hub for sharing information and best practices related to project design and implementation, as well as showcasing successful projects and their outcomes.

What would be the work areas of the projects?

The Capacity Building Hub should cover projects related to the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument, for example:

1. Development or updating of implementation plans and the identification of capacity needs for sound chemicals and waste management and sustainability;
2. Implementing and strengthening of national chemicals and waste management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument, building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals and waste-related agreements and initiatives;
3. Undertaking analysis, interagency coordination, and public participation activities directed at enabling the implementation of the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument by integrating – i.e., mainstreaming – the sound management of chemicals and waste and sustainability in national strategies, and thereby informing development assistance cooperation priorities.

How will the Capacity Building Hub be governed and overseen?

The Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument Secretariat will assume overall administrative responsibility for the Capacity Building Hub.

The Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument Executive Board will provide operational guidance and report on the implementation of the Hub to the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

A Consulting Committee will be established to support the Executive Board in overseeing the design and implementation of the Hub, composed of all interested stakeholders. This would promote transparency and ownership.

Who will decide which projects get funding?

The Capacity Building Hub is not intended for decision-making on projects. Instead, it serves as a facilitator for bilateral arrangements among project participants, ensuring projects are agreed upon outside the platform.

How can stakeholders participate in the Capacity Building Hub?

All stakeholders can participate in the Capacity Building Hub by utilizing the platform to upload their needs, offering assistance or resources, accessing training and information exchange opportunities, and engaging in collaborative projects.

How will the Capacity Building Hub integrate with existing platforms?

The Hub will build on existing platforms, such as the SAICM website and SAICM Knowledge Platform. Integration with other platforms, including the International Aid and Transparency Initiative (IATI), UNEP's private sector strategy and World Environment Situation Room, and the broader UN system, will also be considered.

Will the Capacity Building Hub provide support for project funding?

The platform will serve as a hub for sharing information on funding and capacity building opportunities, including grants, loans, investments, blended finance, crowdfunding, and donations. It will facilitate the connection of stakeholders with financial resources for project implementation. It will not have, manage,

assign or provide funding for specific projects, meaning no financial transactions or money flow will occur through the Hub, maintaining its focus on facilitating connections and knowledge sharing rather than serving as a monetary exchange platform.

Will the progress and impact of projects resultant from the matchmaking be measured?

This will be an optional feature. Participants of projects may wish to inform Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to track the progress and impact of capacity building activities. Examples of KPIs include the number of beneficiaries, training participation rate, knowledge/skill improvement, project implementation success rate, sustainability of outcomes, stakeholder satisfaction, policy or institutional changes achieved, financial contribution, cost-effectiveness of programs, collaboration and partnerships established, and impact on socio-economic indicators.

How will recipients benefit from the Capacity Building Hub?

The Capacity Building Hub empowers recipients by providing access to valuable resources, facilitating partnerships, increasing visibility, fostering collaboration, and promoting efficient utilization of resources. These benefits support recipients in implementing sustainable capacity building activities and achieving their developmental goals.

1. **Access to Resources and Expertise:** The Hub will serve as a central repository of technical resources, guidelines, manuals, and best practices related to capacity building. Recipients will have access to a wealth of knowledge and expertise that can support their efforts in areas such as chemicals and waste management, sustainability, and related cross-cutting issues. This access to resources can enhance their capacity to implement projects effectively and address specific challenges.
2. **Matchmaking and Partnerships:** The matchmaking platform of the Hub will enable recipients to upload their specific capacity building needs. This will facilitate the identification of potential donors, partners, and experts who can provide support in addressing those needs. By connecting with relevant stakeholders, recipients can form partnerships, access funding opportunities, and leverage external expertise, thereby enhancing the success and sustainability of their capacity building initiatives.
3. **Increased Visibility and Collaboration:** The Capacity Building Hub will provide recipients with a platform to showcase their projects, outcomes, and success stories. This increased visibility can attract further support, funding, and collaboration opportunities from other stakeholders who may be interested in similar initiatives. The Hub will foster networking and collaboration among recipients, enabling the sharing of experiences, lessons learned, and best practices, thereby creating a supportive and collaborative environment.
4. **Strengthened Institutional Capacity:** Through the Capacity Building Hub, recipients can strengthen their institutional capacity by accessing training programs, events, and behaviour change initiatives. The Hub will provide opportunities for recipients to enhance their skills, knowledge, and understanding of sustainable development, gender considerations, and human rights aspects, thereby enabling them to implement capacity building activities more effectively and in line with international standards.
5. **Reduced Duplication and Enhanced Efficiency:** The Hub will contribute to reducing duplication of efforts by providing visibility into ongoing and completed capacity building projects. Recipients can review existing initiatives, identify areas where efforts are already underway, and avoid

duplicating similar activities. This helps optimize the use of resources, minimize redundancy, and enhance the overall efficiency of capacity building efforts.

How will donors benefit from the Capacity Building Hub?

The Capacity Building Hub provides donors with increased visibility, informed decision-making, opportunities for showcasing their support, and a platform to reduce duplications. These benefits contribute to more impactful and sustainable capacity building efforts, while promoting transparency and collaboration in the field.

1. **Increased Reach and Sustainability:** By utilizing the Hub, projects financed by donors will have greater visibility and reach a wider audience. The database of project deliverables will ensure that the knowledge and outcomes generated from these projects are accessible to others, thereby maximizing their impact. This increased exposure will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the projects, as best practices and lessons learned can be shared and replicated.
2. **Informed Decision-making:** The Hub serves as a centralized platform where donors can review the specific capacity building needs uploaded by stakeholders. This allows donors to have a comprehensive overview of the diverse requirements across different regions and sectors. By having access to this information, donors can make more informed decisions about where to invest their support, ensuring that their resources are allocated to areas that align with their priorities and have the greatest potential for positive change.
3. **Showcasing Support and Transparency:** The Capacity Building Hub provides a transparent and accessible space for donors to showcase their support and contributions to capacity building initiatives. A significant benefit of the Capacity Building Hub is that donors will have the opportunity to showcase their actions under a UN website, which grants them a sense of hierarchy and recognition. The Hub, being hosted under the SAICM Knowledge Platform and administered by the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument Secretariat, provides a prestigious platform for donors to highlight their contributions to capacity building initiatives. This not only enhances their reputation but also fosters transparency and accountability in the field of capacity building.
4. **Reduction of Duplications:** The Hub helps reduce duplications and inefficiencies in capacity building efforts. By having a centralized platform that showcases ongoing and completed projects, donors can easily identify existing initiatives and avoid duplicating efforts in the same areas or sectors. This promotes coordination, collaboration, and the optimal utilization of resources, resulting in a more effective and streamlined approach to capacity building.

Why would anyone upload information into the hub?

There are several compelling reasons why stakeholders would be motivated to upload information into the Capacity Building Hub:

1. **Enhanced Visibility:** The Hub provides a platform for stakeholders to showcase their capacity building initiatives, projects, and outcomes. By uploading information, stakeholders can increase the visibility of their work, gaining recognition and exposure on a global scale. This visibility can attract further collaboration, support, and funding opportunities from potential partners and donors.
2. **Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration:** The Hub serves as a central repository of resources, best practices, and lessons learned in capacity building. By sharing information, stakeholders

contribute to a collective pool of knowledge that can benefit others working in similar areas. This knowledge sharing fosters collaboration, innovation, and the exchange of expertise, ultimately leading to more effective and sustainable capacity building efforts.

3. **Networking and Partnerships:** Uploading information into the Hub opens doors to networking and partnership opportunities. Stakeholders can connect with like-minded organizations, governments, NGOs, and experts who share similar goals and interests. This facilitates collaboration, joint initiatives, and the potential for synergistic partnerships that can amplify the impact of capacity building efforts.
4. **Access to Funding Opportunities:** The Hub serves as a platform for donors and funding organizations to review capacity building needs and project proposals. By uploading their needs and project ideas, stakeholders increase their chances of attracting financial support for their initiatives. Donors can identify projects aligned with their priorities, potentially leading to funding opportunities and resources to further develop and implement capacity building activities.
5. **Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals:** The Capacity Building Hub is aligned with the objectives of the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument and the broader sustainable development agenda. By uploading information, stakeholders actively contribute to the achievement of these goals, promoting sustainable practices, and addressing key challenges in areas such as chemicals and waste management, sustainability, and cross-cutting issues.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Uploading information into the Hub allows stakeholders to track and monitor the progress and impact of their capacity building initiatives. Key performance indicators (KPIs) and project milestones can be documented, providing a systematic way to assess outcomes and measure success. This data can be used for reporting, evaluation, and further improvement of capacity building activities.

How will the Capacity Building Hub address the needs of countries with limited internet connectivity?

The design of the Capacity Building Hub will consider the needs of countries with weak internet connectivity. It will aim to be user-friendly and enable offline work, ensuring that stakeholders in such countries can still access and utilize the platform effectively.

What would be the relationship between the Hub and funding sources such as the Special Programme and the GEF?

The Capacity Building Hub will be designed to avoid duplicating activities with existing initiatives such as the Special Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Instead, it will aim to complement and enhance collaboration with these programs to maximize the impact of capacity building efforts.

This synergy can be achieved by facilitating the upload of project deliverables from the Special Programme and GEF to the Capacity Building Hub. This would enable wider access to the knowledge, outcomes, and lessons learned from their projects. By sharing these resources, other countries and regions can benefit from the experiences and expertise gained through these initiatives. A key driver for implementing this approach is the potential increase in the number of beneficiaries. By designing projects with the intention of sharing deliverables and resources, the eligibility and impact of the projects can be enhanced. This approach aligns with the principles of inclusivity, knowledge-sharing, and maximizing the reach and effectiveness of capacity building efforts.

To facilitate this collaboration, resolutions at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the GEF Board could be promoted. These resolutions would encourage the inclusion of guidelines within their project frameworks, promoting the consideration of potential use by other countries and regions. For example, workshops could be transformed into e-learning courses, and guidelines could be translated into English to facilitate broader access and utilization.

How will the Capacity Building Hub be funded?

Governments, regional economic integration organizations, the private sector, including industry, foundations, other nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, in the capacity to do so, can provide voluntary extrabudgetary resources in support of the **Capacity Building Hub** in the fulfilment of its functions. The estimated costs for its design, implementation and operations will be assessed prior to ICCM 5.

Draft resolution

The Conference,

Having incorporated capacity building considerations within the text of the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument, including the establishment of a Capacity Building Hub providing matchmaking services to connect needs with offers for chemicals and waste management,

1. Decides that the objective of the Capacity Building Hub is to providing matchmaking services though an IT platform to connect needs with offers for chemicals and waste management and sustainability. By doing so, the Hub supports the development of infrastructure and enhances the capacity required to achieve the objectives outlined in the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument.
2. Invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, including industry, foundations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to support the Capacity Building Hub by providing offers for capacity-building activities, technology transfer, technical resources, financial resources, and designing and implementing projects;
3. Adopts the institutional arrangements for the Capacity Building Hub as set out in Appendix I to the present resolution;
4. Decides that the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument Secretariat will assume overall administrative responsibility for the Capacity Building Hub and that it will be hosted under the SAICM Knowledge Platform;
5. Decides to allocate resources in accordance with the indicative budget provisions in Table 1 of the present resolution within available resources to support the Capacity Building Hub and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations, the private sector, including industry, foundations, other nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, in the capacity to do so, to provide voluntary extrabudgetary resources in support of the Capacity Building Hub in the fulfilment of its functions;

Table 1: Indicative budget provisions

- IT Needs
    - Development/setting up:
    - Annual maintenance:
    - Hosting under SAICM Knowledge Platform:
- Staffing Needs
    - 1 consultant for managing and updating the platform
    - Annual estimation per year:

APPENDIX I institutional arrangements for the Capacity Building Hub

A. Overall approach

1. The Capacity Building Hub will take fully into account the characteristics of the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument and its institutional arrangements.
2. The Capacity Building Hub shall focus on capacity building for chemicals and waste management and sustainability, including relevant cross-cutting issues such as sustainable development, gender, and human rights. It should factor in a balance among available information on the topic and its relevance, in line with objectives and targets, and indicators as adopted by ICCM5.
3. Donors will be Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, including industry, foundations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in a position to do so. Applicants and beneficiaries will be all Stakeholders, in particular States, NGOs and SMEs from least developed countries and small island developing States.
4. The Capacity Building Hub will provide match-making services to connect needs with offers of assistance and will offer a range of functions, including capacity-building activities, technology transfer, technical resources, financial resources, and designing and implementing projects.
5. The Capacity Building Hub should enable applicants to upload their needs and connect with potential donors who can run campaigns and offer support, fostering effective partnerships and resource mobilization. Activities financed through bilateral and multilateral cooperation will be implemented in accordance with the arrangements made by participants in that cooperation.
6. The Capacity Building Hub should allow for coordination at regional and local level, meaning that when a project is matched to take place in a certain region, the relevant partners in that region which have the relevant expertise and resources could play a key role in executing the project.
7. Besides being a matchmaking tool, the Capacity Building Hub will also serve as a database. Those willing to do so, will be able to upload projects' results, including KPIs, deliverables and tools. KPIs could also be utilized to report toward the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument.
8. The Capacity Building Hub will facilitate that expertise and learnings from completed capacity building activities can be leveraged across other similar capacity efforts.

B. Design of the platform

9. The design of the Capacity Building Hub should consider the following considerations:
    - The system should be user-friendly, including enabling users to work in offline conditions.
    - The platform should be scalable to accommodate the growing number of users and data sources.
    - The platform should be customizable to meet the needs of different stakeholders.
    - The platform should enable data analysis and interpretation through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools.
    - The platform should provide a help desk that includes online content (FAQs, automatic replies, and other online resources) and direct dialogue with AI.

C. Governance

10. The responsibilities of the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument Secretariat include:

a) Facilitate the establishment of a Consulting Committee to support Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument Executive Board in overseeing the design and implementation of the Capacity Building Hub, composed of all interested stakeholders.
b) Lead the design and implementation of the Capacity Building Hub, guided by the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument Executive Board and report back on the progress.
c) Oversee the day-to-day management and operation of the Capacity Building Hub, including maintaining and updating its technical infrastructure, managing data and content, and monitoring user activity and engagement.
d) Facilitate partnerships with strategic stakeholders, including governments, IGOs, NGOs, academia, and private sector organizations.
e) Develop and implement an outreach strategy to promote the Capacity Building Hub and its activities, including collaborating with existing communication channels and platforms to increase awareness and synergies.
f) Manage and allocate financial resources dedicated to the Capacity Building Hub design, implementation, management and operation.
g) Provide technical assistance and support to users, including maintaining a help desk and providing training and guidance on the Capacity Building Hub features and capabilities.
h) Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan to track progress towards achieving the Capacity Building Hub goals and objectives, and to continuously improve its effectiveness.
i) Reporting on the progress and achievements of the Capacity Building Hub to the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument Executive Board.
j) Ensure compliance with relevant policies, regulations, and legal requirements.
k) Foster collaboration and coordination with other existing platforms, including the SAICM website and SAICM Knowledge Platform, to maximize the platform's impact and avoid duplication of efforts.

D. Oversight and reporting

11. The Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument Executive Board will provide operational guidance on the implementation of the strategic priorities of the Capacity Building Hub and advise on other relevant matters as required.
12. A Consulting Committee will be established to support the Executive Board in overseeing the design and implementation of the Hub, composed of all interested stakeholders.
13. The Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument Executive Board will report to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its sessions on the implementation of the Capacity Building Hub.

E. Strategic Partners

14. Strategic partners are essential to effectively leverage resources and enhance synergies to meet the capacity building needs of the Beyond 2020 Framework/Instrument. Collaboration could focus on research, education, awareness-raising, knowledge sharing, and promoting relevant fellowships with, among others, the following:
    a) Governments
    b) Private Sector
    c) GEF and Special Programme Secretariats
    d) MEAs Secretariats and regional centres

e) IOMC participating organizations and other relevant UN entities
f) NGOs
g) International financial institutions
h) Educational and academic institutions
i) Partnerships, as the GHS Global Partnership.

F. Building on Existing Platforms

15. The platform should build on existing platforms, including taking the best use of the SAICM website and SAICM Knowledge Platform. Ways to integrate with other existing platforms, such as the International Aid and Transparency Initiative (IATI), UNEP's private sector strategy and World Environment Situation Room, and the broader UN system, such as the UN Secretary-General's Data Strategy, could also be considered.

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The International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) Perspectives for ICCM5: towards a new instrument on chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by the International Pollutants Elimination Network on "*Perspectives for ICCM5: towards a new instrument on chemicals and waste beyond 2020*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

IPEN Perspectives for ICCM5: towards a new instrument on chemicals and waste beyond 2020

IPEN - the International Pollutants Elimination Network - is committed to a successful negotiation to achieve a strong framework that will fulfill the vision of the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle.

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) addresses significant health and environmental harms caused by chemical exposure and makes a global political commitment to reform how chemicals are produced and used to minimize those harms. SAICM is the only international agreement with the mandate to address the full range of health and environmental concerns associated with the production and use of chemicals. IPEN has been committed to its success since the start of its negotiations in 2003.

While this agreement on sound international chemicals management is not legally binding, its original texts represent a consensus of Ministers within Environment, Health, and other delegates from more than one hundred governments who attended the first International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1), held in Dubai in February 2006.

Given the expectation that chemicals and plastics production will continue to dramatically increase, a successful Beyond 2020 instrument must be more ambitious than the initial SAICM framework to successfully achieve the goal of sound management of chemicals and waste. It is vital that it does not contain elements that are weaker or undermining any other relevant international agreement.

The new framework will also be critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including fighting poverty, protecting vulnerable groups, and advancing public health and human security. SAICM is relevant to 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. As such, a successful Beyond 2020 instrument that would help achieve the SDGs must include strategic objectives, targets, and indicators concordant with the SDGs.

IPEN's vision is for a world where chemicals and wastes are no longer a source of harm and where all people have the right to a safe and healthy environment that will be sustained to protect future generations.

Despite the challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, governments have made significant progress and taken important commitments in global processes that directly relate to SAICM. These must be mirrored in the Beyond 2020 instrument.

ILO RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY AND SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT

In June 2022, the ILO adopted a resolution on the inclusion of a safe and healthy working environment in the ILO's framework of fundamental principles and rights at work (ILC.110/Resolution I): The resolution included the right to a safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work. Consequently, the International Labour Conference designated the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187) as fundamental Conventions.

RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT DECLARED A HUMAN RIGHT

In July 2022, the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment was recognized by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA Resolution A/76/L.75). The resolution calls upon States, international organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders to "scale up efforts" to ensure a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all. The resolution affirms that its promotion "requires the full implementation" of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) "under the principles of international environmental law" and recognizes the negative implications, both direct and indirect, of the unsound management of chemicals and wastes on the effective enjoyment of all human rights. The Beyond 2020 instrument will be a crucial tool to create the institutional capacity necessary to realize the right to a healthy environment.

A LANDMARK RESOLUTION BY THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The Resolution on the impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health by the World Health Assembly (A76/A/CONF./2) further recognizes that the linkages between the health impacts of chemicals, waste and pollution and other priority global health issues, including inequity and vulnerability, maternal and child health, antimicrobial resistance and the meaningful achievement of Universal Health Coverage, and that inaction on these linkages limits our collective capacity to strengthen our health systems, including in the context of health emergencies.

The Resolution, among others, calls for Member States to increase their commitment to enhancing the engagement of the health sector in the Beyond 2020 instrument, taking a health-in-all policies approach. It encourages the health sector to strengthen partnerships and collaborative efforts to develop and update regulatory frameworks, including the harmonization of protocols for national human biomonitoring and surveillance programs, particularly for chemicals of concern such as cadmium, lead, mercury, highly hazardous pesticides and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs).

UNEA CHEMICALS AND WASTE RESOLUTION

UNEA Resolution 5/7 reaffirms the relevance and importance of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste and underscores that the three components of an integrated approach – mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated

external financing – are mutually reinforcing and are all critical for the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels. The resolution also commits to continue efforts to act to protect nature and human health from adverse impacts from chemicals and waste and support an ambitious framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 at the fifth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, recognizing pollution as one of the major drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss, which in turn requires us to prevent pollution that toxifies land, air, ocean and fresh water.

In calling for a successful conclusion of the intersessional process UNEA Resolution 5/7 of 2 March 2022:

- Invited Governments and all stakeholders involved in the Beyond 2020 process to put in place an ambitious, improved enabling framework for the Beyond 2020 process, reflecting a life-cycle approach.
- Expressed concern about increasing illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes.
- Urged Member States and invited other stakeholders to take further action to reduce or eliminate the risks associated with Issues of Concern.

BIODIVERSITY TARGETS ON CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES

In December 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/COP/DEC/15/4) was adopted, setting targets for chemicals and pesticides. The Conference of the Parties of the Global Biodiversity Framework adopted 23 global targets to reduce threats to biodiversity, including Target 7, where countries committed to reducing pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030 to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution. The Beyond 2020 instrument will be crucial to create the institutional capacity necessary to achieve these commitments.

ADVANCES IN SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE ON CHEMICALS: REASONS FOR CONCERN

A landmark study by a team of researchers showed that the safe operating space of the planetary boundary of novel entities (i.e., chemicals and plastics) is exceeded since annual production and releases are increasing at a pace that outstrips the global capacity for assessment and monitoring.[1] The Beyond 2020 instrument could contribute to reversing the course toward producing and consuming chemicals and plastics within planetary boundaries.

[1] Linn Persson, Bethanie M. Carney Almroth, Christopher D. Collins, Sarah Cornell, Cynthia A. de Wit, Miriam L. Diamond, Peter Fantke, Martin Hassellöv, Matthew MacLeod, Morten W. Ryberg, Peter Søgaard Jørgensen, Patricia Villarrubia-Gómez, Zhanyun Wang, and Michael Zwicky Hauschild Environmental Science & Technology 2022 56 (3), 1510-1521 DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.1c04158

SUMMARY OF IPEN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF ICCM5

A stronger final text than the previous SAICM text will demonstrate a successful outcome in the negotiations leading to a Beyond 2020 instrument. The following elements should be considered as a priority.

A COMPREHENSIVE SCOPE AND RECOGNITION OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Define the scope of the instrument to include the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle (all wastes), in line with SDG 12.4. which calls for achieving "the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle." [emphasis added]
- Be driven by clear principles: the precautionary principle, the substitution principle, the prevention principle, the integration principle, and the polluter-pays principle.
- Be driven by a commitment to contribute to the realization of the fundamental right to a healthy and safe working environment as work as recognized by ILO, and the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment as recognized by resolution A/76/L.75 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), and by protecting the right to access to information about chemicals and their use.

AN AMBITIOUS VISION AND SPECIFIC STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

The Beyond 2020 instrument should build on an ambitious, timeless vision to achieve a toxics-free planet. It should have strategic objectives that identify the challenge ahead and inform the setting of the targets and indicators. Each target should be outcome-oriented and focused on harm minimization rather than process-oriented. Also, targets should be measurable through indicators and milestones.

INCORPORATE EXISTING EMERGING POLICY ISSUES AND OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN IN THE NEW INSTRUMENT

The Beyond 2020 instrument needs to expressly include the current Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and other issues of concern that more than 100 governments already agreed on under previous ICCMs. SAICM will be closed with the coming into force of the new instrument, and to date, the existing emerging issues still need to be adequately addressed. Thus, by expressly incorporating them in the new agreement with clear workplans and milestones, the work on these issues would continue, and all previous work would not be wasted.

AGREE ON THE CREATION OF A GLOBAL FUND ON CHEMICALS AND WASTE TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO FINANCING IN THE BEYOND 2020 INSTRUMENT

The SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy adopted in 2006 acknowledged that access to considerable financial and other resources is needed to achieve the sound management of chemicals. However, these funds have yet to materialize on a scale commensurate with the need. Substantial new and additional funds for implementing SAICM will be needed for a meaningful global effort to achieve SAICM's goals and relevant SDGs, especially for low- and middle-income countries. According to the UNEP independent evaluation of SAICM, "the

process has been hampered by both uncertainty and shortfalls in planned financing." Further, a "triple planetary crisis" has been identified, with global threats from climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution from chemicals and waste. Sustainable, predictable, adequate, and accessible financing will be crucial for the success of the Beyond 2020 instrument. Countries have committed to funds to address threats from the first two under UN global agreements, a Green Climate Fund of $100 Billion per year and Biodiversity Funding of $30 Billion per year by 2030 from developed to developing countries while the chemicals and waste and pollution crisis has no comparable commitment. The Africa Region and IPEN/CIEL, called for a globally coordinated fee on basic chemicals (i.e., chemical feedstocks). The proceeds from such fee should go into a newly created International Fund for the sound management of chemicals that should be accessible to all stakeholders and not be time limited.

STRENGTHEN THE MULTI-SECTORAL NATURE OF THE AGREEMENT

The Beyond 2020 draft text stresses the need for a multi-sectoral approach and states that representatives of the labor, health, agriculture, and other sectors relevant to chemicals should be involved. However, the text still needs mechanisms to effectively mainstream the instrument into other sectors beyond the environmental ministries and traditional stakeholders from Multilateral Environmental Agreements. These mechanisms should aim to ensure that populations most vulnerable to the impacts of hazardous chemicals, including youth, women, and indigenous groups, can fully participate in implementing the instrument and ensure that health, labor, and other relevant ministries are involved in the process. Such participation needs to be duly supported by adequate funding for civil society organizations to ensure meaningful engagement in the implementation of the instrument at the national and international levels.

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SETTING BOUNDARIES TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

THE NEED FOR STRONG GLOBAL CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT BEYOND 2020

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) on "*SETTING BOUNDARIES TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.



SETTING BOUNDARIES TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

THE NEED FOR STRONG GLOBAL CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT BEYOND 2020





July 2023

IPEN
for a toxics-free future



THE VOICES AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THESE PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS FROM LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES THAT OFTEN EXPERIENCE THE GREATEST THREATS FROM CHEMICALS AND WASTE ARE ESSENTIAL. WITHOUT THEM, SAICM AND OTHER GLOBAL AGREEMENTS WOULD AMOUNT TO LITTLE MORE THAN WISHFUL THINKING.

SAICM: A UNIQUE, VITAL FRAMEWORK – YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

Established in 1998, IPEN today is the leading global public interest, civil society organization promoting policies to protect human health and environmental rights from toxic chemicals and plastics, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Our network includes more than 600 public interest groups in more than 125 countries, largely low- and middle-income nations. We work to strengthen global and national chemicals and waste policies, to conduct research providing data relevant for national, regional and international policies, and to build a global movement for a toxics-free future.

We envision a healthier world where people and the environment are free from threats posed by toxic chemicals. Our mission is a toxics-free future for all.

IPEN has contributed to SAICM since its inception and with our global network members we have been active participants in every ICCM, OEWG, and in the intersessional process. Our work has provided critical, unique research documenting threats to human health and the environment from chemicals and wastes from many parts of the world where no previous data existed. We also contribute creative, comprehensive policy solutions that have been adopted within SAICM and by many national and local governments.

A crucial role of IPEN is to support participation by our global members in chemicals and waste-related policy negotiations. The voices and active participation of these public interest groups from low- and middle-income countries that often experience the greatest threats from chemicals and waste are essential. Without them, SAICM and other global agreements would amount to little more than wishful thinking.

Many factors have contributed to the disappointing progress toward the 2020 goals. Insufficient funding for implementation, low political priority, double standards, and lack of industry responsibility play a key role in continuing problems of chemical regulation and waste management. Key safety principles such as the precautionary principle, inter-generational equity, no data – no market, right to know, substitution, and polluter pays are alluded to, but are not often operationalized.

Despite these obstacles, progress has been made. IPEN members in our eight regions from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Central and Eastern Europe work diligently to support and promote SAICM's objectives in all parts of the world. This report provides a brief snapshot of positive outcomes from among the hundreds of successful projects by IPEN and our member groups that have helped propel progress around global chemical and waste management.

We also provide recommendations for strengthening the new SAICM framework and increasing its ambition so it can fulfill its objective as a unique, critical tool for global health. It must maintain its multisectoral and multistakeholder approach as well as its broad scope as the only international forum for comprehensively addressing chemical safety. Adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing must be established, ideally through strategies that hold industry accountable for the harms caused by its products. Most importantly, the new framework must recommit to a transparent, open, and inclusive process that promotes health and environmental justice for the communities around the world who are most at-risk from toxic chemicals and wastes.

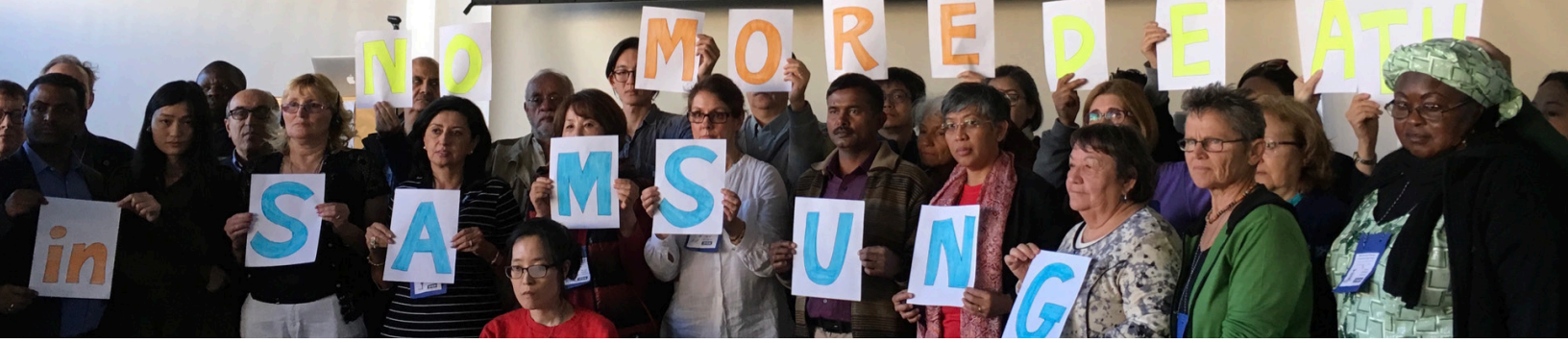
Going forward, we believe that SAICM Beyond 2020 will continue to play an essential role in the vital work toward a toxics-free future for all.



Pamela K. Miller
IPEN Co-Chair



Tadesse Amera
IPEN Co-Chair



SAICM: PROTECTING OUR HEALTH AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

Industry produces thousands of chemicals, including many thousands that can harm our health and the environment. These substances do not observe national boundaries - they enter the environment and our bodies through the air, water, waste, and even the products we buy. A recent study concluded that pollution from chemicals and waste has already exceeded the safe operating space, the "planetary boundary," for healthy living on Earth.

In 2002, the world's governments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg agreed on action to address the health and environmental harms caused by chemicals throughout their life cycle, with the goal to minimize those harms by 2020. This goal was mirrored when more than a hundred governments adopted SAICM in 2006.

SAICM is relevant for all governments, but it is especially important for low- and middle-income countries who are often most at-risk from toxic chemicals and waste but lack the information and capacity needed to protect their residents.

SAICM is the only global agreement with the mandate to address the full range of health and environmental concerns throughout the life cycle of chemicals, underscoring the need for all stakeholders and sectors to work together. In practice, it provides an umbrella framework for all other international chemical agreements. **Without SAICM, no international framework would exist for addressing most of the world's most pressing chemical safety concerns.**

SAICM "BEYOND 2020"

As it became clear that SAICM was not on track to achieve its 2020 goals, a "Beyond 2020" process was initiated to assess priorities going forward. When the new SAICM framework is adopted, it will be critical to increase the level of ambition, since it is the only global agreement to comprehensively address the existential threats that chemicals and wastes pose.

IPEN recognizes that SAICM has been instrumental in fostering progress on chemicals and waste management and calls for the new framework to advance with greater urgency and ambition, including:

- Addressing chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle.
- Incorporating meaningful, measurable, and time-bound targets, indicators, and milestones.
- Recommitting to a transparent, open and inclusive multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral design and practice.
- Addressing gaps in international agreements and providing for effective collaborations among UN agencies and all stakeholders.
- Recommitting to preserving its broad scope, without which there would be no participatory international framework for addressing the majority of the world's most pressing chemical safety concerns.
- Ensuring that issues of concern and emerging policy issues are carried forward and fully addressed.
- Securing adequate funding for implementation through a global chemicals and waste fund based on the "polluter pays" principle.
- Promoting continued, measurable progress toward reforming how chemicals are produced and used, to prevent harm to human health and the environment

When the new SAICM framework is adopted, it will be critical to increase the level of ambition, since it is the only global agreement to comprehensively address the existential threats that chemicals and wastes pose.



FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL: IPEN'S ROLE

IPEN partners with our member organizations to nurture and support their local and national campaigns, develop local research and produce local data, and foster collaborations to focus the power of their collaborative efforts in international policy debates. Stronger global policies then help catalyze and reinforce their local and national efforts.

IPEN's and our members' role in SAICM carries a similar circular feedback. Our global members rely on SAICM as a tool to encourage and guide their local and national decision-makers in developing strong regulations on toxic chemicals and waste. In turn, the coordinated research and data from IPEN member groups creates the science base needed for developing and strengthening protective regulations under SAICM. In many countries, a lack of data creates a barrier to solutions. Research by IPEN and our network partners is often the only source of relevant, local data that decision-makers and other stakeholders have for their policy deliberations.

Our work highlights the essential contributions of those from low- and middle-income countries where people often are most at-risk from toxic chemicals. By bringing together their voices, we aim to ensure that the unique perspectives, expertise, local knowledge, innovations, and insights of our member groups are heard and accounted for in SAICM and all international chemical policy forums.

Since ICCM4, IPEN and our members have conducted over 800 activities and projects promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste in low- and middle-income countries. Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2021, IPEN supported over 150 projects around controls on chemicals, waste, and plastics by our member groups in 70 countries, and in 2022, 100 projects
in 47 countries. Following are four case studies from hundreds of examples of IPEN's work that have benefitted from the protections developed under the SAICM agreement, and that, in turn, have contributed to the further development of the SAICM agreement. The case studies are:

- Eliminating Lead Paint Globally
- Exposing Threats from Chemicals in Plastics and Plastic Waste
- Electronics, Hazardous Chemicals, and Gender
- Promoting Alternatives to Toxic Pesticides

CASE STUDY: ELIMINATING LEAD PAINT GLOBALLY

Lead poisoning is a global concern that is not comprehensively addressed by any global agreement. No levels of exposure are safe for children and it is a significant public health emergency in low-income regions, where 90% of all children with elevated blood-lead levels live. Lead paint remains one of the most widespread sources of childhood lead exposure and the majority of countries in the world today lack protective, enforced laws to ban the use of lead in paint.

SAICM has had more influence in the work toward eliminating lead paint globally than on any other issue. Since its adoption as an emerging policy issue in 2009, work conducted by IPEN and collaboration partners in the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint has ended manufacturing and selling lead paints by many companies, influenced the development of new regulatory controls in several countries, and supported stakeholders with tools they need to effect change. This work has created substantial, measurable reductions in the manufacture and sales of lead paints and more successes are expected.

These achievements result directly in measurable reductions in the health burdens from lead poisoning of future generations, and, in turn, this translates into reduced incidents of mental impairments, cardiovascular disease, and other lead exposure-related conditions.

In 2007, global reports of toys and other products found with lead paint prompted IPEN to conduct a study looking at the issue. IPEN network groups from 11 countries collected and analyzed decorative (home use) paints, finding paints with dangerously high lead content in every country. In response, IPEN launched a worldwide lead paint elimination campaign and provided the evidence needed for its adoption as an emerging policy issue.

Since then, IPEN and our members have collected and analyzed more than 4,000 paints in about 60 countries, documenting the widespread availability of paint with dangerous lead levels. By generating country-based data on lead paint, we make the problem visible, often the first step toward regulation. Our member groups use the research as a platform to engage with policymakers in developing legislative solutions and as a tool to urge paint manufacturers to reformulate their products, often resulting in companies becoming market leaders in safer products.



The Philippines is one example of the impact of IPEN's lead paint campaign. In 2009, the Philippine public interest group and IPEN member the EcoWaste Coalition found that the majority of paint sold in the country contained high levels of lead, with more than 40% of paint containing dangerously high levels above 10,000 parts per million (ppm) – more than 100 times higher than the U.S. legal limit.

Led by their co-founder Manny Calonzo, EcoWaste conducted studies over the next four years documenting high lead content of paint and dust in Philippine homes, schools, and daycare centers. Attracting significant media attention, the studies were critical in establishing that high lead levels were ubiquitous and dangerous for the nation's children. Over the course of the campaign, EcoWaste organized more than 100 public and media events to raise awareness about the prevalence of lead paint while working for a legal ban on lead in paint. They also engaged with the paint industry to build partnerships and ultimately secured industry support for the ban.

As a result of the EcoWaste effort, in 2013, the Philippines adopted a national ban on lead paint. To monitor compliance, EcoWaste worked with industry and developed a voluntary, third-party Lead-Safe Paint certification program. By 2017, 85% of the Philippines' paint market had been certified as lead-safe, protecting millions of children from lead poisoning. National campaigns supported by IPEN in all regions of the world have utilized the same approach, leading to new regulations on lead paint being adopted.

For his work to end sales of lead paint, in 2018, Manny Calonzo was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize, often called the "environmental Nobel Prize." The work was also recognized in 2021 by the World Future Council with a special award for policies that promote better living conditions for present and future generations.

> SAICM has had more influence in the work toward eliminating lead paint globally than on any other issue.









CASE STUDY: EXPOSING THREATS FROM CHEMICALS IN PLASTICS AND PLASTIC WASTE

Many of the Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern under SAICM play a key role in promoting safer chemicals policy to reduce and eliminate threats throughout the plastics life cycle. The use of toxic chemicals in plastic consumer products and electronics makes them human health hazards, unsafe to recycle, and incompatible with circular economy goals. The endocrine-disrupting properties of many of the chemicals used in plastics cause global human health and environmental impacts that are acutely and disproportionately felt in low- and middle-income countries, including among workers and fenceline communities around production and disposal sites.

In 2021, IPEN and our members released a series of international reports on the toxic chemical problem with plastics and plastic waste management hazards. We also contributed to two global UN reports, the UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur Report on the Plastic Pandemic and the UNEP Plastic Pollution Report and exposed toxic hazards from plastic waste-to-fuel processing, also known as refuse-derived fuel (RDF), which contains toxic chemical additives and, when burned as fuel, creates more highly toxic substances that poison air, water, food, and ultimately our bodies. Between 2020 and 2023, we released several new studies on toxic exposures from virgin and recycled plastics, including:

- A study of recycled plastic pellets from 24 facilities in 23 countries found that all pellets contained one or more of the 18 chemicals tested for, including some containing toxic chemicals that are banned in recycled products.
- A study of recycled plastic consumer products from China, Russia, and Indonesia found highly toxic flame retardants were widespread in plastic products from these countries.
- A study from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania found the endocrine-disrupting chemical BPA in plastic children's products and plastic food packaging.
- A joint report with the Endocrine Society highlighting the current best knowledge about the effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in plastics on human health.
- A study exposing the hidden plastic waste trade, uncovering problems with most current estimates that undercount the trade by as much as 40%.
- IPEN contributed studies to a report by Greenpeace that documents toxic impacts on workers, communities, and consumers across the recycled plastic stream.

Our work highlighting threats from plastics and plastic waste in Africa shows the importance of local data in global policy forums. In 2019, our study produced local data on toxic chemicals created by the open-burning of plastic e-waste in Ghana and Cameroon, finding food chain contamination by highly toxic chemicals. That year, IPEN and our African member groups brought the findings to the Basel Convention negotiations, demonstrating to delegates the weak regulations that allow developed countries to export their toxic e-waste to Africa, resulting in toxic exposures and contaminated food. In 2022, we released research from 11 Arabic and African countries showing toxic threats to children and consumers from toys and other recycled plastic products, and took the findings to the BRS COP to advocate for stronger controls on chemicals in plastics.

As discussions intensified around establishing a Plastics Treaty, this work gained even greater global relevance. Many low- and middle-income countries in Africa (and elsewhere) bear the brunt of the world's plastic addiction, with unmanageable mounds of toxic plastic wastes from developing countries burdening their shores. At the beginning of the Plastic Treaty negotiations, discussions focused simplistically on plastic as a marine litter problem. The evidence collected by IPEN and our members demonstrated that the toxic threats from plastic go well beyond beach clean-up solutions, and instead require an approach to end the toxic threats posed across the plastics life cycle.

With data on the health threats from chemicals in plastics from our global members, IPEN established the scientific case and promoted knowledge sharing among global public interest groups, policymakers, and the media to call for a Plastics Treaty that addresses toxic chemicals and health. The result of this work is clear in the shifting discussions around the Treaty. At the start of the negotiations in 2022, few countries recognized the need for a health-protective Plastics Treaty. But by the INC-2 in 2023, nearly three-quarters of the government submissions called for the protection of human health as an objective of the instrument, and two-thirds recognized the need to address chemicals of concern in plastics.

CASE STUDY: ELECTRONICS, HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS, AND GENDER

Phones, computers, televisions, and other electronics are blockbuster consumer products, but the industry uses hundreds of chemicals to make them. Many of these are hazardous and lack comprehensive health and safety information due to weak regulatory policies. This causes harm in production, exposes consumers to toxic chemicals during use, and releases toxic chemicals when products become electronic waste.

In 2009, to address these concerns, more than 100 governments agreed at SAICM ICCM2 that hazardous chemicals in the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products is an issue of global concern. At ICCM3 (2012) and ICCM4 (2015), governments endorsed expert recommendations for addressing hazardous chemicals in the lifecycle of electronics, including design, production and waste. IPEN has worked to help implement these recommendations, primarily focusing on the production and waste parts of the electronics life cycle. This work over many years and across several countries shows the importance of continuing efforts on this issue of concern in a new SAICM agreement.

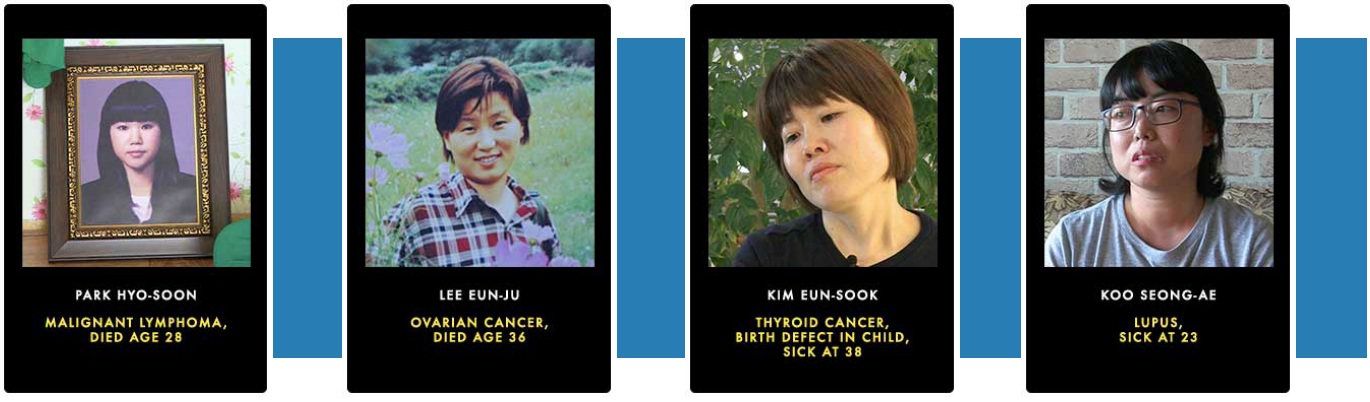
Due to its chemical intensity, electronics production threatens worker and community health. Electronics production also serves as a key case study in exploring the relationship between women and chemical safety because in many countries, women comprise the majority of the workforce. Human rights violations are rampant in brand-name factories and in those of their contract suppliers. In addition, electronics production routinely violates key chemical safety principles such as precaution, right to know, polluter pays, and others. The true cost of the chemical and electronic industry's products is substantially underestimated as health and environmental costs are externalized onto workers and communities as key vulnerable populations.

In 2016, IPEN began working with public interest groups in three important electronics production countries in Asia to address three key issues:

- Making victims of the electronics industry visible;
- Advocating for the right to know about emissions from electronics manufacturing; and
- Revealing gender issues in electronics production.

Making victims visible: Thousands of workers have been seriously injured or killed working in electronics production in Asia, but the victims are largely invisible to the global population which uses consumer electronics. A project in South Korea with Supporters for the Health and Rights of People in the Semiconductor Industry (SHARPS) used video to visualize these victims and tell their stories. The project grew into a 45-minute documentary "Stories from the Clean Room" that captured the attention of lawmakers when it premiered in South Korea's parliament. This brought national attention to workers' health issues in South Korea and was shown in more than 20 countries worldwide.

Advocating for the right to know: Inventories of chemical releases are a key part of the public's right to know. An important SAICM policy recommendation is to "formulate, promote, and implement legislative as well as voluntary initiatives to adopt and implement Pollutant Release and Transfer Registries (PRTR)." As the "workshop of the world," China has a large electronics production industry and a growing demand for information about emissions and releases driven by excessive pollution. The Chinese public interest group Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE) and IPEN worked to advocate for a Pollutant Release and Transfer Registry (PRTR). The project in China featured an innovative effort to get companies to manage the environmental impacts of their supply chains in China by requiring their suppliers to disclose annual PRTR data. The ultimate goal is a mandatory system for reporting emissions and releases.

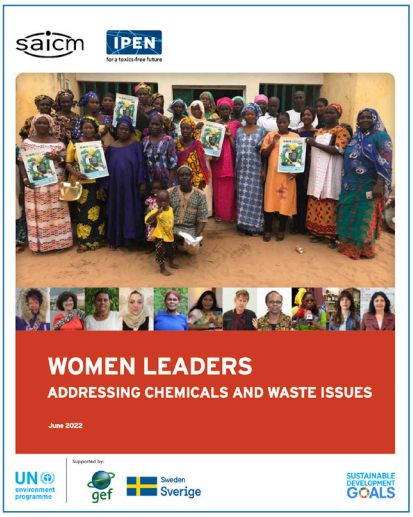


Revealing gender issues in electronics production: In Vietnam, women make up the majority of the electronics industry workforce, including at the two largest Samsung mobile phone manufacturing plants. In a first-of-its-kind study by the Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) and IPEN, women workers reported violations of labor law and numerous health impacts, including dizziness, fainting, bone and joint problems, and miscarriage. The study triggered a government investigation which confirmed some of the issues reported by women workers.

A severe backlash from the company prompted a 2018 statement of concern about women workers in Vietnam from three UN Special Rapporteurs, who noted that "it is unacceptable that researchers or workers reporting on what they consider to be unhealthy and inadequate working conditions are intimidated by private or public officials." In 2023, a former manager of Environmental Health and Safety at Samsung Electronics stepped forward as a whistleblower and CGFED, SHARPS, and IPEN have highlighted violations of company policies as revealed by internal Samsung investigations.

In the area of women's equality, IPEN has also spearheaded work to highlight issues around women's health and chemical exposures in their homes, workplaces, and communities. With UNEP, in 2021, we released the report on "Women, Chemicals, and the SDGs," focusing on the impact of chemicals on women and inequalities in decision-making on chemicals and waste management. In 2022, we produced a follow-up report, "Women Leaders: Addressing Chemicals and Waste Issues" highlighting women around the world working to end toxic threats. We also created an extensive online gender and chemicals training to catalyze a broad, woman-led leadership for addressing toxic chemical exposures. Today, the IPEN Women's Caucus leads this work in exposing and addressing chemical threats to women's health.









CASE STUDY: PROMOTING ALTERNATIVES TO TOXIC PESTICIDES



Pesticide exposures are another example of a global chemical threat that is far from adequately addressed by other agreements. Many Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) are banned or severely restricted in high-income countries but continue to be widely used in low- and middle-income countries where a much greater proportion of the population work and live in rural, agricultural areas and where regulations are absent or very weak. Even mandatory implementation of the basic Prior Informed Consent procedure has been blocked for many pesticides, making it hard for governments to control what enters their borders.

Through SAICM, countries have recognized the harms from HHPs. Governments at ICCM4 welcomed a strategy developed by FAO, UNEP, and WHO and encouraged efforts to implement the strategy at the local, national, regional, and international levels, emphasizing agroecologically-based alternatives to pesticides and approaches for strengthening national pesticide regulations.

IPEN and our members call for regulations to phase-out HHPs and provide research and country-based data to support this advocacy. IPEN supports the proposal to establish a Global Alliance on Highly Hazard Pesticides at ICCM5.

In Ethiopia, agriculture is the foundation of the economy. Cotton is an important crop, but it is notorious for the high volumes of hazardous pesticides used to grow it. A report by PAN-Ethiopia found that 58% of the pesticides used in Ethiopia are HHPs. For decades, many believed that cotton could not be grown without pesticides, but a project by IPEN member Pesticide Action Nexus (PAN) Ethiopia shows that growing cotton without pesticides can be profitable and better for health and the environment.

In southern Ethiopia, many small family farmers had experienced pesticide poisoning and faced high pesticide costs and dwindling profits, so they were motivated to adopt safer, less expensive farming practices. PAN-Ethiopia established Farmer Field Schools, where farmers could develop practical skills in soil conservation and pest management while reviving indigenous methods and developing local innovations to solve pest and crop management problems.

Beginning with just 90 farmers, the Farmer Field Schools have now helped more than 8,000 smallholder cotton farmers cut the use of HHPs for cotton production. Farmers trained in the program are achieving higher yields than untrained farmers in the same area while bringing in 80% higher price for their organic cotton than the baseline. Since 2017, 200 farms have achieved organic certification through the program.

In Mexico, in 2017, IPEN member group RAPAM compiled a groundbreaking comprehensive report demonstrating that many pesticides banned in other countries were still being used in Mexico. The report notes the prominence of the issue of HHPs in the SAICM negotiations and documents their use throughout the country. Following its publication, Mexico's National Human Rights Commission (CNDH in Spanish) called for the phasing-out of HHPs and the federal Environment, Health, and Agricultural authorities adopted a phase-out policy. A progressive ban on HHPs is now part of the agenda of several groups and government officials as a result of RAPAM's and their partners' work.

RAPAM also works to expose the link between genetically modified (GMO) crops and pesticides, in collaboration with a broad alliance of peasant organizations, scholars, and public interest groups. The "Sin Maíz no hay País" (No Maize no Country) campaign advocates against the introduction of GMO corn and its attendant use of the toxic herbicide glyphosate. RAPAM has brought in experts from the IARC-WHO to discuss their classification of glyphosate as a probable carcinogen, and other experts to highlight the need to adopt the precautionary principle in pesticide policy. As a result, a 2022 presidential decree calls for phasing out the use of glyphosate in Mexico by 2024, along with restrictions on imports and use of GMO corn for human consumption. RAPAM is now advocating for a progressive ban on HHPs to be included in a Senate initiative on reforming the Health General Federal law. Their proposal is supported by federal health and environmental authorities and the federal Science and Technology authority.

To achieve health and environmental protection from the harm of pesticides, the Beyond 2020 instrument will be crucial in implementing the biodiversity framework targets of reducing the risk from pesticides by half. An alliance of all stakeholders could facilitate the shift to safer agroecological practices and accelerate a phase-out of HHPs.

IPEN LEADERS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Since our inception, IPEN has worked to advance voices from civil society groups in low- and middle-income countries, based on the principles of environmental justice. In all our work, IPEN leaders from our global network steer our efforts. Our 15-member Steering Committee (below), mostly from the Global South, provides strategic guidance on our programs and overall direction.



Rolande Djatougbe Aziaka, President of Association Welfare and Director, ECO CONSCIENCE TV, Togo.



David Azoulay, Director, Environmental Health Program, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL).



Fernando Bejarano, founder of the Pesticide Action Network (RAPAM, A.C.), Mexico and IPEN's Regional Coordinator, Latin America and Caribbean hub.



Semia Gharbi, Chairperson of Tunisia's Association de l'Education Environnementale pour les Futures Générations (AEEFG).



Shahriar Hossain, founder, Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), Bangladesh.



Yuyun Ismawati, co-founder of Nexus for Health, Environment, and Development (Nexus3) Foundation in Indonesia, 2009 Goldman Environmental Prize winner.



Génon Jensen, Founder and Executive Director, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL). Brussels.



Naji Kodeih, Board Member, IndyAct, Lebanon.



Gilbert Kuepouo, Executive Director of Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Developpement (CREPD), Cameroon.



Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator of EcoWaste Coalition, Philippines.



Griffins Ochieng, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD), Kenya.



Jindřich Petrlík, Program Director, Arnika Toxics and Waste Programme, Czechia.



María Elena Rozas, National Coordinator, Pesticide Action Network of Chile and Alliance for a Better Quality of Life.



Olga Speranskaya, Co-Director, Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport) and senior advisor to IPEN and Eco-Accord.



Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh, Poison Information Coordinator for The Caribbean Poison Information Network, Jamaica.

PROGRESS BEYOND 2020

PROMOTING "POLLUTER PAYS"

The SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy that was adopted in 2006 acknowledged that access to considerable financial and other resources will be needed to achieve the sound management of chemicals. However, these funds never materialized on a scale commensurate with the need. Substantial new and additional funds for the implementation of SAICM will be needed for a meaningful global effort to achieve SAICM's goals and relevant SDGs, especially for low- and middle-income countries.

UNEP's independent evaluation of SAICM found that the success of the SAICM mission depended on secure and sustainable financing. With the notable exception of the Quick Start Program trust fund, the SAICM process has been hampered by both uncertainty and shortfalls in planned financing.

Ultimately, the costs of eliminating threats from toxic chemicals and managing their risks should be borne by the industries that produce and profit from them, and not by the public. Unfortunately, today, the reverse is generally the case: polluting industries profit while the public ends up paying to clean up their toxic messes. As UNEP notes,

> The vast majority of human health costs linked to chemicals production, consumption and disposal are not borne by chemicals producers, or shared down the value-chain. Uncompensated harms to human health and the environment are market failures that need correction.

IPEN calls for reversing this scenario through the implementation of the "polluter pays " principle for management of chemicals and waste. While scientists have identified three environmental "planetary crises," global funds to address only two of these crises – climate change and biodiversity – have been established.

A global fund on chemicals and wastes should be created. One approach would be through a levy on the production value of basic chemicals. The global chemical industry has an annual turnover of approximately USD $4.1 trillion per year (trillion = thousand billion). If, for example, a global levy recovers USD $4.1 billion annually, the total cost to the chemical industry would be 0.1% of their annual turnover, just one cent for every ten dollars in sales.

TOWARD A TOXICS-FREE FUTURE

At this decisive point, the new SAICM framework Beyond 2020 needs re-commitment from its stakeholders to work toward a more ambitious agreement and effective implementation. Adequate financing and raising the political priority given to chemicals management will play key roles in improving how chemicals are produced and used in order to prevent harms to human health and the environment.

Some public interest groups around the world are still unaware of SAICM and lack access to the necessary resources and capacity to participate meaningfully as effective stakeholders. In response, we need more predictable, accessible resources to continue and expand joint programs on SAICM outreach and implementation. This will be essential for nurturing capacity among public interest stakeholders, increasing public interest-government dialogue, and advancing the common goal of a toxics-free future.




Beyond 2020 Pathway
Pathway to a Toxics-free Future
Chemicals & Waste Contributions to the SDGs
A timeless vision and broad scope that encompasses the entire lifecycle, including wastes
An enabling framework that acts as an umbrella for all chemicals-related agreements
Producers & Polluters Pay for the sound management of chemicals
Measurable contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals
Open, inclusive and transparent participation
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Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

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Bonn, Germany, 25 – 29 September 2023

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Outcome of preparatory work on a proposed Implementation Programme on integrating chemicals and waste management in economic and industry sectors and value chains

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) on behalf of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) on "*Outcome of preparatory work on a proposed Implementation Programme on integrating chemicals and waste management in economic and industry sectors and value chains*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

IOMC

INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

A cooperative agreement among FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank and OECD

INF Document – ICCM5

Outcome of preparatory work on a proposed Implementation Programme on integrating chemicals and waste management in economic and industry sectors and value chains

The IOMC has the honour to present to stakeholders the outcomes of preparatory work undertaken through a multi-stakeholder process concerning a possible "Beyond 2020" Implementation Programme on "Integrating chemicals and waste management in economic and industry sectors and value chains". The information featured in this Inf document includes the following:

1. Elements of a possible Terms of Reference of an Implementation Programme on integrating chemicals and waste management in economic and industry sectors and value chains
2. Proposed activities of an implementation programme on integrating chemicals and waste management in economic and industry sectors and value chains
3. Table of contents of a draft guidance for developing sustainable chemicals and waste strategies in economic and industry sectors

Achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste requires commitment and innovative action by a range of industry actors along the value chain. These include the chemical industry, suppliers and users of chemicals, product manufacturers and brands, retailers, and the waste management and recycling industry. An Implementation Programme on integrating chemicals and waste management in economic and industry sectors and value chains is among three such programmes to advance integrated chemicals and waste management proposed to stakeholders by the IOMC at IP 4.2 in Nairobi.

The information provided in this document builds on the outcomes of an IOMC workshop held at the OECD in Paris (January 2023) and a subsequent workshop held in Geneva (June 2023). While the Paris workshop focused on knowledge sharing, the Geneva workshop focused on discussing draft guidance to support sustainable economic and industry sector strategies and elements and activities of a possible Implementation Programme (integrating chemicals and waste management in economic and industry sectors and value chains) under "Beyond 2020".

This INF document also responds to the outcome of IP4.2 in Nairobi on the concept of implementation programmes (see CRP 5: SAICM/IP.4/CRP.5 which built on INF document SAICM/IP.4/INF/18 for IP4.1 in Bucharest). The Intersessional Process single consolidated document (as per the IP4.2 report of 21 April 2023) references the programmes:

- "The Conference may adopt Implementation Programmes to support actions to achieve the strategic objectives and targets"

- “The Conference [may] [should] adopt the mandates, terms of reference and work plans for the Implementation Programmes.”
- “The Conference may also establish ad hoc working groups for each Programme to guide its implementation and mobilize stakeholder commitment. While closely linked, each Implementation Programme should have its own focus and engage relevant sectors and stakeholders.”
- “Consideration of resolution text on the implementation and focus of Programmes to be taken into consideration for the agenda at ICCM5” (footnote 12)

As such, this INF document provides further detail for the ICCM5 and stakeholders to consider. The information is provided in annexes.

Annex A – Elements of a draft TOR for a possible implementation programme on integrating chemicals and waste management in economic and industry sectors and value chains

1.1 Programme rationale

The *Global Chemicals Outlook II* (GCO-II, UNEP, 2019) noted that the global goal to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste by 2020 was not achieved. The GCO-II noted that significant releases of chemical pollution occur downstream through the production, use and disposal of products containing chemicals, and stated that significant efforts remain to be made to manage chemicals in key industries and product value chains.

1.2 Programme purpose and scope

This Programme would mainly address the implementation of Strategic Objective D (and related targets) which reads that "D. Safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable solutions in [relevant] product value chains are in place so that benefits to human health and the environment are maximized and risks are prevented or, where not feasible, minimized.", but also other objectives and their targets.

1.3 Programme characteristics

The Programme would have the following characteristics:

- be inclusive of and engage governments, civil society, health and workers' organizations, industry and IGOs
- focus on the implementation of "Beyond 2020" strategic objectives and targets addressing economic sectors and industry along the value chain
- foster knowledge-sharing among and across stakeholders
- identify gaps and foster coordinated actions of actors along value chains and at all levels (global, regional, national, etc.)
- mainly comprise activities implemented directly and independently by stakeholders, and primarily industry stakeholders, with some limited supporting global activities
- identify opportunities for further financial resources to support implementing action
- take stock of Programme implementation and measure progress using "Beyond 2020" indicators.

1.4 Programme objectives

The Programme would aim to achieve the following objectives:

- raise awareness of the “Beyond 2020” framework and specific targets relevant for industries along the value chains
- promote global knowledge-sharing within and across economic sectors and industry on activities and good practices to implement the “Beyond 2020” framework
- foster coordination of activities, access to available resources, as well as understanding of progress and gaps to implement relevant targets
- encourage sustainable chemicals and waste strategies in economic sectors and industries along value chains
- review and advance development of chemicals and waste standards and guidelines that aim to achieve sustainability and circular economy objectives
- encourage engagement and action by diverse stakeholders to support the development of strategies by economic sectors and industries
- promote sound management and substitution through green and sustainable chemistry innovation.

1.5 Programme areas and activities

- Indicative programme activities are presented in a separate paper (*see Annex B – Suggestions for indicative activities*)
- It is expected that industry and private sector partners would be in a position to champion some of these activities, in partnership with other stakeholders

1.6 Programme governance

- Oversight of the Programme should be performed by the ICCM to ensure the broadest possible ownership and participation of stakeholders
- The Conference [may] [should] adopt the mandates, terms of reference and work plans for the Programme
- The Conference may also establish ad hoc working groups to guide Programme implementation and mobilize stakeholder commitment.

1.7 Programme financing

- The great majority of implementation activities are undertaken directly by stakeholders within funding available to them. They may include support from governments, global funds, foundations, private sector and industry, financial investors, NGOs, as well as international and regional organizations.
- In addition, light resourcing may be needed to fund specific global and/or regional activities undertaken through the Programme. These activities would be funded through extra-budgetary resources.

Annex B - Suggestions for indicative activities of a Global Implementation Programme on integrating chemicals and waste management in economic and industry sectors and value chains

1.1 Knowledge-creation, analysis and sharing

Analysis of sustainability and reporting methods from a chemicals and waste perspective

A number of methodologies have been developed to guide companies to undertake sustainability assessments, reporting and performance which often focus on climate change and "net zero" considerations. Nonetheless, some assessment methods, rating and reporting systems are in place which focus specifically on chemicals and waste.

The proposed activity would focus on identifying and analysing existing sustainability and reporting initiatives from a chemicals and waste perspective. By documenting existing methodologies, it would support knowledge sharing on them. The analysis could also identify possible gaps and opportunities for improvements or alignment, as appropriate. A report could be prepared for future ICCMs to summarize findings and encourage possible further action, as appropriate.

Knowledge-sharing on good industry policies, standards and practices

A number of companies, groups of companies and associations have developed forward looking corporate chemicals and waste policies for selected industries in the value chains. The proposed activity would help identify important policies and foster global knowledge sharing via different channels. It could cover both corporate chemical policies, as well as relevant chemicals and waste standards and guidelines developed in the private and public sectors. Finally, strategies developed to support implementation of target D6 could be widely shared.

Development of a guidance document for companies, industries and stakeholders

This document could seek to provide information and guidance to companies, industry associations, and other stakeholders to develop sustainable chemicals and waste strategies across value chains, as called for in draft target D6. It could encourage a process of continuous performance improvement towards reaching an ambitious vision for sound chemicals and waste management. An important aspect of the document would be to feature initiatives and good practices that may inspire other actors to initiate similar efforts towards the sustainable management of chemicals and waste throughout value chains.

1.2 Global "Beyond 2020" industry dialogues and workshops

Global industry leaders dialogue on implementing "Beyond 2020" along value chains

While international dialogues and activities are already taking place within certain industries, there could be an opportunity to bring together, soon after ICCM5, key actors in the value chain at the highest possible level. The proposed "Global industry leaders dialogue on implementing 'Beyond 2020' along value chains" could take place during the first year following adoption of the global framework at ICCM5. It would be a major intersessional event

responding to the call in the Beyond 2020 framework that "The involvement of industry and the private sector throughout the value chain needs to be significantly enhanced under this instrument at all levels". The dialogue would therefore need to bring together major actors in the value chain, including the retail industry, the downstream industry (e.g. textile, electronic, construction and healthcare, among others), the chemical industry, as well as government regulators, IGOs, NGOs (e.g. consumer groups), workers groups and representatives from the finance sector.

The dialogue could focus on taking stock of the sound management of chemicals and waste in selected industries and help identify possible follow-up action both within specific industries and on cross-cutting topics along the value chains.

It could also discuss further possible activities within an industry implementation programme under the Beyond 2020 framework to strengthen analysis, communication and collaboration on chemicals and waste along value chains. This may include the preparation of reviews of specific sectors and industries as well as industry specific workshops, and/or thematic workshops on cross-cutting topics of specific interest (see below).

Global dialogues for specific sectors and industries

Global dialogues for specific sectors and industries could focus on knowledge sharing of good practices within the industry and address the question of how the industry is currently implementing relevant initiatives, and how it could scale these up for relevant targets of the Beyond 2020 framework. The dialogue could also help identify possible further actions by the industries to foster implementation and engagement. It would be important that relevant industry actors play an important role in leading these dialogues, working in collaboration with government regulators and other stakeholders.

Preparation of baseline reviews for specifics sectors and industries

In preparation of the global dialogues a concise baseline review could be prepared to inform the discussions. The baseline reviews would take stock of activities and strategies undertaken by the respective industry and identify both progress made and challenges encountered. Possible questions to be addressed by these reviews are included at the end of this annex.*

Thematic global workshops

Taking into consideration the conclusions of the global industry summit, specific global workshops could be organized to address important cross-cutting topics which have emerged of interest for knowledge-sharing and possible action. Possible topics to be addressed through the workshops could include, for example, the latest developments in communicating chemical information along the value chains, common approaches to advance green and sustainable chemistry and innovation; or mobilizing private sector financing for a transition to sustainable chemistry.

1.3 Partnerships, capacity development, and monitoring

Partnerships

Another important aspect of a possible global programme is to strengthen existing partnerships and nurture new ones. These partnerships could include business-to-business (B2B) partnerships or broader multi-stakeholder partnerships. Partnerships could be presented and discussed as part of the activities under 2.2 and be included under knowledge-sharing activities in 2.1.

Capacity development activities

As part of the above partnerships, or as self-standing activities, a suite of dedicated capacity development activities could be offered to support, in particular, industries and private sector actors in developing countries and transition economies. Such activities could include:

- E-learning courses on priority topics of interest, such as conducting chemicals and waste sustainability assessments
- Providing knowledge and training on how to access financing for investments to reduce chemicals footprints and advance sustainable chemistry innovation

These activities should consider, as appropriate, nuances across regions and countries and take into account the specific needs of SMEs and the informal sector.

Monitoring progress and results

Activities will be identified in close coordination with the Secretariat of the future framework to support monitoring of progress to reach global targets addressed by the Programme. This may include a review and use of existing metrices relevant to industry. This may also assist in the development of possible gaps in implementing the targets and identifying further action needed.

**** Possible questions addressed in Industry reviews***

- What is known about chemical-related emissions related to the Industry and their human health and environmental impact?
- What is global annual Industry turnover? How is the Industry organized? Does a global/regional industry association(s) exist?
- Has a list of chemicals of concern been developed by companies or groups of companies in the Industry? If so, to what extent do these lists include chemicals addressed in international agreements?
- Have lists of certain substances restricted by the industry been developed e.g. through manufacturing restricted substances list (MRSLs) or similar? If so, do these targets cover the entire supply chain (i.e. raw materials, supplies, production and products) and include timebound/sunsetting targets?

- What kind of sustainability reporting do companies do in the Industry? To what extent does the reporting cover chemicals and waste and related footprints?
- What important chemicals and waste related standards and guidelines relevant for chemicals and waste management have been prepared in the Industry and by whom?
- What are important innovations in the Industry to move to safer and sustainable alternatives, including through green and sustainable chemistry?

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Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

BEYOND 2020 GLOBAL CHEMICALS FRAMEWORK: A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION FROM HHPS
Recommendations from the Plant Science Industry

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by CropLife International on "*BEYOND 2020 GLOBAL CHEMICALS FRAMEWORK: A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION FROM HHPS*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

BEYOND 2020 GLOBAL CHEMICALS FRAMEWORK:

A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION FROM HHPS

Recommendations from the Plant Science Industry

Information document for IP 4.3 & ICCM5
Submitted by CropLife International
Contact: Christoph.Neumann@CropLife.org

INTRODUCTION: TOWARDS ICCM5

The Beyond 2020 global chemical and waste framework builds on a unique multistakeholder and multi-sectoral approach. The agricultural sector has been identified as a priority, and CropLife International together with our members BASF, Bayer Crop Science, Corteva Agriscience, FMC, Sumitomo Chemicals, and Syngenta, have been long-time committed participants at Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) meetings in support of multi-sectoral connectivity and mainstreaming approaches to achieve the strategic policy objectives set out by SAICM.

In September 2023, the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) will conclude the Beyond 2020 Global Chemicals Framework. Extensive work has been done over the years to consolidate the instruments and recommendations, however, more work to achieve greater alignment with stakeholders is necessary to finalize the framework. Given the short time period before ICCM5, it is critical that this be achieved in a brief amount of time.

In the lead up to ICCM5, the SAICM Secretariat expressed the need to take a step back to assess whether the targets and resolutions support the strategic objective and vision of SAICM.

CropLife International is fully committed and supportive of the overarching policy goals of SAICM, but also believes it is important to review these objectives and ensure the design of these targets carefully considers multi-sectoral perspectives for the policy approaches to ultimately fulfil these goals.

CropLife International is an observer to the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting of Pesticide Management (JMPM) and has committed to join the FAO, WHO and UNEP Global Action Plan on Highly Hazardous Pesticide (HHPs) which is expected to be published post-ICCM5. The goal of this submission is to provide our sectoral expertise and experience in pesticide management approaches to targets relating to HHPs relevant to agriculture.

CROPLIFE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

Current approaches are incomplete in addressing the complex realities of the sustainability challenge

For at least a decade, policy approaches to Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) have been discussed at SAICM events and related fora. While several activities have been carried forward by NGOs, the private sector, and FAO/WHO JMPM, a more systematic approach is necessary.

As SAICM has largely been attended by environment ministers, this creates a gap for certain issues where a multi-sectoral perspective is required. This is particularly the case for agriculture. For many low-income countries and economies in transition, agriculture is a major source of income. The sector also plays a vital role in food security and self-sufficiency, and consequently the country's economic stability.

Additionally, and the primary focus of this INF document, relates to the policy approach that has dominated the HHP debate over the past years. While the latest version of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (ICoC) is clear that HHPs should be addressed based on risk assessment and risk benefit considerations and the search for alternatives (Article 7.5), the discussions at SAICM focused mainly on policy approaches recommending the immediate banning of HHPs. This is supported by a growing list of pesticides identified as HHPs, many of which have valid registrations in several OECD countries. This policy focus has created concern with farmers, grower groups, and regulators over the potential loss of essential tools and this topic remains unresolved with diverging stakeholder views and approaches.

The need for impactful and holistic approaches to HHP management

Proponents of immediate banning argue that many of the HHPs in question can be replaced without consequences for the sector and often refer to regulatory actions taken by the European Union and the effectiveness of agroecological approaches. However, some HHPs have essential uses, for example, in locust control. This remains one of the most devastating pests for countries in East Africa, but also as far reaching as Asia. While the FAO is making great progress to shift towards more preventive control of desert locusts through weather monitoring and use of biological pesticide solutions (in an effort to avoid emergency actions relying on HHPs) the organisation concluded: *"Going forward, biopesticides have an important role to play in strategies that monitor such risky weather events and start preventive treatment in the early stages of an outbreak. This would go a long way to avoiding the kinds of large-scale crises the Horn of Africa is experiencing today and safeguard the food security of millions of people."*[1]

There are many other examples that prove that the development of safer alternatives requires time, research, and farmer training. And for some uses of HHPs, there are still no

[1] https://www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/en/c/1267098/

replacements[2] identified. These situations are more prevalent under tropical conditions and are becoming more problematic due to climate change and the related increase of invasive species.

These statements are not meant to trivialize the highly hazardous properties of these pesticides. Rather, it must be acknowledged that these products can be vital to crop productivity and that broader approaches can be taken in order to maintain crop productivity while taking into account today's complex sustainability challenges and supporting different methods of farming. These objectives are not mutually exclusive and can be achieved through innovative and sustainable instruments and collaborative approaches. A recent communication by Health Canada in the context of pesticide use reduction in relation to biodiversity provides support for broader reflection on possible measures that could be applied by regulators in managing risk[3]: "*There are many ways to reduce risk that are not correlated to reduction in pesticide use, for example, the timing of application, the effectiveness of a given product, science, and other pest management approaches. As such, the GBF target focuses on the overall impacts and risk management of pesticides and does not command a specific target reduction in pesticide use.*" The rationale of this quote responds to a narrow policy approach on pesticide use reduction similar to the just banning approach on managing HHPs without considering the breadth of options. A broader approach, rooted in risk assessment, is supported by the ICoC and the related guidelines on HHPs, which were developed by the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting of Pesticide Management following the ICCM4 resolution on HHPs which demanded science-based risk assessment[4].

Innovative approaches including application innovations rather than solely relying on product substitutes should also be explored. For example, during the 2020 locust outbreaks in India, the government permitted the use of drones in recognition of their efficiencies in pest control. These technologies also significantly reduce the exposure of operators to HHPs.

CropLife International respectfully recommends that HHP policies take a more holistic approach, broadening the scope beyond banning these products. By exploring options including redefining the use of certain HHPs with a focus on essential uses, different supply models and application technologies, alongside an accelerated focus on innovation that broadens the farmer's toolbox with available efficient alternatives, it is possible to achieve the objectives of the Beyond 2020 Global Chemicals Framework without relying solely on banning HHPs.

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[2] Some of such examples are the ongoing use of DDT for malaria control, certain insecticides classified as HHPs for vector control of Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya, Leishmaniasis and other viruses, and certain rodenticides.

[3] https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-moves-forward-on-commitments-to-strengthen-the-pesticide-review-process.html?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news

[4] Report of the ICCM on the work of its Fourth Session (ICCM4), IV/ 3 Highly Hazardous Pesticides, P. 47 https://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/ICCM4/doc/K1606013_e.pdf

CropLife International suggests the following approach and rationale for consideration when parties continue discussion on Target A7 and D5 at IP 4.3:

Alternative approach to Target A7:

- *A sustainable transition from HHPs is managed through innovation in biologicals, non-chemical and safer chemical alternatives, IPM (etc.) enabled by putting in place regulatory frameworks and governance structures, guided and aligned by the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and the associated FAO/WHO guideline on HHPs.*

Rationale

i) **Reference to sustainable transition**: to ensure risk from HHPs removal is considering local circumstances and needs, e.g., crop yield resilience and food security, farmers' livelihood during transition.

ii) **Reference to regulatory frameworks:** Aligned with the HHP guideline and as endorsed by the ICCM4 resolution HHPs should be managed based on risk assessment and risk benefit considerations, incl. the evaluation of available alternatives.

iii) **Reference to governance structures:** Phase-out decisions generally attract illegal traffic and trade of the respective pesticides, which is a key issue and risk for farmers – governance structures for effective controls and border measures need to be considered.

iv) **The Code of Conduct** and its guidelines lays out the key principles of pesticide and HHPs management and is specifically directed to support L and MICs.

v) The term **"*manage the risk from*"** is inclusive of any kind of measure considered by the respective governments deemed necessary; risk management measures are decided depending on the local use conditions, which could include phase-out if risks cannot be managed sufficiently, and if benefits fall short of risk and opposite the availability of viable alternatives.

The original version of Target 7 is narrowly focussing on a time-bound banning/phase-out objective.

Target A7 [current status]

- [Target A7 – [By 2030], the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides is [eliminated] [phased out] from agriculture.]
- [Alt A7. By 2030, stakeholders have taken effective measures to phase out HHP in agriculture where the risks cannot be managed and alternatives with less potential risk for health and environment would be promoted.]

While recognizing the need for ambitious targets, a one-size-fits all prescriptive approach is not realistic in the context of the new chemicals instrument global reach. Rather, this target

should instill a common process that creates consistency in risk management while allowing for local conditions to be considered.

Therefore, the Alt A7 version, though not yet fully discussed by IP 4 stakeholders, seems to be a significant improvement from the original version, exchanging "banning" with *transition from* would reflect a more holistic view that can be tailored to local circumstances. The further adapted Target thus would read: "By xx, stakeholders have established plans to transition from HHP in agriculture where the risks cannot be managed, and alternatives are identified" (the part after alternatives that starts "with less…" could be maintained but makes the target unnecessarily wordy).

In addition, Target D5 in its current status is concerning in its prescriptive means and approaches (added in current brackets to its original version).

Target D5 [current status]

- [Target D5 – By 2030, Governments implement policies and programmes to increase support to [safer and more sustainable] [and] [non-chemical] alternatives [including agroecology [amongst other approaches [as appropriate]] to [start replacing the] [replace the [chemicals or groups of chemicals of global and regional concern including highly]] [most harmful] [hazardous] pesticides.]
- [Alt D5. By 2030, governments implement policies to increase support for integrated pest management to appropriately manage [domestic] pest pressures including judicious use of pesticides if needed.]

While CropLife International is fully supportive of a target that encourages the search for safer alternatives of certain chemicals, an objective already enshrined in the innovation agenda of our members, we believe in encouraging countries to identify their own needs and type of alternatives and approaches they would need to achieve the objective of this target. While the Alt D5 text is much simpler and refers to a well-accepted approach that can be tailored to local needs, e.g., Integrated Pest Management, it unnecessarily focuses the target on pesticides rather than the broader chemical scope of its original text.

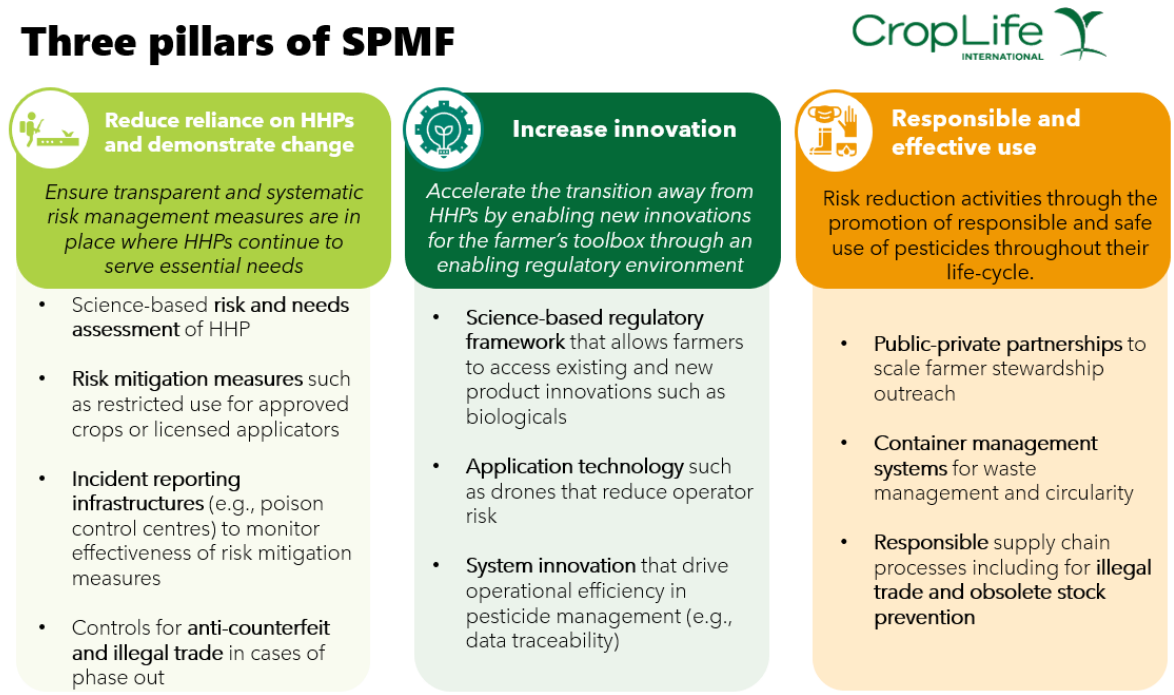
PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF TARGETS A7 & D5

CropLife International's Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework

CropLife International launched its Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework (SPMF) program in 2021 which is currently underway in five out of nine planned countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. We believe the program's guiding principles serve as a good example of how our recommended target revisions can be practically achieved.

SPMF takes an accelerated and sustainable approach to HHP management. While accelerating the transition by promoting alternatives to HHPs, the transition period prior to

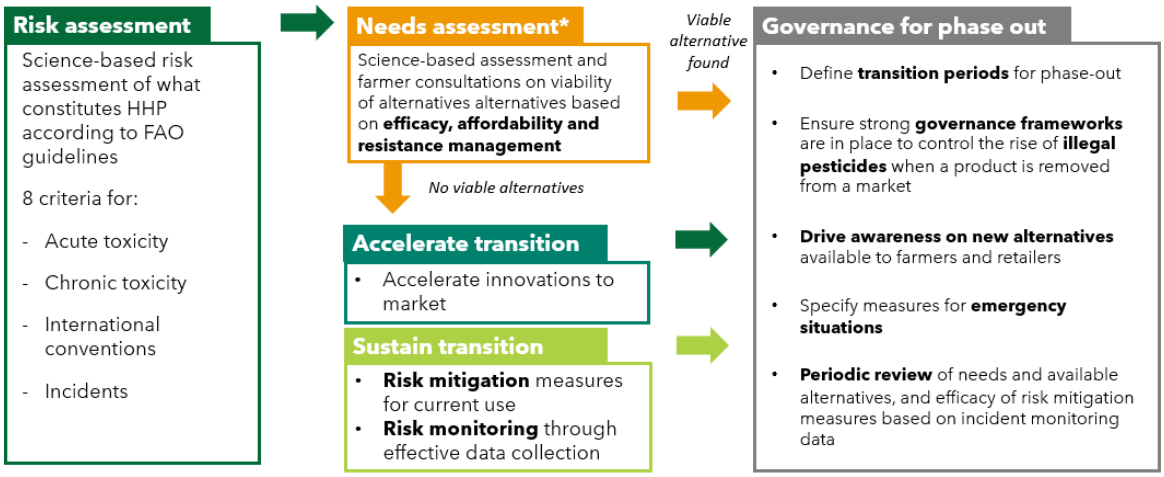
finding these alternatives must be managed sustainably through a systematic risk and needs assessment and proper risk mitigation measures. This approach is demonstrated in the three pillars of the program:



While there is a need to accelerate the transition from HHPs through the development of new innovations that provide alternatives (Pillar 2), this transition needs to be sustainable and supported by building capacity on science-based risk assessment, options for mitigation measures and monitoring for their effectiveness (Pillar 1 and 3). This ensures that farmers continue to have access to a toolbox that safeguards food security but also human health, and the environment; as the three pillars work in tandem, i.e., an *accelerated transition* meets the ambitious goal to replace HHPs while a *sustainable transition* reflects the essential needs of farmers requiring using certain HHPs but as well manage the risk from use through committed mitigation measures and incident monitoring data supported by industry in collaboration with governments. SPMF also ensures that any phase out decisions, either voluntarily or through regulatory action, are accompanied by proper governance including for illegal pesticide trade which tends to rise when a product is phased out from a market.

CropLife International has also developed guidance on what entails a sustainable risk management approach including information and training materials for industry stakeholders and the engagement with regulators. It is described in the following graphic.

A systematic and sustainable risk management approach



**** Needs Assessment***

Many HHPs are in use today because they still serve essential use as many alternatives are not viable to:

- fully control pests or,
- have proportionally economic and practical disadvantages or,
- do not provide sufficient modes of action for resistance management.

These three factors comprise the "essential use" concept adopted by many global and national chemical management legislative provisions to prevent the elimination of highly hazardous chemicals in recognition of the lack of alternatives, while creating strict provisions to address their risks. *Some examples of such legislations or guidelines include* the Montreal Protocol, Madrid Statement on Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs), the Minamata Convention, US Toxic Substances Act, and the FAO recommended Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach that calls for a combination of pest management tools by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment.

We recommend that any target(s) on HHPs similarly reflect the balance needed in achieving the goals of human and environmental protection and the purpose of crop protection tools.

BEYOND 2020

The SPMF not only provides a useful reference for an integrated pesticide management approach but demonstrates the industry's ambitious commitment to realize its implementation. SPMF is a five-year program underpinned by industry commitment to ICoC with deployment in the Africa, Asia, and Latin America regions. It is currently underway in Kenya, Morocco, Egypt, Thailand, and Vietnam and will expand to all nine countries by 2025. SPMF demonstrates CropLife's renewed and strengthened commitment to work with governments in the most vulnerable regions globally to support the implementation of the Beyond 2020 chemical management framework goals and works in a transparent manner in reporting on industry's progress.

Recognizing the extensive scope and resource-intensive needs to implement the ICoC, SPMF as a multi-year commitment program serves to provide the countries with the necessary technical and financial capacity to establish an integrated framework that fulfils the ICoC's wide scope for sustainable pesticide management.

The SPMF strategy is to achieve long-term change and resilience in upholding best practice standards for pesticide management beyond the end of the five year in-country programs. We do so by:

- Investing in systemic change: We recognize that the main barrier for vulnerable regions is the lack of capacity to mitigate pesticide risk. SPMF activities under the three pillars focus on supporting the development of regulatory and technical frameworks and capacities needed to implement the ICoC. By focusing on structural capacity over the five years, the program concludes with enduring national standards, regulations, and operational infrastructures such as container disposal and data traceability that support good pesticide management in the long term.

- Empowering partners: SPMF is guided by the principles of shared responsibility and partnerships and a collaborative approach must be pursued for success of such a broad program.
    - *Train the trainers:* We have partnered with local generics associations, government extension partners and NGOs, and supply chain associations for key crops, leveraging our expertise in training programs to empower them to create wider-scale implementation of safe use training of pesticides for farmers.
    - *International donors and NGOs:* SPMF has worked with multiple NGOs including USAID, Aim For Climate (AIM4C), GIZ, Sustainable Rice Platform, and other global partners that support sharing expertise on international best practices and funding through local chapters to expand our impact.
    - *Beyond agriculture - Inter-ministry coordination:* We have partnered with national Ministries of Agriculture, initiated inter-ministerial dialogue and coordination with health, environment, customs, and technology government stakeholders to support human and environmental health management in our activities including data communication for pesticide incidence, countering illegal pesticide trade, and introduction of technologies and data interoperability that are managed across ministries.

- Scaling best practices beyond SPMF countries: The nine countries under SPMF across Africa, Asia, and Latin American regions are aimed at providing regional best practice models. Often, best practices from mature markets are challenging to replicate due to differences in socio-economic or agricultural conditions. The learnings and success factors from the SPMF countries provide a valuable and comparable reference for neighbouring countries to adopt.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The Beyond 2020 global chemical and waste framework builds on a unique multistakeholder and multi-sectoral approach. CropLife International has been a committed participant at SAICM meetings in supporting inter-sectoral connectivity and mainstreaming within the agriculture sector to achieve the strategic policy objectives of SAICM.
- Additional convergence is still required at ICCM5 to conclude the Beyond 2020 framework. It is important that creative and holistic approaches are taken to achieve such convergence and meet the overarching policy objectives of the new instrument.
- CropLife International's submission fosters our support and recognition of the goals and objectives of the Beyond 2020 Chemical Framework and the urgent need to improve the protection of human and environmental health in pesticide management.
- However, the current narrow approaches of draft Targets A7 and D5 are concerning as they risk one-sided trade-offs, likely impacting agricultural productivity and food security.
- CropLife International believes that global health, environmental, and agricultural needs and goals are not mutually exclusive but need to be enabled by coherent and inclusive policy approaches through informed and careful decision-making on potential trade-offs.
- CropLife International's SPMF provides both a useful reference for practical application of such approaches and demonstrates the industry's commitment to deploy this program globally, in the vulnerable regions.
- Partners are vital for the successful wide-scale implementation of the SPMF and we have proposed a side event during ICCM5 to raise awareness among participants of the opportunities this program provides to national and global stakeholders, in line with SAICM's approach for inter-sectoral connectivity and multi-stakeholder approaches.

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Item 5(d) of the provisional agenda

IOMC Report on SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) on "*IOMC Report on SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern"* (see annex).

2. The document contains a description of the activities called for by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its previous sessions, together with summaries on progress achieved in relation to the existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, as developed by and received from the respective lead organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.

3. The emerging policy issues identified by the Conference to date are lead in paint, chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, endocrine-disrupting chemicals and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants. In addition, managing perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives, and highly hazardous pesticides, have been identified as issues of concern.

4. Priority actions on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern have been called for in ICCM resolutions II/4, II/5, III/2 and III/3, IV/2 and IV/3 as well as in the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals.

5. One of the functions of the Conference, as set out in paragraph 24 (j) of the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, is to focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arise and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action.

6. Attention is drawn to two documents on emerging policy issues that were submitted to the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group that took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 2 to 4 April 2019 - SAICM/OEWG.3/6 on "Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern" and SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/9, on "Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern - IOMC response to requests from the fourth session of the International Conference".

7. The document is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Annex

IOMC Report on SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern

Prepared for the Fifth Session of the International Conference for Chemicals Management (ICCM5)

Bonn, Germany, 25–29 September 2023

28 July 2023

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(A) Lead in Paint

Submitted by: WHO, UNEP

1. Lead is a cumulative toxicant with chronic and debilitating impacts on multiple body systems. Lead can affect all age groups but young children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable, with impacts on neurodevelopment and IQ. Globally, exposure to lead is attributed to 0.9 million premature deaths per year, primarily due to cardiovascular disease. Evidence continues to emerge that cardiovascular impacts and consequent disease burdens may be significantly higher. No safe level of exposure to lead has so far been established and reducing the adverse health effects from lead in paints can only come from prevention - reducing and eliminating sources of exposures as far as possible.

2. Paint is one of the sources of exposure to lead where interventions are relatively straightforward. Lead is not needed in paint and increasingly countries are instituting lead paint laws to strictly control their use.

3. Efforts under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) started in 2009, when the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted resolution II/4.B identifying lead as an emerging policy issue and endorsing the creation of a global partnership to promote the phase-out of lead paint.

4. In 2011 the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (the Alliance). The overall goal of the Alliance is to prevent children's exposure and minimize occupational exposure to lead from paints.

5. Several features of the Alliance have helped ensure its success. An operational framework and business plan with clear goals, objectives, milestones, and indicators set an important global focus and motivation for countries to make change at the national level.

6. The Alliance's Advisory Council met on 22 June 2023 to discuss the present progress report and analysis of progress achieved. Key points include:

    - The target for the **number of countries with legally-binding laws** for lead paint was met in 2022 with 93 governments with binding laws in place. Further work is needed to meet the Alliance's 2023 target of 100 enacted laws and post 2023 targets which are expected to be set in 2024. The aspiration being that all countries having such laws.

    - The target for the **number of paint companies committed to the work** of the Lead Paint Alliance needs further effort, however in recent years the number of paint companies and industry associations working on the issue has increased, with 25 paint industry partners and at least 25 companies having conducted paint reformulation pilots as of March 2023.

- The annual WHO International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in (ILPPW) in 2022 resulted in 117 events in 57 countries - a doubling of the number of events since 2013. Social media shows increasing participation and increased country participation is a target for the 2023 **awareness-raising target** with the aim of reaching the Global Alliance target of events in 70 countries.

- **Membership in the Alliance** is on target has exceeded targets increasing from 26 contributers in 2013 –to 107 in 2022 including 26 governments, 50 non-government organizations, 5 inter-governmental organizations, 6 academic organizations or institutions, 20 industry or trade associations.

7. Testing paints on the market, as been spearheaded by International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) working in 59 countries in collaboration with local partners. Annual updates on the status of national lead paint regulations; and reviewing and commenting on draft regulations have also been important parts of the work.

8. Production and dissemination of a substantial range of Alliance tools and resources in UN languages continues to have an important place in informing and assisting Member States, these materials are regularly updated and include general advocacy and awareness materials, technical information and policy briefs; Q &As; annual updates on the status of countries' legal limits, videos and graphic materials. Technical resources include a model law and guidance on regulating lead paint (2018); an online toolkit for establishing laws to eliminate lead paint; guides to measuring lead in paint and measuring lead in blood (2020); technical guidelines on reformulating lead paint (2022); and a guide to lead paint compliance and enforcement (2023).

9. Recognizing the important role of the Alliance, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided financial support through a project on Global Best Practices on emerging policy issues of concern under SAICM. The GEF project was executed by the SAICM secretariat with support from a strong technical team working in collaboration with the Alliance and comprising the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, IPEN, National Cleaner Production Centres in four countries, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the World Coating Council, UNEP and WHO. The GEF provided additional funding of $3M USD with $6M USD in co-financing was garnered from participating organizations over the period June 2019 - June 2022. Lead paint elimination workshops were held in Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean and national initiatives across these regions to eliminate lead paint. The GEF Project met its target by assisting 21 countries to enact laws for lead in paint and helping another 19 countries with establishing laws that are in final stages of enactment. Twenty-five paint producers in 7 countries have completed paint reformulation pilots to demonstrate the production of paint without added lead components.

10. In conclusion, considerable progress has been made and this brings us halfway towards the overall objective of elimination of lead paint. With additional effort the issue can be solved. There remain at least 73 countries that do not have legally binding restrictions on lead paint, although work is in progress in 31 of these. Understanding what is needed to achieve success will be instrumental in moving forward. Countries without laws may remain insufficiently aware that lead paint should be eliminated, or lack basic chemicals regulatory arrangements, political priority or evidence that lead paint is being used in their countries. Small and medium enterprises may face obstacles including a lack of know-how for reformulation. Some countries

with limited regulation for chemicals may wish to improve their chemicals regulatory framework, gain specific expertise for conducting regulatory impact assessments, or learn how to prevent imports of pigments containing lead and promote compliance.

11. Through the Alliance, UNEP and WHO can continue to play an important role in promoting national action however further recognition of the global importance and necessary momentum to complete the task is needed. High-level support for reducing exposure to lead has recently come from the G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers communique in May 2022 and 2023. Additional work and support in this forum is ongoing.

(B) Chemicals in Products

Submitted by: UNEP

Chemicals are important building block for many of the products modern society uses and relies on. They enhance the performance and functions of materials and are also widely used in auxiliary processes or manufacturing. However, some chemicals are hazardous and, through their release from products or manufacturing lines, can have adverse impacts on human health and the environment at different stages of a products life cycle. Certain chemicals can also complicate or hinder the recyclability of materials at their end of life. Understanding and managing chemicals in products and their global supply chains is critical to advance sustainable consumption and production and phasing out the use of chemicals of concern in products plays a crucial role in addressing the global pollution challenge.

The transparency of information on chemicals in global supply chains has been an emerging policy issue for SAICM since 2009, leading to programmes such as the UNEP Chemicals in Products (CiP) Programme that focuses specifically on the textiles, toys, electronics and building materials sectors.

UNEP has led the work on Chemicals in Products since 2008 and - at the invitation of ICCM4 - continues facilitating CiP Programme pilot and implementation activities, stakeholder awareness and capacity building. The CiP Programme was produced through extensive research and stakeholder consultations, and was welcomed by the SAICM Governing Body in 2015 (at ICCM4) as the means for all stakeholders to advance on this complex issue.

One-pagers from respective Stakeholders Groups:

One-pagers have been developed by the respective stakeholders group participating in the CiP Steering Group in consultation with their constituencies and aimed at providing information on the programme and engaging those already active in the field to showcase and share their initiatives. Given the complexity, breadth, and rapid ongoing developments, these papers reflect the view of each group and might not reflect the views of other stakeholders.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of the material in these publications do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Environment Programme or of the members of the CiP Steering Group concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Moreover, the views expressed do not necessarily represent the decision or the stated policy of the United Nations Environment Programme, nor does citing of trade names or commercial processes constitute endorsement.

Civil Society Group : Guidance to the Chemicals in Products (CiP) Programme for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) representing the public interest – 2017

Industry Group : Key Features for Exchanging Product Information along the Supply Chain: An interpretation of the SAICM Chemicals in Products (CiP) Programme Guidance document from an industry view point - 2017

Government Group : Synopsis of the Chemicals in Products (CiP) Programme guidance for Governments - 2017

Regulations Search Engine - 2021

In the context of the CiP Programme and in order to facilitate multi-stakeholders' access to worldwide information on regulations, a link to the database of Global Chemical Regulations developed by Chemreg.net is available through this **link**. This comprehensive database contains existing global regulations and provides a free search engine.

Beyond the Chemicals in products programme, on-going projects are addressing chemicals in products.

Throughout the GEF-funded SAICM project "Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM" (2019-2023) tools and guidance have been developed in the three targeted value chains.

Under component 2, on "life cyclelife management of chemicals present in products", UNEP is working in close collaboration with stakeholders, to help further address the issue of chemicals in products on a global scale by developing and disseminating knowledge, tools and guidance and providing platforms for continued exchange. This work aims at helping to advance the sound management of chemicals and to increase transparency within supply chains in order to support the controlling and eventual phasing out of chemicals of concern in products. Key targets already achieved on chemicals in products:

- Tools for governments and value chain actors to manage chemicals of concern in products
- 40+ value chain and government actors involved

The work focuses on chemicals of concern in three sectors (building products, electronics and toys) and how to minimize the adverse effects of chemicals of concern.

Buildings: Report on chemicals of concern and potential alternatives in the building sector; USEtox-based model to assess chemicals in building products in the context of life cycle assessment (LCA); Global guidance for sustainable public procurement and for eco-innovation in the building products sector; Guide for banks on setting up green mortgages; Information Hub on Building Materials. Electronics: Global guidance for sustainable public procurement and for eco-innovation in the electronics sector; Report on regulatory approaches addressing CoC in electronics and policy recommendations; Regional studies (Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern European regions) on life cycle management of electronics; Analysis on how ecolabels address the issue of CoC and recommendations for further harmonization and integration
Toys: Toolkit to support regulation and compliance in the toy sector; Report on regulations for chemicals in toys in China; Report reviewing toy safety policies and regulations in selected Low- and Medium-Income Countries (LMIC).

In addition training and support has been delivered to government and value chain actors to trial and adopt new guidance and tools. This includes Training on how to use the USEtox model for companies in the building products and toy sectors in Sri Lanka and China; Eco-innovation and/or Sustainable Public Procurement training and/or pilot projects in Colombia and Sri Lanka; Sustainable finance pilot

project in Sri Lanka; and Training and consultations on regulatory and compliance approaches for toys and electronics sectors.

More information on tools developed, by sector, and implementation can be found : Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM | SAICM Knowledge

More information on Chemicals in Products global developments, can be found in the UNEP Assessment report of issues of concern and its annexes and its related fact sheet on Chemicals in Products.

Complementary, upon request from UNEA-4 in 2019, UNEP has developed Green and Sustainable Chemistry Manuals, to support chemistry innovation compatible with sustainability agenda : Green and Sustainable Chemistry | UNEP - UN Environment Programme. UNEP's Green and Sustainable Chemistry Framework Manual was welcomed at UNEA-5, and it's use was encouraged. Work has been carried out to apply the Manual and advance green and sustainable chemistry innovation in the buildings and construction sector, including an expert workshop held in Paris in January 2023.

(C) Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

Submitted by: OECD, UNITAR, with additional input from WHO

1. In 2022, UNITAR finalised a new version of its e-Learning course on “Nanomaterials safety”. The course is self-paced, takes approximately 30-40 hours to compete and includes videos, interactive lessons, reading materials and quizzes. The three modules cover: Introduction to Manufactured Nanomaterials, Hazard assessment, safety and risks of manufactured nanomaterials, and Risk management of manufactured nanomaterials, including societal dimensions - global approaches. It can be accessed at https://cwcourses.unitar.org/.

2. UNITAR collaborated with the Adolphe Merkle Institute of the University of Fribourg to develop an academic paper on “the need for awareness and action in managing nanowaste”, published in Nature Nanotechnology in March 2023. The full article is freely available online: https://rdcu.be/c6PcI. Waste containing nanomaterials — or nanowaste — is an emerging safety concern worldwide, requiring environmentally sound management and regulation that still need to be established. Researchers at the University of Fribourg point out the gaps and provide first solutions for guidance. The research paper was also a direct contribution to discussions under the Basel Convention, as well as being of relevance to SAICM.

3. UNITAR and OECD attended the International Conference on "How the world deals with materials at the nanoscale" on 22-23 June 2023, in Berlin. UNITAR presented its activities over the last several years, including its national projects, regional workshops, its e-Learning course and the development of guidance materials. OECD presented the evolution of the work regarding safety of nanomaterials. The overview gave information on the initial questions regarding safety, identification of the areas where standards and guidance for addressing their potential concerns need to continue to be developed, as well as the areas that need to be anticipated for the future.

4. UNITAR proposes to continue its work on manufactured nanomaterials and nanotechnologies, by supporting countries in developing national policies for nanosafety, organising regional workshops to share government (particularly as new regulations come into force around the world), IGO (including any new guidance and initiatives), private sector, civil society and academic updates, engage the nano regional networks that have been established through previous workshops, and support the ongoing sound management of such materials and technologies. UNITAR would also envisage updating its guidance document for the “Development of a National Nanotechnology Policy and Programme”, should resources be available.

5. OECD promotes international cooperation on the human health and environmental safety aspects of manufactured nanomaterials and advanced materials. Its objective is to facilitate cooperation among countries in assessing the safety implications of nanomaterials and advanced materials and to identify strategic solutions to common challenges. This remains its major objective in the area of nanomaterials, while considering the safety of nanomaterials within the context of chemicals management. The OECD Council adopted a relevant recommendation in 2013, that is open for adherence by non-OECD countries with the aim of enhancing international cooperation in that regard. aligns the approaches of nanomaterials, and more recently advanced materials, to the rest of the work on chemical management, the WPMN gathered a combined expertise from different areas of risk management, creating a diverse convergence of disciplines with a single goal, which is to anticipate challenges posed by emerging materials. Consequently, a central area of the OECD

work is the development of harmonised methods (Test Guidelines) that can be reproducible, repeatable, and reliable, which supports the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) principle. To ensure nanomaterials can be included, several Test Guidelines and Guidance Documents continue to be developed (e.g.: particle size and size distribution, solubility, agglomeration)[1] (see oe.cd/nanomet).

6. In 2022, OECD updated the document Important Issues on Risk Assessment of Manufactured Nanomaterials, which provides information on current practices, challenges, and strategies for assessing risk where data are limited, and where more research was needed on specific risk assessment issues. Several documents on the field of exposure (workplace, consumer, and environment) continue to be developed. Notably to develop guidance on existing tools and methods on exposure and their applicability to different materials. The OECD has considerable knowledge allowing for the development of test methods and assessment approaches for nanomaterials. This knowledge is gradually expanding to advanced materials. OECD is developing strategies for addressing emerging materials. As a response to the rapid development of new materials, the OECD developed two complementary strategies: i) **Early4AdMa** (Early Awareness and action for Advanced Materials)[2], as a pre-regulatory tool to help identify potential concerns, knowledge gaps and action needed (e.g., Development of guidance); and ii) the **Safe(r) and Sustainable Innovation Approach** (SSIA)[3] to support innovation while ensuring that nanomaterials and advanced materials are developed in a safe and sustainable way supported by a circular economy. SSIA promotes prevention by enhancing regulatory preparedness and facilitating a dialogue between innovators and regulators.

7. OECD[4] will continue to facilitate information exchange on nanosafety, advanced materials to improve transparency and facilitate decision-making processes through its programme of work, in coordination with the IOMC partners.

8. WHO and ILO, following recommendations from an earlier UNITAR workshop, undertook to trial creating International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) for the nanoforms of certain chemicals, to complement the information already available for the bulk forms. In 2019, ICSCs for "Titanium dioxide (nanoform) P25" and "Zinc oxide (nanoform)" were created, but there were insufficient data available to publish an ICSC for the nanoform of silver. All published ICSCs can be viewed at https://www.ilo.org/dyn/icsc/showcard.home.

[1] The OECD and NanoHarmony released a report summarising the current status of projects to develop or adapt the OECD Test Guideline (TGs) and Guidance Documents (GDs) for nanomaterials as well as the outlook per project. The list was compiled in a common effort by EU projects NanoHarmony and NANOMET and is intended to be a living document that will be updated regularly https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/nanomet/status-report-test-guidelines-guidance-documents-nanomaterials.pdf

[2] To be published in September 2023

[3] https://oe.cd/ssia

[4] OECD has published more than 100 documents related to nanomaterials. The documents and webinars (English/ Spanish) are available in the OECD website: https://www.oecd.org/science/nanosafety/ to receive the newsletter sign up: http://bit.ly/newsletter-chemical-safety

(D) Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)

No updates since last submitted report.

(E) Perfluorinated chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives

Submitted by: OECD

The OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group was established in 2012 in response to the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 2) 2009 Resolution II/5, calling upon intergovernmental organisations, governments and other stakeholders to "consider the development, facilitation and promotion in an open, transparent and inclusive manner of national and international stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches to reduce emissions and the content of relevant perfluorinated chemicals of concern in products and to work toward global elimination, where appropriate and technically feasible". The Global PFC Group is one mechanism to implementing the resolution, countries also have their own national activities as does industry.

The Global PFC Group has continued to increase understanding of PFAS and foster a transition toward safer alternatives. To date the group has included representatives from: Australia, Belgium, Benin, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US, Vietnam, Zambia; also industry representatives, NGOs and academia. The OECD has facilitated the work described below.

Activities since 2019

Characterising and understanding PFAS

Reviewing the Terminology of PFAS

Efforts between June 2018 and March 2021 focused on reviewing the universe and terminology of PFAS. A report was published in 2021 on "*Reconciling Terminology of the Universe of Per- and Polyfluoroalky Substances: Recommendations and Practical Guidance*"[5] that provides (1) a revised PFAS definition to comprehensively reflect the universe of PFASs and a comprehensive overview of the PFAS universe , (2) practical guidance on how to use the PFAS terminology , (3) a systematic approach to characterization of PFASs based on molecular structural traits to assist stakeholders, including non-experts, in making their own categorization based on their needs , and (4) areas in relation to the PFAS terminology that warrant further development.

This report has been widely referenced and used across different fora in particular by countries working on refining their risk management initiatives and policies.

Fact Cards of PFAS

Between June 2018 and June 2021 a set of 15 fact cards on major groups of PFAS were developed. The *Fact Cards of Major Groups of PFASs*[6] aim to provide non-expert stakeholders an initial glance into these groups of PFASs with some basic information on: (1) chemical identities synthesis and inherent properties such as bioaccumulation and transformation, (2) historical and ongoing industrial practices and commercial uses of some major commercial products, (3) regulatory status,

[5] OECD (2021), Reconciling Terminology of the Universe of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: Recommendations and Practical Guidance, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 61, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/terminology-per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances.pdf

[6] OECD (2022), Reconciling Terminology of the Universe of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: Recommendations and Practical Guidance, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 68, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=ENV/CBC/MONO(2022)1&doclanguage=en

(4) examples of reported occurrences in the environment and humans, and (5) major knowledge gaps in terms of previous sections. These fact cards have been linked to OECD's eChemPortal.

Polymeric PFAS and Their Life Cycle

To date, research has primarily focused on understanding the identity, life cycle, hazard, occurrence and exposure, and risk of non-polymeric PFASs. To ensure the sound management of the entire class of PFASs, it is important to also understand polymeric PFASs, which include sidechain fluorinated polymers, fluoropolymers and perfluoropolyethers.

A report focusing on side chain fluorinated polymers was published in 2022: Synthesis Report on Understanding Side-Chain Fluorinated Polymers and Their Life Cycle[7]. This report provides an overview of existing scientific and technical information on side-chain fluorinated polymers (SCFPs), focusing on their identities and life cycle, and with a particular goal to map the existing landscape and highlight critical knowledge and data gaps. Two additional reports are in preparation on perfluoropolyethers and fluoropolymers.

Commercial Availability and Current Uses of Alternatives

Work has also included collection of information on commercial availability and market trends of alternatives to PFAS, as well as on the hazard profile of the identified alternatives, focusing on specific industry sectors. The following reports have been published to date, with two additional reports under development in 2023:

- PFASs and alternatives in food packaging (paper and paperboard): Report on the commercial availability and current uses[8];
- PFAS and Alternatives in Food Packaging (Paper and Paperboard): Hazard Profile[9];
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Alternatives in Coatings, Paints and Varnishes (CPVs): Report on the Commercial Availability and Current Uses [10].

OECD WebPortal on PFAS and Webinars

The OECD work on PFAS is communicated via a WebPortal that is regularly being updated, https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/. It regroups the publications from the OECD/UNEP Global PFC Group, information on country risk reduction initiatives for PFAS and the recording of webinars and is one of the top 10 most consuolted pages on environment topics at the OECD. Webinars are organised to publicise the reports published by the Group and also

[7] OECD (2022), Synthesis Report on Understanding Side-Chain Fluorinated Polymers and Their Life Cycle, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 73, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD.

[8] OECD (2020), PFASs and Alternatives in Food Packaging (Paper and Paperboard) Report on the Commercial Availability and Current Uses, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 58, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD, https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/PFASs-and-alternatives-in-food-packaging-paper-and-paperboard.pdf

[9] OECD (2022), PFAS and Alternatives in Food Packaging (Paper and Paperboard): Hazard Profile, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 69, Environment, Health and Safety,Environment Directorate, OECD, https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/cbc/mono(2022)2&doclanguage=en

[10] OECD (2022), Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Alternatives in Coatings, Paints and Varnishes (CPVs), Report on the Commercial Availability and Current Uses, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 70, Environment, Health and Safety, Environment Directorate, OECD, https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-alternatives-in-coatings-paints-varnishes.pdf

with invited experts to share knowledge and experience on PFAS, in particular on the development of alternatives.

Risk Reduction Initiatives across Countries

Regular collection of information on risk reduction initiatives developed by countries for PFAS is included on the country information page of the OECD WebPortal on PFAS: https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/countryinformation/.

To date the following countries are represented: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, China, Poland, Sweden and the United States.

Webinars

Since 2019, the Global PFC Group organised the following webinars (found at https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/webinars/) with 150-300 participants per webinar:

- Advances in Understanding Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, 2022;
- Moving to Safer Alternatives, 2022;
- Recent risk reduction initiatives for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs) in the US, EU and as part of the Stockholm Convention, 2022;
- Presentation of the report on Reconciling Terminology of the Universe of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): Recommendations and Practical Guidance, 2021;
- Latest developments in analytical and monitoring methods for PFASs, 2020;
- The European Union's actions to regulate PFASs, 2020;
- Finding Alternatives to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances of Concern: A Difficult and Continuing Challenge, 2019 ;
- Risk Reduction Initiatives for PFASs substances in Canada and in the United States, 2019;
- Best Environmental Practices for Class B Firefighting Foams, 2019.

(F) Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)

Submitted by: FAO, UNEP, WHO

Progress Report on Addressing Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in 2019-2022

Introduction

1. HHPs are globally recognized as an issue of concern. FAO, UNEP and WHO have prioritized addressing HHPs in collaboration with key stakeholders and this report captures concrete activities taken to address HHPs in the period 2019-2022.

Actions to address HHPs

2. Over the period 2019-2022, FAO, WHO and UNEP, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, have focused on reducing the risks and impacts from HHPs by raising awareness, strengthening governance, supporting structural and technical capacities, and promoting viable alternatives to HHPs. The below global instruments, guidance and tools have been developed to guide countries and stakeholders to address HHPs:
    a. Updated WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard (2019)[11] which provides data for Criterion 1 of the HHP identification;
    b. Updated information on HHPs among its 10 chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern in 2019[12];
    c. In 2019, two brochures titled "Detoxifying Agriculture and Health from Highly Hazardous Pesticides: A call for action"[13] and "Preventing suicide: a resource for pesticide registrars and regulators"[14] which provide guidance to pesticide registrars and regulators on preventing HHPs related suicides;
    d. Updated WHO burden of disease estimates[15] in 2021 based on 2019 data, which indicated that 137 000 deaths per year (20% of all global suicide deaths) from self-inflicted injuries with pesticides, manily HHPs, could be prevented;
    e. In September 2020, UNEP issued An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern[16], in which it suggested the need to address the current ambiguity of the criteria for identifying HHPs and recommended "increased research and development of safer alternatives, particularly non-chemical alternatives, and making them available, accessible and visible to farmers across the globe";
    f. In 2022, UNEP in close collaboration with FAO and WHO published the Synthesis Report on the Environmental and Health Impacts of Pesticides and Fertilizers and

[11] WHO (2019). *The WHO recommended classification of pesticides by hazard and guidelines to classification.* (https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240005662).

[12] WHO (2020). *10 chemicals of public health concern*. (https://www.who.int/news-room/photo-story/photo-story-detail/10-chemicals-of-public-health-concern).

[13] WHO/FAO (2019). *Detoxifying agriculture and health from highly hazardous pesticides*. (https://www.fao.org/3/ca6847en/ca6847en.pdf).

[14] WHO (2019). *Preventing suicide: a resource for pesticide registrars and regulators*. (https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241516389).

[15] WHO (2021). *The public health impact of chemicals: knowns and unknowns - data addendum for 2019.* (https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-HEP-ECH-EHD-21.01).

[16] UNEP (2020). *An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment*. (https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/33807).

Ways of Minimizing Them[17], which also refers to HHPs as a critical issue and recommends minimizing or eliminating the risks they pose.

g. SAICM Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, University of Cape Town (UCT) and Umweltbundesamt (UBA) published a Fact Sheet on HHPs[18] for SAICM IP4 in 2022.

h. In December 2022, FAO launched the FAO e-learning course 'Pesticide Registration Toolkit'[19], and the FAO, together with the European Union, the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI) and the IOMC, certified this e-learning course and provided a new module on risk assessment for HHPs[20] later.

3. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework[21], agreed at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 2022, set an indicator on HHPs in target 7: "reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management (IPM), based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods".

4. UNEP is implementing projects, with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) financing, aiming to demonstrate alternatives to DDT for malaria control in Southern Africa, dispose of over 6,000 tonnes of DDT containing waste and highly contaminated soil in Central Asia and Africa, globally monitor POPs including DDT and other pesticides in selected matrices, and establish joint health and environment 'Chemical Observatories' to support evidence-based policy and investment initiatives[22].

5. FAO has supported several national and regional programmes to tackle HHPs in 65 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean and Pacific regions through projects funded by GEF, EC, and Sweden, etc. FAO has also worked at mainstreaming the HHPs issue into regional programmes for food security in Asia and Africa to ensure that sound chemicals management is an integral part of sustainable agriculture[23].

6. FAO, WHO and UNEP promote viable alternatives to HHPs in agricultural and health sectors through IPM and Integrated vector management (IVM). FAO, the Rotterdam Convention has supported capacity building in South East Asia, Central Africa and the Caribbean to innovate and scale-up Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and to develop safe alternatives to HHPs .

7. Through a joint program to support the implementation of the Code of Conduct, FAO and the Swedish Chemical Agency (KEMI) aim at strengthening national capacities to address HHPs, and facilitate regional collaboration to address HHPs in Africa and Asia.

8. Vector control programmes, encouraged by WHO, UNEP, the DDT Expert Group and other modalities associated with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, have significantly reduced the use of DDT, and currently there are no products prequalified by WHO for vector control which meet the first 7 HHP criteria.

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[17] UNEP (2022). *Environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and ways to minimize them – envisioning a chemical-safe world.* (https://www.unep.org/resources/report/environmental-and-health-impacts-pesticides-and-fertilizers-and-ways-minimizing).

[18] SAICM (2022). *The Potential Key Role of SAICM Focal Points in Reducing Harm from HHPs*. (https://saicmknowledge.org/library/potential-key-role-saicm-focal-points-reducing-harm-hhps).

[19] FAO eLearning Academy (2022). *Pesticide Registration Toolkit*, (https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=936).

[20] FAO eLearning Academy (2023). *Pesticide Registration Toolkit: Highly Hazardous Pesticides*, (https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=901).

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[22] UNEP (2023). *Africa ChemObs Project*. (https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/environment-health-and-pollution/africa-chemobs-project).

[23] FAO (2023). *Pest and Pesticide Management*. (https://www.fao.org/pest-and-pesticide-management/pesticide-risk-reduction/hhps/en/).

9. The SAICM project '*Chemicals without Concern – towards safer products for our environment and health'*, funded by GEF, supports a Community of Practice on HHPs, hosted by the University of Cape Town, to address issues and foster discussions with relevant stakeholders on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020[24].

10. IOMC supports actions on HHPs through its member Organizations as follows. UNDP and UNIDO have joined FAO, WHO and UNEP to reduce HHPs in agriculture through various GEF programs. ILO together with FAO works on protecting women and youth laborers from the risks of HHPs. UNITAR supports the development of new HHP modules for the Pesticide Registration Toolkit and on implementing GHS in agrochemicals. OECD supports development of JMPM guidance on HHPs and actions to counter illegal trade in pesticides.

11. In Africa, with support of FAO and KEMI, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) have drafted strategies to address HHPs regionally, and countries have identified up to 30 HHPs, conducted needs and risk assessments and are working on mitigation. In Central Africa, FAO and the Rotterdam Convention have supported capacity building for countries to identify and monitor incidents related to HHPs and to promote safer alternatives. The Asia and Pacific region supports countries in risk assessment and mitigation including phasing out HHPs and promoting alternatives. Sri Lanka has banned 36 HHPs and the country's suicide rate was reduced by 70%. The Near East and North Africa region has identified 89 HHPs and developed some priority actions on HHPs for implementation. HHP risk reduction activities have been undertaken in East Europe and Central Asia and regulatory actions to phase out or ban HHPs have been taken in 12 Caribbean countries.

Remaining challenges and Gaps

12. Awareness is growing about the harms of HHPs, and work has progressed in several regions of the world to address these very hazardous products. However, HHPs still remain widely available in LMICs where they pose the greatest concerns for a number of reasons including:

    a. Limited regulatory capacity: There is limited policy and institutional capacity for pesticide risk assessment and monitoring of incidents or the impacts of HHPs on environmental and human health resulting in insufficient science-policy interface to support informed decision-making and regulatory action.
    b. Poor adoption of alternatives: Unsustainable agricultural and fiscal policies and practices in many countries still favour the expansion of input-intensive, commercial agriculture and there is inadequate investment towards innovative alternative solutions and their adoption.
    c. Lack of a holistic approach: Most LMICs cannot address all stages of the pesticide life-cycle especially for HHPs. There remains poor adoption of IPM practices and a slow transition toward inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems.
    d. Inadequate global governance and coordination: There is no global initiative or program and no clear objectives or widely accepted concrete targets for addressing HHPs. Additionally, there is insufficient multi-stakeholder engagement and multi-sector collaboration to meaningfully address HHPs.

Way forward—initial considerations and elements of a HHP Action Plan

13. It is clear that addressing HHPs needs a new holistic approach with concrete objectives and an inclusive global implementation mechanism. Key aspects of HHPs throughout the pesticide

[24] SAICM - Knowledge (2023). *Towards safer products for our environment and health*, (https://saicmknowledge.org/).

lifecycle should be addressed. Global implementation mechanisms must be established to provide regulatory and technical support to LMICs.

14. Building on international initiatives described in this paper, FAO, UNEP and WHO have identified some of the initial considerations and elements of an action plan to address HHPs (*see Annex 1*). These action plan elements are contained in the Annex to the present document to facilitate further discussion and finalization.

(G) Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)

Submitted by: OECD, UNEP, WHO

Activities, mostly since 2019

OECD report

The OECD has been actively standardising methodologies for testing and assessment of chemicals for endocrine disruption for the last two decades. A large number of new and updated Test Guidelines have been adopted that contain ED specific endpoints informing the mode of action or the adverse effects on human health and wildlife. Guidance material has been developed over the years for various purposes: 1) for how to conduct the assays and 2) interpret the data in the context of weight-of-evidence, culminating in 2018 with the revision of the Guidance Document 150 on Guidance Document on Standardised Test Guidelines for Evaluating Chemicals for Endocrine Disruption.

Since 2019, a couple more in vitro Test Guidelines using zebrafish embryo models for testing estrogen and androgen pathways have been published (TG 250, TG 251 [link]). Some in vitro Test Guidelines for human health have been updated or corrected in their data interpretation procedures (TG 456, TG 455, TG 458 [link]). The Advisory Group on Endocrine Disrupters Testing and Assessment (EDTA AG) met in May and October 2021 virtually, to keep pace with progress with European-funded projects of the EURION cluster and deliverables that might come out for regulatory applications and method standardisation, and progress with other on-going activities. One of such activities was the EU-NETVAL (European Union-Network of Validation Laboratories) that leverage knowledge on a number of in vitro assays addressing the thyroid pathways, also described in the OECD Thyroid Scoping Document in 2014 (No. 207 in the Series on Testing Assessment). That activity, launched in 2017 came to completion in 2022.

In the course of 2022, the OECD established an Expert Group on Thyroid Disruption Methods, harvesting the results of the EU-NETVAL efforts and assessing individual assays for their status of validation and readiness for Test Guideline development. Five assays were assessed in the period Q3 2022-Q1 2023, another set of five assays are being assessed in Q2 2023 until Q3 2023. Assessment reports will be compiled and published by OECD, while the background material on the assays including intra-laboratory report is made available via the EU tracking system TSAR [link].

In September 2022, the OECD participated in the fourth EU Stakeholders' forum on Endocrine Disrupters [link]. The Forum is an annual event and brings together scientists and public and private stakeholders with expertise on endocrine disruptors to exchange information and best practices, identify challenges and build synergies. Issues associated with shortage of financial resources for methods' validation and standardisation was on the agenda, as the European Union was considering new hazard classes for endocrine disruption in their Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging.

A French public-private partnership for the validation of ED assays (PEPPER platform) was created in 2019 to speed up the validation and standardisation of methods at the OECD level. Five project proposals have been included in the OECD Test Guidelines workplan (3 in 2022 and 2 in 2023); the PEPPER platform will aim at validating assays addressing novel pathways beyond estrogen and androgen, where the toolbox of methods is already well developed (https://ed-pepper.eu).

The OECD is actively participating in the UN Globally Harmonised System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UN GHS) discussions on potential hazards of interest, including endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). In July 2023, the UN GHS Sub-Committee of Experts will discuss a mandate to the OECD for reviewing the state of the science and analyse possible gaps in the existing hazard classes for the classification of EDCs (https://unece.org/transport/documents/2023/04/working-documents/potential-hazard-issues-and-their-presentation).

UNEP Report

In February 2013, UNEP and WHO released the report State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals - 2012 which identifies concerns, including evidence in humans, laboratory animals, and wildlife that exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals can result in adverse effects and highlighted that an important focus should be on reducing exposure.

To continue advancing work on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), and in response to its commitment to the ICCM Resolutions on EDCs, in January 2016, UNEP commissioned the International Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP) to develop a set of three overview reports on EDCs in close collaboration with the Advisory Group for UNEP on EDCs. The reports focus on a review of existing initiatives to identify EDCs and on existing scientific knowledge of the life cycles, environmental exposure, effects, legislation, and measures and gaps regarding EDCs and potential EDCs (including information from developing and transition countries). UNEP organized two meetings, including a consultative meeting on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals, held on 20 and 21 April 2017, followed by the fourth meeting of the UNEP Advisory Group on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals, held on 21 April 2017. Three reports have been launched, and are available on UNEP website, to share advances in science including: (i) worldwide initiatives to identify EDCs and potential Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals; (ii) review of existing national, regional, and global regulatory frameworks that address EDCs; (iii) overview of the current knowledge on chemicals identified as EDCs and selected potential EDCs.

In March 2022, UNEA requested, as part of resolution 5/7 on the Sound management of chemicals and waste, UNEP executive Director, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, to update the report entitled State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012.

In this link you can find the report of 2012 and all three report:
https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/scientific-knowledge-endocrine-disrupting

WHO report

In May 2023, the World Health Assembly through resolution A76.17 requested WHO to work jointly with UNEP to update the report entitled State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012 WHO has completed a mapping of evidence on the health effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC) to assist planning the work on the update of the report. This work has resulted in a transparent methodology for mapping and querying all published literature on the health effects of EDCs from 1975 to December 2022 to determine the main health outcomes and chemical classes reported in the literature. A qualitative comparison of these main health outcomes and chemical classes with those described in 2012 has also been carried out. With a more than two-fold increase

in research output occurring over the last 10 years, together with a large number of systematic reviews and substantial international initiatives on exposures, WHO is currently working to proritise the health outcomes for further investigation and review.

(H) Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPPs)

Submitted by: OECD, UNEP

1. Pharmaceuticals designed to be slowly degradable or even nondegradable to resist chemical degradation during passage through a human or animal body present a special risk when they enter, persist or disseminate in the environment. Such substances are referred to as environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPPs).

2. When released into the environment, the biological activity of EPPPs may directly adversely affect non-target organisms, such as wildlife, and cause long-term impacts on ecosystem health and resilience. The latter occurs through population-level effects on reproductive ability, which persist into future generations of non-target organisms.

3. EPPPs are widely and increasingly being used in consumer products. However, significant knowledge gaps on the environmental and health impacts of these pollutants remain and makes it necessary to develop knowledge and raise awareness about their potential risks.

4. In 2019, the OECD released the report 'Pharmaceutical Residues in Freshwater: Hazards and Policy Responses'. This report calls for a better understanding of the effects of pharmaceutical residues in the environment, greater international collaboration and accountability distribution, and policy actions to prevent and remedy emerging concerns. Unless adequate measures are taken to manage the risks, pharmaceutical residues will increasingly be released into the environment as ageing populations, advances in healthcare, and intensification of meat and fish production spur the demand for pharmaceuticals worldwide. The report outlines a collective, life-cycle approach to managing pharmaceuticals in the environment.

5. In 2020, UNEP published the 'Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment'. The report aims to inform the international community about the current situation of specific issues of concern, based on a review of published evidence. Building on UNEP Global Chemicals Outlook-II findings, this report assesses the eight emerging policy issues and other issues of concern identified under the SAICM, including EPPPs. It reviews how current regulatory and policy frameworks address them, by specific instruments and actions, and highlights challenges and opportunities.

6. The OECD, in 2022, released the report 'Management of Pharmaceutical Household Waste: Limiting Environmental Impacts of Unused or Expired Medicine'. Pharmaceutical household waste from expired or unused medicine does not only offer zero therapeutic benefit, but also contributes to environmental pollution when disposed of via improper routes. Medicines discarded in sinks and flushed down toilets enter sewage waters and, if not filtered out, leak into aquatic systems. Disposal of unused or expired medicines via solid household waste can also result in pharmaceutical residues entering the environment if this waste is illegally dumped, or destined for landfills. In addition to environmental risks, unused or expired medicine not only constitutes wasted healthcare resources, but also presents a possible public health risk of accidental or intentional misuse and poisoning if extracted from waste bins. Preventing pharmaceutical household waste and ensuring the effective collection and

environmentally sound treatment of unavoidable waste is thus an important policy objective. This report provides an overview of available data on pharmaceutical consumption and disposal practices across OECD countries, reviews existing collection schemes and provides recommendations to best prevent, collect and treat unused or expired medicines in order to avoid their leakage into the environment.

7. Given the global attention and the need for further information dissemination and awareness-raising specifically on EPPPs, as also highlighted by ICCM4, UNEP has carried out in 2023 a specific analysis. The document looks at the magnitude of the problems concerning the impact of EPPPs on the environment and human health, what the drivers are, and which knowledge gaps need to be addressed. The report also discusses shared challenges, and strategies to prevent and mitigate the problem, offering some examples of practical solutions that relevant stakeholders can carry out to accelerate action. Furthermore, UNEP has also developed two technical discussion papers on safe disposal of unused medicines, needs and conditions of EPPPs, and on sustainable procurement to deepen the analysis.

8. After a consultation and definition phase, in December 2022, a three-year project started, entitled "Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under SAICM – Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDC) and Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPP)". This Medium Size Project is funded under the SAICM window of GEF 7, and project Executing Agencies are: WHO, UNEP and the SAICM secretariat.

9. The project will produce global guidance on wastewater from manufacturing (led by WHO); and on disposal of medicines (led jointly by WHO and UNEP). In addition, UNEP will provide some lifecycle approach guidance and literature on EPPPs in low- and middle-income countries, which is, as mentioned, a major gap identified in the context of SAICM.

10. UNEP is also supporting the link to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a related agenda with a number of common elements, which has remarkable traction. In February 2023, UNEP launched its first spotlight report 'Bracing for Superbugs: Strengthening environmental action in the One Health response to antimicrobial resistance', which offers a comprehensive overview of scientific findings on the subject. The report also analyzes the three economic sectors and their value chains that are key drivers of AMR development and spread in the environment: pharmaceuticals and other chemicals, agriculture and food, and healthcare, together with pollutants from poor sanitation, sewage and waste effluent in municipal systems.

11. UNEP is well positioned on the AMR sphere being part of a strong partnership, the Quadripartite Alliance for One Health, with FAO, WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) as leaders in the multilateral system on human, animal, plant and environmental health.

12. To further increase awareness and disseminate knowledge, global discussions have been promoted mapping out and mobilizing different stakeholders through webinars and workshops that allowed for exchange of experiences and knowledge on aspects of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants and their environmental implications considering the impact on AMR, and to strategize what actions can be taken to advance policies and actions at national level. Capacity development activities have also been carried out in countries to analyze and support their efforts on safe disposal of unused medicines, and materials have

been compiled and synthesized for presentation. In addition, communication products have been developed. Some examples include a video posted at the SAICM knowledge management platform; a dedicated website on EPPPs and on AMR that UNEP have created, web stories, infographics and videos.

Annexes

Annex 1: FAO/WHO/UNEP, Initial Considerations and Elements of an Action Plan on Highly Hazardous Pesticides

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Acronyms and abbreviations

BRS	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGPC	Coordinating Group of Pesticide Control Boards of the Caribbean
COP15	15th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (an insecticide)
EAC	East African Community
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAW	Fall Army Worm Program
FFS	Farmer Field Schools
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GCO	Global Chemicals Outlook
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
HHP(s)	Highly Hazardous Pesticide(s)
HIC	High Income Countries
ICCM4	Fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOMC	Inter-Organizational programme for the sound Management of Chemicals
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IP4	Fourth Intersessional Process of SAICM
IVM	Integrated Vector Management
JMPM	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Management
JMPR	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues
JMPS	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Standards
LMICs	Lower and Middle-Income Countries
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHPF	Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

1 Introduction

1.1 Importance and side effects of pesticides

(1) Pesticides are organic or inorganic substances that either kill or disturb the normal development of vertebrate and invertebrate pests, weeds and pathogens to reduce the risks they pose to human societies [1]. Since the mid-1900s, pesticides have been used at large scales to protect agricultural and forestry production as well as human and livestock health, thereby ensuring food and nutritional security, alleviating drudgery, and eliminating poverty [2]. Pesticide efficacy and ease of use, together with growing demands for agricultural and forest products to meet the world's expanding human population have fueled a steady growth in the global pesticide industry [2].

(2) However, pesticides have considerable negative impacts on the environment and on human health because they are toxic to a wide range of target and non-target organisms including humans, livestock and wildlife; they have varying levels of persistence in the environment; and some are bioaccumulated through food chains [2,3]. Such hazards, assessed against predicted exposure, determine the relative risks associated with pesticides and their use [2]. A dramatic acceleration in global pesticide trade since the beginning of the millennium has increased human and environmental exposure to pesticides and, thereby, elevated consequent risks [2].

(3) The negative impacts of pesticides include inadvertent physiological effects on target and non-target organisms that ultimately reduce agricultural productivity and profitability either due to the evolution of resistance, due to adverse effects on crop health and yields through phytotoxicity, or because of a reduced functional biodiversity and consequent resurgence outbreaks. Because of their use as the only toxic biocides deliberately applied in the environment at large scales, pesticides and their derived metabolites have become ubiquitous contaminants of air, soils, and water, including coastal waters [2]. Environmental concerns around pesticide use include phytotoxicity to adjacent crops and natural vegetation; effects on biodiversity including direct and indirect impacts on terrestrial and aquatic organisms and other wildlife; a loss in soil fertility due to impacts on decomposer organisms; and declining ecosystem functionality, including adverse effects on pollinator services and a reduction in the pest regulatory capacity of natural and derived ecosystems at local and landscape scales [2,4].

(4) Acute and chronic exposure to pesticides is associated with a wide range of adverse effects on human health [2]. Repeated exposure to some agricultural pesticides over many years has been associated with an increased incidence of depression, reduced cognition in children, neurological disorders, reproductive failure, and long-term illnesses including dementia, cancers and diabetes [2,3,5]. Unintentional, acute pesticide poisoning is reported to exceed 385 million per year [6]. Pesticide exposure and associated health risks are often greatest in Lower and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) for a range of sociological and environmental reasons including a lack of access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and the discomfort in using such equipment under tropical and sub-tropical conditions [2,7].

(5) Exposure to pesticides, in particular Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), can have severe impacts on the enjoyment of human rights, including, but not limited to the right to life, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the right to adequate food, the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation, and the right to just and favourable conditions at work.

1.2 Definition and status of HHPs

(6) Pesticides vary in their associated risks (i.e., hazard × exposure) to human and environmental health. Of greatest concern are a relatively small group of highly toxic and persistent active ingredients commonly referred to as HHPs. The International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management defines HHPs as pesticides '*acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or the environment according to internationally accepted classification systems such as WHO or GHS or their listing in relevant binding international agreements or conventions*. *In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered and treated as highly hazardous'* [8] (Annex 1).

(7) HHPs are mainly older chemicals and make-up only a minor portion of national pesticide use. Currently, between 5 to 15% of registered pesticides are thought to be highly hazardous. For example, recent reports from Mozambique, from 13 countries in Asia and 9 countries in North Africa and the Middle East identified between 6% and 14% of registered pesticide products as HHPs [7,9,10]. Many HHPs are already severely restricted or banned in multiple countries, and particularly in high income countries (HICs), because of their acute toxicities or because they are listed under legally binding international agreements (i.e., Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, or Montreal Protocol) [2,7,11]. Nevertheless, in some regions, HHPs are still commonly used in agriculture and particularly on non-food crops such as tobacco, cotton and other fibers.

(8) Already in several countries, the voluntary deregistration of HHPs and increased restrictions around their use have been shown to bring measurable benefits by reducing environmental contamination, restoring wildlife populations and reducing mortalities, including from suicides - without affecting agricultural productivity [12]. However, HHPs still pose serious problems where legislation and the implementation of regulations on pesticide management are weak. Therefore, some HHPs continue to be widely used, often without necessary risk mitigation measures, and particularly in LMICs. As such, HHPs continue to undermine vital health conditions and ecosystem services for present and future generations, they jeopardize the transformation to sustainable and resilient agri-food systems, and they represent a considerable obstacle to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.3 Problems related to HHPs

(9) Among pesticide products, HHPs have the greatest negative impacts on biodiversity, they dramatically alter the structures of animal and plant communities, and ultimately disrupt ecosystem functions and services. Several HHPs have notable adverse effects on vertebrate wildlife, including birds and mammals. In Africa, HHPs have facilitated an illegal trade in wildlife and animal parts [2]. Furthermore, HHPs are carried long distances through aquifers to contaminate wells and drinking water in rural and urban areas - often for decades after use. This contamination of ground waters affects some of the planet's most vulnerable aquatic communities [2].

(10) The effects of HHPs in food chains threaten the sustainability of food provisioning ecosystem services. Of particular concern are HHPs that disrupt soil organisms, pollinators and the natural enemies of crop pests, thereby threatening food security in the most affected areas. HHPs also affect the quality and safety of foods. For example, persistent pesticides accumulated on sea and lake beds have been associated with toxicity in farmed fish and the collapse of artisanal fisheries. The environmental persistence of HHPs results in a higher probability of pesticide residues in food - ultimately leading to greater risks of human ingestion - particularly where contaminated products are sold at local markets. High persistence also affects global trade by increasing the risk of product rejection from export markets [2].

(11) HHPs are commonly associated with fatal poisoning in humans after accidental or deliberate ingestion. Child mortality related to the accidental ingestion of HHPs is still prevalent in many countries and self-poisoning is a major concern in countries where HHPs are widely available [2,12,13]. Globally, self-poisoning using acutely toxic pesticides is among the leading means of suicide. It is estimated that over 160,000 people die each year from the ingestion of acutely toxic HHPs with the intention of self-harm [14]. These fatalities predominantly occur in LMICs where acutely toxic HHPs are readily available to people in situations of distress. The health costs from acute and chronic exposure to HHPs can be considerable in terms of medical costs and losses to family income – with the most detrimental effects experienced among rural, low-income families [15,16].

(12) Chronic exposure to HHPs is associated with a range of diseases including non-Hodgkin lymphoma, prostate and other cancers, Parkinson's disease and other chronic illnesses [2,17]. Prenatal exposure to widely-used HHPs can affect the neurological development and cognitive ability of infants, and is often prevalent in marginalized communities [18]. Since the early 1970s, WHO governing bodies have published several resolutions on the safe use of pesticides and the need to address pesticide poisoning [2]. In 2010, WHO issued a policy brief on concerns related specifically to HHPs, warning that "*exposure to HHPs is a major public health concern*", and acknowledging that their use has caused widespread health problems and fatalities in many parts of the world [17].

(13) Because their associated risks are disproportionate relative to exposure, mitigating actions on HHPs are predicted to dramatically reduce the general harms to human and environmental health from global pesticide use. Furthermore, actions on HHPs will protect and respect the individual and collective rights of people in vulnerable situations such as pregnant women and women farmers, migrant and child laborers, and indigenous peoples and local communities that sometimes lack access to information, are excluded from pesticide-related decision-making, and are often the most affected by an absence of transparency around pesticides and their impacts. For many countries, particularly LMIC, an inability to reduce environmental and human exposure to HHPs [2,12,13] indicates that actions specifically addressing hazards will be necessary to adequately mitigate associated risks.

1.4 Need for global action on HHPs

(14) The need for global action on HHPs is now widely recognized. In 2006, based on reports of significant negative impacts, the FAO Council first mentioned HHPs and suggested that '*the activities of FAO could include risk reduction including a progressive ban on HHPs*' [19].

(15) In 2015, further to FAO, WHO and UNEP initiatives on HHPs, as well as those of many other public and private stakeholders active on the topic [20], the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4): a) acknowledged HHPs as an "*issue of international concern*" and recognized that additional actions on HHPs by all stakeholders will be needed in order to attain the objectives of the SAICM; b) welcomed the initiative of FAO, WHO and UNEP to develop, in consultation with other stakeholders, a proposed strategy to address HHPs in the context of the Strategic Approach with an emphasis on promoting agroecologically-based alternatives and strengthening national regulatory capacity to conduct risk assessment and risk management; c) agreed to adopt the strategy to address HHPs in the context of the Strategic Approach; and d) encouraged all stakeholders to undertake concerted efforts to implement the strategy at local, national, regional and international levels [21].

(16) In 2020, UNEP issued an assessment report on the issues of concern identified by SAICM, in which it noted that "*current instruments do not comprehensively address the sound management of HHPs at*

a global scale"; that progress on HHPs has been uneven across countries and regions; and that there is a disconnect between international recognition and national actions [13]. The report suggested the need to: "*strengthen international support for developing and transitioning countries, ... including building up resources and capacities to establish and enforce national pesticide legislation, combating illegal trafficking of illicit pesticides, and treatment of existing stockpiles*." It also recommended "*increased research and development of safer alternatives, particularly non-chemical alternatives ….*" [13].

(17) For many years WHO has listed HHPs as one of '*ten chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern*'. The role of WHO in taking action on pesticides was recognized in the Chemicals and Waste Section of UNEA resolution 3/4 on Environment and Health adopted at UNEA3 in 2017 [22]. In May 2023, the 76th World Health Assembly adopted a resolution on the Impact of Chemicals, Waste and Pollution on Human Health, with specific calls to raise awareness of the health impacts of HHPs, to encourage the health sector to strengthen partnerships for biomonitoring and surveillance, including for HHPs, and to recognize the importance of science-based domestic regulations on HHPs in response to a series of health-related issues, including suicides and neurological disorders [23].

(18) Given that issues around HHPs are most prevalent in LMIC and often affect members of society in the most vulnerable situations, including women and children, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in a report to the Human Rights Council stated that "*although certain multinational treaties and non-binding initiatives offer some limited protections, a comprehensive treaty that regulates highly hazardous pesticides does not exist, leaving a critical gap in the human rights protection framework*." [24]; thereby calling for a more coordinated approach to action. Furthermore, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Implications for Human Rights of the Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of Hazardous Substances and wastes recognized that "*indigenous peoples face a grave threat to their health, lands and territories from exposure to hazardous substances and wastes*. As a result, the Special Rapporteur claims that "*the overwhelming and disproportionate impact of toxics on indigenous peoples infringes on recognized collective and individual rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples to culture, land and natural resources, free, prior and informed consent, food, water, a healthy environment, life, health and personal integrity, among others*" [25].

(19) The need for actions on HHPs to counter adverse effects on biodiversity has also gained international recognition. In 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Among the accepted targets, the GBF aims to *'reduce the negative impacts of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services [including] reducing overall risks from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half'* [4].

(20) Taking actions on HHPs, therefore, directly responds to a series of global concerns while contributing to a transformation of agriculture toward safe and sustainable agri-food systems that are more resilient to future climates and other global changes. Actions on HHPs directly address several of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [26] including the promotion of sustainable agriculture (Goal 2), healthy lives and well-being (Goal 3), sustainable management of water (Goal 6), decent work (Goal 8), sustainable consumption and production patterns (Goal 12), the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and halting of biodiversity loss (Goal 15), and multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development (Goal 17).

2 Rationale

(21) In response to international assessments, as well as the specific call for concerted actions from SAICM ICCM4, several activities have already been proposed or implemented to reduce the impacts of HHPs. For example, WHO/FAO produced a set of guidelines on HHPs that elaborate on specific articles in the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management [8] and a guide for regulators to help prevent pesticide-related suicides [12]. FAO has supported initiatives in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific to develop regional strategies to reduce HHP-related risks and has expanded its Pesticide Registration Toolkit to include module(s) that raise awareness of HHPs among pesticide registrars [27]. Furthermore, FAO and WHO continue to promote sustainable pesticide management through implementation of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management [28,29] in national policy and legislation.

(22) WHO has dramatically reduced DDT use in vector control programmes and currently does not prequalify any products for vector control that meet criteria 1-7 of the criteria to identify HHPs recommended by the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (Annex 1) [2,30]. Furthermore, WHO has worked with regulators and health professionals in a number of countries to reduce the incidence of HHP-related suicides [12]. Intergovernmental organizations including FAO, WHO, UNEP, UNDP, UNITAR, ILO, and OECD are tackling HHPs as part of the Inter-Organizational programme for the sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) [31] and through relevant chemical-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

(23) In 2019, the Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO-II) further encouraged the development of country- and stakeholder-driven road maps on specific topics and by different stakeholder groups to support implementation of the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond-2020 Framework and to help monitor progress at all levels including the global level. Road map themes could include: advancing the adoption of sustainability standards, minimizing the adverse impacts of HHPs in specified contexts, or reducing pesticide and fertilizer run-off in identified watersheds. Road maps could also be elaborated at national levels to set goals and targets for sustainable pest and nutrient management [32].

(24) In 2022, UNEP published the “Synthesis Report on the Environmental and Health Impacts of Pesticides and Fertilizers and Ways to Minimize Them”. The report, developed in close collaboration and consultation with FAO and WHO, assessed technical and policy-related information under a broad global context to provide an information base that enables stakeholder advocacy actions - including priority actions to strengthen pesticide management - to minimize the adverse impacts of pesticides, including HHPs, and fertilizers [2]. Furthermore, UNEP is about to launch its “Guidelines on Alternatives to Highly Hazardous Pesticides” which provides key principles and insights to identify alternatives to HHPs, defines the roles of different stakeholders in the process of replacing HHPs and suggests how stakeholders can support each other to maintain agricultural productivity while protecting human and environmental health.

(25) National and regional authorities have also taken concrete actions: The EU aims to reduce its HHP footprint (including HHP use at the sources of imported products) by at least 50% through its ‘Farm to Fork Strategy’ [33]. The East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) have prepared regional strategies and national action plans with the intention of phasing-out HHPs in the coming decade. Similarly, the Coordinating Group of Pesticide Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC), supported through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), has developed regional and national HHP risk reduction plans, with a number of countries already taking regulatory actions

to phase-out certain pesticides. Several countries in Asia, South America and the Pacific have identified HHPs among their registered pesticides and taken concrete actions to mitigate associated risks, including phasing-out certain products and promoting sustainable alternatives. The private sector and civil society have responded to concerns over HHPs through voluntary standards and sustainability platforms and by providing innovative alternatives to chemical use - including biocontrol agents and biopesticides [2].

(26) Despite actions taken since ICCM4, a range of systemic barriers have slowed progress. These include regulatory, technical and financial barriers that prevent the identification of HHPs, the monitoring of their impacts, as well as the registration and development of alternatives. Furthermore, multi-sector and multistakeholder collaboration has been insufficient to make significant advances on reducing HHP-associated risks in many countries. In this context, calls for further actions on HHPs, including a target that would dramatically reduce their use in agriculture by 2030, and for better coordination of activities through a Global Alliance were made by national and regional representatives during the Fourth Intersessional Process (IP4) of SAICM. Future actions will need to respond under a holistic and coordinated strategy to these existing barriers.

2.1 Lack of sufficient global coordination

(27) Despite the many initiatives currently addressing HHPs, and the ongoing formal and informal collaborations between institutes, there continues to be a lack of international coordination and standardization in related legislation [5]. This reduces global capacity to deal with these most hazardous pesticides and limits international collaboration.

(28) Currently, there is a lack of centralized support among intergovernmental organizations for countries interested in identifying and phasing out HHPs through policy, awareness-raising or monitoring; and there is no centralized mechanism to promote linkages between intergovernmental organizations, regional and national governments, and other stakeholders for coordinated actions on HHPs.

(29) Without sufficient international governance and coordination, initiatives will be vulnerable to instabilities in the capacities of institutes to dedicate time and resources to tackling this global problem. Furthermore, to ensure transparency, avoid redundancies in activities, and gain from engagement with experts in specific aspects of pest and pesticide management, measures need to be taken to promote broader stakeholder involvement in the change process and to improve dialogue between parties.

2.2 Lack of a holistic approach

(30) Actions that respond to emerging issues will need to address all stages of the pesticide life-cycle, which according to the Code of Conduct includes manufacturing, formulation, packaging, distribution, storage, use and final disposal of a pesticide product and/or its container [28].

(31) Efforts to eliminate the risks associated with HHPs continue to be challenged by a range of inadequate or insufficient legal and regulatory frameworks and a lack of enforcement and compliance, as well as structural and technical issues [5]. Such challenges further indicate a continuing neglect of pesticide management within the public sector and in donor-funded programs.

(32) Given the complexities of the pesticide life-cycle, and of the legal and regulatory requirements to eliminate harms at every stage of the cycle, there is a clear need for coordinated multi-sectoral and multistakeholder involvement in the change process. This includes ensuring that regional or national

policies for agriculture, for natural resource management, and for biodiversity conservation are aligned and that stakeholders are adequately engaged to develop viable alternatives to HHPs.

2.3 Lack of viable alternatives

(33) Alternative pest and weed management options are required to facilitate a phase-out of HHPs. However, national policies and enabling regulatory frameworks on environmentally sustainable agriculture are currently lacking in many countries [5]. Whereas most countries have made calls for increased attention to biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices and to further support agroecology as part of their commitments to achieving targets set under the CBD, agricultural and resource management policies are often not aligned, and are sometimes contradictory [34]. Furthermore, most countries currently lack sufficient policy support for pesticide use-reduction strategies such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or Integrated Vector Management (IVM)[5].

(34) A range of viable alternatives to HHPs that encompass low-risk, sustainable, effective and affordable products and plant-protection methods already exist, but are still seldom used against some pests and in certain countries. Preventative pest management practices and agroecological interventions require further development including systematic evaluations for a greater range of crops than is currently available [35]. Meanwhile, as farmers are encouraged to move away from synthetic organic pesticides, including HHPs, the availability of safer curative pest management solutions, such as biopesticides, has increased [2]. Nevertheless, the costs of developing and registering biopesticides can be prohibitive for small to medium enterprises, and legislation to promote a shift away from chemicals and toward safer biopesticides could be strengthened in many countries (especially where biopesticides are currently included under the same legislation as chemical pesticides) [2].

2.4 Lack of capacity

(35) According to a recent survey distributed to government entities in 194 countries [5], most countries currently lack legal provisions on HHPs. A majority of LMIC lack guidance documents for pesticide registration and many of these countries have few staff employed in pesticide registration which translates into a lack of capacity at the national level to address this issue. Insufficient attention to surveillance and monitoring of pesticide trade, use, and impacts presents a challenge for many countries, and particularly for LMIC, to effectively respond to pesticide and HHP issues with directed legislation or resources [5]. Furthermore, a lack of technical experts involved in pesticide registration and issues around the rapid turnover of personnel involved in pest and pesticide management in many countries is a continuing challenge to progress.

(36) Inadequate laboratory and analytical capacities in many countries hamper pesticide quality control, such as the analyses of active ingredients and the physical and chemical properties (including impurities) of locally sampled and imported pesticide products. Many countries also lack facilities to monitor pesticides in food, feeds or the environment [5]. Pesticide and poison information centers have an important function in advising pesticide registration authorities and informing and training medical practitioners, yet poison centers continue to be absent or under-resourced in many LMIC [2].

(37) Technical capacity necessary to reduce risks from HHPs is lacking in several areas. For example, a current lack of trained personnel and institutional capacity is a major obstacle for holistic HHP management (i.e., for all stages of the pesticide life-cycle)[5]. Furthermore, there is no centralized repository of information, no widely-accessible, critical expertise to capture and interpret data on HHPs, and a lack of resources to link specific HHPs with suitable pest or vector management alternatives.

(38) Therefore, building on current international initiatives towards sustainable agri-food systems, the international human rights framework, a better environment and better life [36], and aligning strongly with the SAICM resolution [21], the below initial considerations and elements of the action plan have been prepared to support future consultations and concerted efforts on HHPs by addressing legal, governance, structural and technical gaps for effective coordination, for surveillance and regulation and to build capacity for sound pesticide life-cycle management; as well as to support the discovery, development and upscaling of non-chemical alternatives to the most hazardous pesticides. FAO, WHO and UNEP will facilitate further discussions and exchanges with relevant stakeholders around the world in order to finalize the action plan and initiate its implementation for supporting countries in addressing HHPs by taking actions that are appropriate to their national situations, including identification, risk mitigation and/or phase out.

3 Vision and Strategic Goals

3.1 Vision

(39) The vision of the action plan is a world in which we all live and work in a clean healthy and sustainable environment, where sustainable agriculture produces safe and high-quality products, where poisoning and illnesses caused by HHPs are ended, and adverse environmental impacts such as pollution and biodiversity loss derived from the use of pesticides are prevented.

3.2 Strategic Goals

(40) The overall goals of the action plan are to eliminate the harms posed by HHPs to human and environmental health and to encourage and support stakeholder initiatives that drastically reduce the use of HHPs in favour of non-chemical alternatives, particularly in agriculture, by 2030; thereby, achieving targets for HHPs set by the Kunming-Montreal GBF, as well as the objectives of the SAICM beyond 2020 process and ensuring a transition toward safe and sustainable agri-food systems and a pollution-free planet.

4 Objectives of the action plan

(41) Building on the 2015 proposed strategy to address HHPs in the context of SAICM that identified several focal areas in need of concerted action including awareness-raising and information sharing, identification of HHPs, capacity-building in regulatory control and piloting and mainstreaming of alternatives [21], and further responding to national requests on addressing HHPs under SAICM beyond 2020, an action plan could set out four mutually reinforcing objectives that attract the support and concerted action of key stakeholders to eliminate the harms posed by HHPs.

4.1 Objective 1: Strengthening governance as part of regional and national strategies for regulation and implementation

(42) The action plan would mobilize a wide range of stakeholders to strengthen legal and regulatory capacities at regional and national levels and coordinate actions to eliminate the harms caused by HHPs at all stages of their life-cycle; it would create effective mechanisms for multisector and multistakeholder coordination, collaboration and information sharing; and provide wide-ranging technical guidance for policy makers to progressively phase-out the use of HHPs, to assess and manage risks during the phasing-out of HHPs, to provide an enabling regulatory framework to promote alternatives to HHPs and to adequately report on progress as part of a global action.

4.2 Objective 2: Enhancing capacity for sound HHP life-cycle management

(43) Robust, appropriate and supportive regulatory actions on HHPs will only be achievable through strengthening of national and regional capacities that lead to better assessments of HHPs and better decision-making [5]. The action plan would take a holistic approach to HHP management by addressing all stages of the pesticide life-cycle through improved legislation that promotes adequate social and economic structures and through the enhancement of structural capacity to enable effective surveillance and implementation for change. Stakeholders already engaged in tackling problems related to HHPs, including accidental and deliberate poisoning, could bring their expertise to facilitate improved data capture and reporting from hospitals and poison centers, or to inform about novel medical and safety procedures that eliminate the greatest risks.

(44) The approach would further encourage policies that counter the aggressive promotion of chemicals and chemical-based pest control measures in favor of fostering the adoption of IPM and IVM strategies that incorporate agroecological principals and, when necessary, resort to the safest curative pest control measures - including low-toxicity pesticides and biopesticides. It would provide guidance to mobilize financing, and develop the necessary infrastructure and related technical capacity to implement actions and monitor progress. Furthermore, it would provide technical support for parties to adhere to and implement internationally binding agreements on eliminating or restricting HHPs (MEAs) and to implement international non-binding guidance such as the International Code of Conduct for Pesticide Management [1], SAICM for chemicals, and similar programs; thereby strengthening national legislation for more sustainable pest and pesticide management.

4.3 Objective 3: Increasing the adoption of alternatives to HHPs

(45) The transition away from HHPs requires access to viable pest management alternatives that compete with HHPs in terms of availability and ease-of-use, efficacy, and cost effectiveness. Furthermore, alternatives must be linked to the main pest problems and key crops for each country or region. Measures to promote alternatives to chemical pesticides would mainly target countries in Africa and the Asia Pacific Region where current national policies and financing for IPM are most deficient [5].

(46) The action plan would take a multifaceted approach to breaking the structural lock-in to pesticide-based pest management research and promotion. It would catalyze a transition toward sustainable agricultural practices by addressing the policy, trade and social barriers to ecosystem-based IPM. Under the plan, policy support, public and private involvement in research and development, as well as in the marketing of alternatives and the receptiveness of farmers would be evaluated, and gaps in the necessary legal, structural and technical environments that curtail research and the adoption of viable alternatives would be addressed.

(47) Under the action plan, HHPs identified by country registrars during the 3-step process (Annex 2) would be checked against in-country uses (i.e., pests, weeds and crops) and proven alternatives that provide viable options to farmers and for vector management would be recommended and made available. A framework for designing ecosystem-based IPM for key crops would be developed that, together with up-to-date information on available plant protection methods and products, would guide end-users toward effective and sustainable crop management. By working together with voluntary standards and certification schemes, farmers would be further encouraged to avoid the most hazardous pesticides.

4.4 Objective 4: Promoting stakeholder engagement and concerted actions

(48) The action plan would aim to raise the general awareness among various stakeholders (e.g., agricultural and environmental policy, health professionals, regulators, technical, supply chain, end-users, communities) about HHPs, their associated hazards, the harms they cause, and the need to significantly reduce HHP use in agriculture through sustainable/viable alternatives. Furthermore, the action plan would ensure that training facilitates regional harmonization for HHP management by working with regulatory groups/regions.

(49) Several tools, including the Code of Conduct, the Pesticide Registration Toolkit [27] and the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) platform [37], are currently available to support capacity building. These tools would be expanded to include further information and modules on HHPs and their alternatives, thereby promoting global awareness of the associated risks. Specific attention would be given to ensuring that women, children, and indigenous peoples or other groups of populations in vulnerable situations are protected from HHPs and that the use of HHPs is eliminated from indigenous and other protected lands.

5 Key Actions

5.1 Outcome 1: Governance is strengthened as part of regional and national strategies for regulation and implementation

(50) Activities under objective 1 would provide a framework for stakeholder mobilization and coordination as outlined in the following table:

Output 1	Proposed activities
Output 1.1. Regional and national strategies and related legal frameworks are developed for the effective management of HHPs	(1) Support countries and regional organizations to develop strategies and action plans to eliminate the harms from HHPs (2) Support countries and regional organizations to review and revise their legislations to put in place an enabling legal framework to address HHPs at regional and national levels in accordance with international standards and the international human rights framework. (3) develop normative guidance for countries to review and update their national policies, action plans and legislation to regulate and progressively phase out HHPs, integrating a human rights-based approach (4) Set targets and define indicators at regional and country levels, based on baseline data
Output 1.2. International coordination is strengthened to effectively regulate HHPs and to monitor and report on the implementation of regional strategies	(1) Establish a global coordination mechanism that facilitates regional and national strategies for the management of HHPs (2) Develop procedural tools for regular and effective multi-stakeholder and multisectoral communication about HHPs and about the progress of the action plan (3) Propose a prioritization of actions for phasing-out HHPs on a nation-by-nation basis

	(4) Encourage and support governments to ensure sufficient staff and resources are available and effective workflows are developed to manage national requirements for pesticide registrations, or alternatively, to share workloads with regional partners where resources are limited
Output 1.3. Effective tools are made available to support the development and implementation of regional and national policies on HHPs	(1) Ensure that HHPs are specifically addressed in all intergovernmental and regional technical documents that promote sound pest and pesticide management; address HHPs in national mental health and suicide prevention strategies; and provide the necessary technical support for national governments and relevant regulatory bodies to take actions on HHPs (2) Develop guidance documents on pesticide registration that specifically address the identification, registration and deregistration of HHPs; to address emerging concerns under criterion 8 for the identification of HHPs; and as required to facilitate actions on HHPs as issues emerge (3) Promote regional collaboration to address illegal trade and potential cross-border movements of restricted chemicals; (4) Develop guidance on risk assessment and management during HHP phase-out; and on strengthening countries' controls on banned and restricted pesticides; (5) Support the disposal of obsolete persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and HHPs, as well as deregistered pesticides and empty containers (6) Eliminate HHPs from international pest and vector control programs by identifying efficient and cost-effective alternatives

5.2 Outcome 2: Capacity for sound pesticide life-cycle management is enhanced through appropriate legislation, actions and information-feedback systems

(51) Activities under objective 2 would close identified gaps for national legislation, surveillance and monitoring as outlined in the following table:

Output 2	Proposed activities
Output 2.1. Pesticide regulatory capacity is enhanced at national levels and relevant requirements for effectively reducing the harms from HHPs are incorporated into national policies	(1) Reinforce national regulatory frameworks for sound pesticide management and promote pesticide life-cycle management in public and donor-funded programs (2) Foster the adoption of IPM and IVM through supporting legislation; remove incentives for pesticide use, such as subsidies, and enhance policies to counter the aggressive promotion of chemical pesticides and that specifically address prophylactic pesticide applications (3) Develop policies and a framework for actions to protect the population, including pesticide workers, applicators, rural communities and members of society in vulnerable situations, including rural women, migrant and child laborers, and indigenous peoples from HHP-related harms and to engage these

	actors in pesticide decision-making. Establish mechanisms for the progressive ban on production, sale and use of HHPs in proximity to human settlements, organic production land, and protected areas including the buffer zones of Biosphere Reserves established under the Man and the Biosphere Program, tribal and indigenous lands, and paying particular attention to communities affected by a high incidence of pesticide-related fatal suicides. Promote collaboration with indigenous peoples to establish mechanisms for introducing the Free, Prior and Informed Consent and a total ban to HHP in their territories (4) Promote science-based domestic regulations of HHPs to address health-related issues, including suicides and neurological disorders
Output 2.2. Surveillance, monitoring and information services are strengthened to support implementation and report on relevant indicators	(1) Establish infrastructural and financial conditions to facilitate actions on HHPs in the most affected regions and nations (2) Develop guidelines to establish analytical laboratories suitable for monitoring pesticide quality, chemical contamination of the environment, and chemical concentrations in human and animal tissues. As a priority, establish or strengthen poison centers, particularly in regions affected by high incidences of fatal pesticide poisoning (including through suicides) (3) Provide guidelines to develop systems for effective monitoring and reporting of incidents for data capture (e.g., environmental contamination, human exposure, intentional and unintentional self-poisoning events), data storage and information sharing as suitable for the surveillance and monitoring of pesticides and their impacts; and develop information-sharing interfaces to facilitate communication between stakeholders (4) Encourage the health sector to strengthen partnerships for biomonitoring and surveillance of HHPs
Output 2.3. Progress on the implementation of the action plan is monitored and reported nationally and conveyed through a global coordination mechanism	(1) Develop guidance for health and occupational health professionals to reduce the risks of poisoning, to treat cases of poisoning by HHPs and other chemicals, and to properly report cases to relevant authorities by identifying the associated chemicals (2) Provide technical support to regions and countries for surveillance of pesticide trade and use, as well as for monitoring of pesticide residues in the environment and chemicals in human and animal tissues. Provide support for proper registration of cases of poisoning (i.e., identification of accidental or self-poisoning and the specific pesticides ingested)

	(3) Provide technical support to countries to identify Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPFs) under the Rotterdam Convention and coordinate in-country monitoring activities with the UNEP/GEF Global Monitoring Program for POPs under the Stockholm Convention (4) Provide technical support to parties of international MEAs on chemicals to fulfill their commitments and obligations to transmit relevant information

5.3 Outcome 3: Viable alternatives to HHPs are developed and their use is up-scaled

(52) Activities under objective 3 would create supportive legislation, structural and technical environments for the development and up-scaling of alternatives to HHPs as outlined in the following table:

Output 3	Proposed activities
Output 3.1. Relevant policies and regulations are in place to support the development, registration, and upscaling of non-chemical, alternative pest, weed and disease management solutions to replace HHPs	(1) Provide technical support to national authorities wishing to review policies concerning pesticides to introduce incentives for biocontrol, biopesticide and agroecological pest, weed and disease management options (2) Facilitate the registration of biopesticides through policy instruments that recognize and allow for properties that are specific to biopesticides, including microbial biological control agents, and are different from chemical pesticides (3) Align agricultural and resource management policies to ensure effective intergovernmental communication and coordination for transitioning toward sustainable agri-food systems that conserve biodiversity and protect environmental and human health
Output 3.2. Barriers that prevent farmers from accessing viable alternatives and from further up-scaling agroecology, biological control and biopesticides are removed	(1) Introduce or scale-up national financial investment mechanisms that stimulate the replacement of HHPs by less hazardous alternatives (2) Provide technical support to national extension services and other relevant stakeholder groups to promote public outreach and communication of the benefits of preventative crop protection practices including agroecology, of the principals and practices of IPM/IVM, and of the continuing need to avoid curative practices (3) Encourage the adoption of organic, pesticide-free and insecticide-free crop production by promoting certification schemes, improving access to certification - including reducing related costs, providing access to product premiums, and developing technologies for traceability and product or farm monitoring

	(4) Support public and private research to deliver alternatives to chemical pesticides and deliver other technical innovations that support plant protection decisions and avoid curative practices
Output 3.3. Technical support to develop and upscale non-chemical alternatives and to find the best replacements for HHPs on a case-by-case basis is made available and innovative IPM/IVM solutions are developed and promoted	(1) Address plant protection and vector management challenges by compiling systematic information on the most problematic pest, weed and disease organisms for all key crops, and to link these with viable alternatives to HHPs (2) Develop a framework to integrate preventative control methods such as agroecology and conservation biological control with novel curative controls such as biopesticides using IPM and IVC principals for the most affected crops and the most problematic pests, weeds and diseases (3) Involve end-users in the identification, development, validation and mainstreaming of alternatives and provide evidence-based information about alternatives to farmers for better integration into farming systems (4) Provide technical support for growers to meet international Maximum Residue Level (MRL) standards and to achieve Voluntary Sustainability Standards

5.4 Outcome 4: Stakeholder capacity and engagement are enhanced and concerted actions are adopted

(53) Activities under objective 4 would address training needs and actions to support training for a transition to sustainable agri-food systems without HHPs as outlined in the following table:

Output 4	Proposed activities
Output 4.1. A global information system to report on actions around HHPs and to identify suitable alternatives, and a framework for actions to protect groups of populations in vulnerable situations against the harms of HHPs are provided	(1) Develop a publicly accessible portal on HHPs that is maintained and continually updated through FAO, WHO and UNEP and includes information on HHPs as made available through regional and national reporting systems (2) Provide a gate-keeping service on alternatives to HHPs for specific crops and pests and work with national public and private extension programs to incorporate relevant information into regional and national crop knowledge banks and grower information services (3) Provide technical support for the mapping of activities and outcomes related to global actions on HHPs
Output 4.2. Awareness of HHPs is raised and training is given across a wide range of stakeholders and sectors to reduce the harms from HHPs	(1) Provide training to national and regional authorities on the identification and management of HHPs and on the most suitable alternatives for relevant crop and pest scenarios (2) Provide technical support, training and communication platforms to facilitate regional harmonization of legislation and actions on HHPs

and to promote the adoption of non-chemical alternatives	(3) Provide technical support for Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and other effective initiatives, and update the Pesticide Registration Toolkit with modules that build the capacity of end-users to avoid HHPs and adopt viable alternatives (4) Train extension professionals and relevant authorities and provide relevant tools to protect the rights of groups of populations in the most vulnerable situations against harms from HHPs, integrating a human rights-based approach (5) Promote awareness-raising of the health consequences of HHPs and ways to mitigate their impacts

6 Implementation and coordination

6.1 Organizational structure

(54) The action plan will be facilitated through FAO, WHO and UNEP with the participation of relevant UN agencies and their regional offices, national focal points, as well as other stakeholders, such as Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), civil society, and the private sector to coordinate and guide implementation.

(55) Governance arrangements (e.g., constitution, and/or standard operating procedures, and/or terms of reference) to support globally coordinated actions would be jointly prepared by the three organizations in consultation with interested stakeholders. Although the details of governance will depend on further inter-institutional dialogue and inputs from relevant stakeholders, the mechanism could include:

- **An Action Plan secretariat:** This would be jointly provided by FAO, WHO and UNEP (subject to separate agreements), hosted by FAO and would be supported by an advisory council.
- **An advisory council:** This might be an advisory body to FAO, WHO and UNEP on the implementation of the action plan with governance arrangements decided through interinstitutional dialogue and agreements.
- **Technical groups:** Three technical groups on agriculture, health and environment could be established under the advisory council, for different thematic areas, and resolving relations with existing mechanisms such as the JMPM, as needed to provide technical support to nations on these areas.
- **Regional focal points and national task forces:** Global, regional and national actors interested and/or active in addressing HHPs.

(56) The main tasks for coordination could be (1) to support development of regional and national strategies; (2) to coordinate actions and provide technical supports and to mobilize additional actors in support of the action plan; (3) to identify gaps and actions needed to address them and to exchange information on positive and negative lessons learned; (4) to facilitate resource mobilization; (5) to monitor progress in the implementation of the action plan; and (6) to facilitate appropriate meetings and discussions.

6.2 Financing

(57) Coordinated actions on HHPs will require resource support from governments, stakeholders and financial institutions that facilitates multisectoral and multistakeholder communication and removes the various legal, structural and technical barriers that prevent positive impacts. Further support from international doners will be sought to transition to more sustainable agri-food systems and to meet targets set by SAICM, GBF and other binding and non-binding international agreements.

6.3 Technical synergy

(58) The action plan would need to synergize relevant programs and technologies of FAO, UNEP and WHO on HHPs and chemical and waste management, and seek technical collaboration and support. By focusing on effective coordination and information-sharing, the action plan would need to create a broad technical synergy between diverse stakeholders including with international instruments and agreements such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The plan would need to create synergies with relevant initiatives at global, regional and national levels including for new UN agri-food systems, European Union (EU) green-initiatives, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), and international pest and vector management programs at FAO and WHO such as the Fall Army Worm (FAW), locust and malaria control programs.

(59) Furthermore, the action plan would need to ensure and enhance continued synergies between ongoing programs such as the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Management (JMPM), on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and on Pesticide Specifications (JMPS), as well as other global pesticide management initiatives.

6.4 Knowledge sharing

(60) As part of the action plan and to support information-sharing and reporting, a HHP platform/portal could be developed to facilitate technology innovations such as alternatives to HHPs that include green and non-chemical biopesticides; stewardship recommendations for biocontrol agents and biopesticides; innovations in training for governance, and training of farmers and growers; information on HHPs and waste management strategies and other advances for mitigating risks associated with HHPs. The plan would include a gate-keeping task to support extension services and end-users in identifying suitable alternatives to HHPs for specific crops and pests.

6.5 Monitoring and evaluation

(61) The action plan could be coordinated through the secretariat and progress on implementation monitored regularly. Annual workplans would be developed and monitored and evaluations conducted at regular intervals subject to agreement on governance arrangements. The secretariat would support the advisory and technical committees that advise on implementation of the action plan.

(62) In order to evaluate and track progress towards the objectives of the action plan, it will be critical to set targets and indicators in order to bring about tangible and measurable reductions in deaths, illness, adverse environmental impacts, and other harms caused by HHPs. Coordination with the SDGs, GBF targets, and SAICM Beyond-2020 Framework on Chemical and Waste Management targets would need to be ensured to align indicators on HHPs with those specified in these international frameworks.

Country- and region-specific indicators could also be developed, as appropriate, to tailor the goals and objectives to local situations.

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Annex 1 Criteria for identifying HHPs

This definition was based on recommendations from the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM)[2008] [38] that HHPs should be identified by meeting one or more of eight criteria related to WHO and GHS classifications as hazardous, carcinogenic, mutagenic or demonstrating reproductive toxicity; as listed under the Stockholm or Rotterdam Conventions, or the Montreal Protocol; or showing a high incidence of severe or irreversible adverse effects on human health or the environment

- **Criterion 1**: Pesticide formulations that meet the criteria of classes Ia (extremely hazardous) or Ib (highly hazardous) of the *WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard* [39];
- **Criterion 2**: Pesticide active ingredients and their formulations that meet the criteria of carcinogenicity Categories 1A and 1B of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS) [40];
- **Criterion 3**: Pesticide active ingredients and their formulations that meet the criteria of mutagenicity Categories 1A and 1B of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS) [40];
- **Criterion 4**: Pesticide active ingredients and their formulations that meet the criteria of reproductive toxicity Categories 1A and 1B of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS) [40];
- **Criterion 5**: Pesticide active ingredients listed by the *Stockholm Convention* in its Annexes A and B, and those meeting all the criteria in paragraph 1 of Annex D of the Convention [41];
- **Criterion 6**: Pesticide active ingredients and formulations listed by the *Rotterdam Convention* in its Annex III [42];
- **Criterion 7**: Pesticides listed under the *Montreal Protocol* [11];
- **Criterion 8**: Pesticide active ingredients and formulations that have shown a high incidence of severe or irreversible adverse effects on human health or the environment.

Annex 2 The 3-step process for managing HHPs

The coalition will encourage countries to employ to the 3-step process for managing HHPs as outlined in the WHO/FAO guidelines on HHPs [8] and support activities related to each step of the process. The three key steps to be taken by countries are:

1. Identification of HHPs: Countries analyze their pesticide registries against the eight criteria to identify which pesticide products are highly hazardous.

2. Needs and risks assessment of HHPs: Countries assess the actual needs and benefits for each product identified in the first step, as well as the associated risks to human health and the environment, taking into consideration available alternatives.

3. Mitigation of HHP risks: Countries identify risk mitigation options. The most appropriate mitigation measures may be different for each HHP and for each condition of use.

In cases where risks cannot be adequately reduced and according to the hierarchy of controls, elimination and substitution of the HHPs may then be considered the most effective mitigation methods [2]. A key enabling factor in mitigation is the availability of alternatives.

UNITED NATIONS

UNEP

SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/17

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Item 5(d) of the provisional agenda

Ensuring the Sustainable Use of Pesticides

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by CropLife International on "*Ensuring the Sustainable Use of Pesticides*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

CropLife INTERNATIONAL

ENSURING THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES



INFormation document for ICCM5
Submitted by CropLife International
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ENSURING THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES

CropLife International represents the world's leading R&D companies in crop protection and plant science, i.e. BASF, Bayer Crop Science, Corteva Agriscience, FMC, Sumitomo Chemicals, and Syngenta.

By working with our industry members, our global network of 91 associations, and a diverse range of partners – we focus on solutions that address crop productivity challenges, mitigate effects of climate change, and protect critical environmental natural resources.

We enable innovation by advocating for trade and regulatory policies that give farmers access to the technologies required to meet these challenges. This includes ensuring the responsible and safe use of pesticides.

A core activity of the global CropLife network is stewardship – a lifecycle approach to responsibly managing pesticides from research and development, through use in the field and eventual disposal of any waste or product discontinuation:

CropLife International – with our member companies – has been committed to stewardship for decades. And in 2020, CropLife International established a five-year Stewardship Strategy to further underscore its commitment to supporting farmers through empty pesticide container management, integrated pest management (IPM), responsible use, resistance management, and the management of obsolete stocks.

Benchmarked targets were set for each of these action areas, and a range of stewardship programs were carried out globally to reinforce the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and support the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Three years on from the strategy's launch, the global impact of our work is evident and is described below. Not only are we on track to surpass all our targets, but we are also using new opportunities to actively drive lasting change in sustainable crop management globally.



Stewardship Strategy 2025: Progress to date

Key Performance Indicator	Description	2019 Baseline	2025 Target	Achievement to date
Responsible use of pesticides by smallholder farmers	Double number of farmers trained annually by CLI member companies and global CropLife network. Farmers to be trained IPM and responsible use, mainly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.	**10 million per year**	**20 million per year**	**19 million (in 2021)**
Pest resistance management	Promote and implement mandatory mode of action labelling.	**12 countries**	**25 countries**	**18 countries (8 committed in 2023)**
Collection and disposal of pesticide waste	Increase annual pesticide container collection rates by 20%, focusing on China and India. Inventory, safeguard, and destroy obsolete pesticides and prevent new buildup.	**95,000 tonnes** **6,500 tonnes**	**144,000 tonnes** **2,000 additional tonnes**	**114,000 tonnes** **8,200 tonnes**

CORE INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES TOWARD THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES

CropLife International is committed to the UN's Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). Our members view their contribution to the implementation of SAICM as an opportunity to improve the sustainable use and effective management of pesticides.

Recent projects across the global CropLife network include the pioneering use of behavior science to improve our understanding of farmer uptake of PPE and developing novel communication technology tools to drive higher engagement in crop management training.

The success of these projects means these innovations can be adopted and rolled out by other member associations and the industry – thus widening the impact of our work and promoting sustainable crop management on a scale that far exceeds our customer base.

TRAINING FARMERS IN RESPONSIBLE USE OF PESTICIDES

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a holistic approach to sustainable agriculture that focuses on managing insects, weeds, and diseases through a combination of cultural, biological, and chemical measures. It focuses on the development of pest control strategies that take into account all relevant control tactics and locally available methods and are sensitive to local environment and social needs.

A key objective of our 2025 Stewardship Strategy was to double the number of farmers trained annually in IPM and responsible use from 10 million in 2019 to 20 million in 2025.

Our training is not static, and we are continuously evolving and adapting to meet current realities.

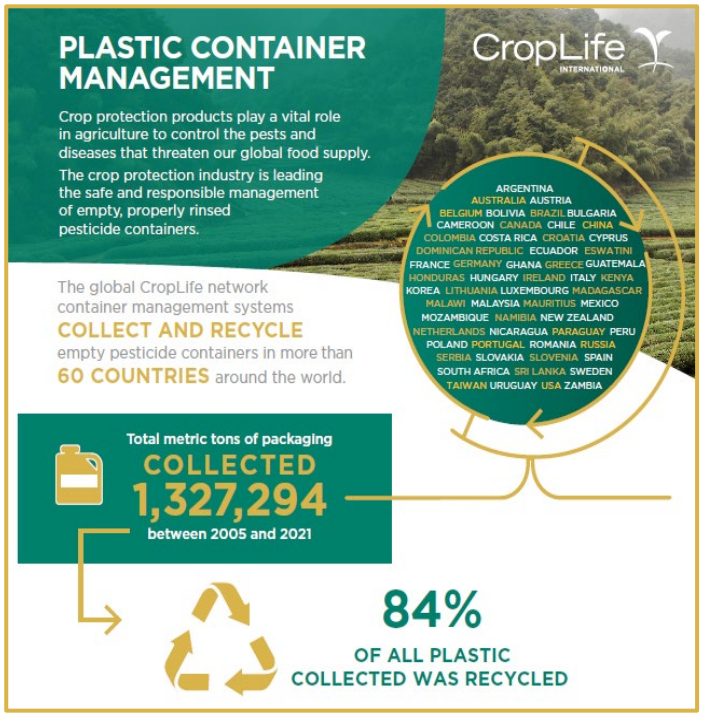
BY THE NUMBERS

- **19 million farmers** have participated in our training activities in 2021.
- Overall, more than **30 million people** have been reached globally through our training and outreach programs.
- The global cost of invasive species is estimated at **$1.4 trillion a year**– close to 5% of global gross domestic product.

For example:

- **Putting training into practice:** Linking training to certification schemes, developing crop protection service providers, and working with national authorities to ensure crop protection is implemented professionally across the farming population.
- **Developing guidance for new innovations** including the use of drones in crop protection and the use of biologicals, including biopesticides, to facilitate their successful deployment and sustainable use around the world.
- **Translating knowledge into behavior change:** To increase our effectiveness, we have been working with behavior scientists to analyze farmer decision making and guide us in more effective stewardship outreach, for example in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

CONTAINER MANAGEMENT



For more than 30 years CropLife International member companies have been at the vanguard of agricultural plastic management through establishment of empty pesticide container management systems (CMS) to ensure return, collection, and responsible destruction. Such CMSs have now been established in 60 countries across the globe.

These CMS provide a sustainable approach to agricultural plastic management and have, in several countries, moved beyond just collecting empty pesticide containers. In Brazil, the nationwide CMS has developed container to container recycling for nearly 550,000 tonnes of plastic since 2002, which equates to saving roughly 974,000 tons of CO_2 equivalent from being released into the atmosphere. To achieve this level of impact, CropLife member companies cannot act alone. The success in Brazil is a result of a supportive government policy framework and legal obligations, as well as close collaboration across the sector.

Since 2005, more than 1.3 million tonnes of empty pesticide containers have been taken out of the environment and in 2021, 84 percent of the packaging collected was recycled, a significant contribution to the circular economy. The 2021 collection was more than 140,000 metric tonnes of pesticide container waste, far surpassing our strategic target of 114,000 metric tonnes by 2025. In that same year, 55 percent of packaging sent into markets with established CMS was collected and managed.

ANTI-COUNTERFEITING & ILLEGAL TRADE OF PESTICIDES

Counterfeit and illegal pesticide products are a growing problem, presenting limited or no protection against pests but serious health and safety risks for farmers, environment, and economies. Counterfeiting undermines innovation and holds back the sustainable development of agricultural markets.

Illegal (or unregistered) pesticides are promoted through criminal activity. When products are banned, criminals exploit farmer recognition of the product for continued sales. This creates potential threats to agricultural productivity, human health, and the environment as risks are unknown and thus not managed for illegal products; likewise, product efficacy is uncertain, and often their use leads to non-compliant Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs).

CropLife International members undertake rigorous testing compliant with regulations before introducing any new products to ensure they are safe for farmers and the environment. We work with police, customs, and regulators for the implementation and

enforcement of the protection of regulatory data to ensure only authentic and registered crop protection products are traded and used in a safe, responsible manner. In a well-regulated market, crops treated with illegal pesticides stop at the farm gate.

OBSOLETE STOCKS

To save lives and livelihoods, pesticides are used to control crop pests and disease vectors. Usually, the systems for procuring, distributing, and using pesticides work effectively, but sometimes there is an over-purchase of pesticide stocks. When pesticide products cannot be used before they reach their expiration date, they are termed obsolete stocks.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **6,500 metric tonnes** of obsolete stocks were safely removed and destroyed with CropLife funding across 16 African countries through the Africa Stockpiles Program between 2005-2020.
- An additional 1,700 metric tonnes were destroyed between 2020-2022, for a total of **8,200 tonnes.**

Since 2003, CropLife has committed to the management of obsolete pesticide stocks, particularly stocks that were purchased to control locusts but were then not required and could not be repurposed. Most of these stockpiles are owned by national government departments or agencies that do not have the resources or expertise to manage their safe disposal.

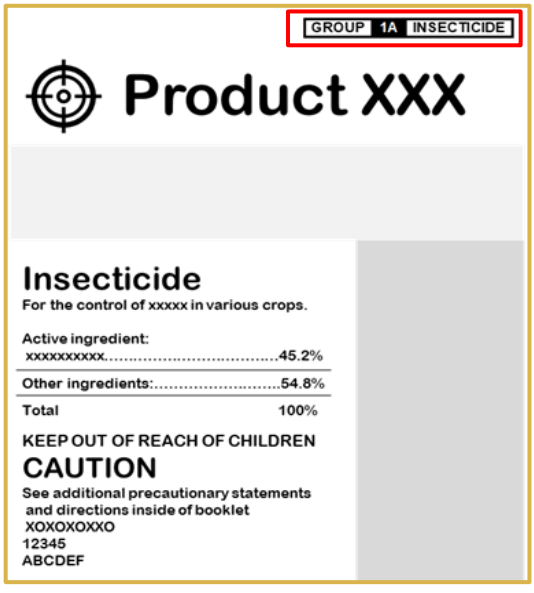
CropLife International has been working in a voluntary capacity in various countries to facilitate obsolete stocks disposal projects. This has involved working with donors and partners to inventory, safeguard, and destroy remaining obsolete stocks, in particular those that originated from CropLife International member companies.

RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT

Resistance management integrates multiple pest control strategies to reduce the ability of pests to develop tolerance or resistance to pesticides or host plant resistance, which leads to increased costs and less effective crop protection. Resistance management requires farmers to have access to a toolbox of a range of crop protection tools.

Resistance management approaches include IPM, but when pesticides *are* used, it is important that the user considers its mode of action (MoA). A pesticide's MoA is the way in which the active ingredient works to control the target pest. The more frequently farmers use the same MoA, the more likely resistance will occur. Therefore, farmers need to have access to pesticides with different MoAs against the same pest, disease, or

SAMPLE MODE OF ACTION LABEL



weed and deploy these according to guidance to reduce the likelihood of the pest developing resistance.

To effectively manage resistance, farmers need to be aware of a pesticide's MoA. But until 2017, MoA labelling was only a legal requirement in Australia.

In 2017, CropLife International members made a voluntary commitment to include MoA information on all product labels by 2023, where legally permissible. The label icons are a clear and simple method to inform pesticide retailers and users about the type of pesticide and its mode of action group.

Farmers need MoA information about all products, not just those from CropLife International member companies. Therefore, our Stewardship Strategy 2025 target was to support regulators in 25 countries to develop mandatory or de facto mandatory MoA labelling using a standard approach. By the end of 2022, MoA labelling was implemented in 18 countries, with regulators in a further eight countries verbally committing to do the same in 2023.

Alongside the creation of a suite of tools to promote MoA labelling, CropLife International, through its Resistance Action Committees (RACs), supports mode of action classifications, collection of information on the development of resistance, and research on agronomic practices to manage resistance for key pests. RACs provide outreach to scientific audiences as well as outreach to farmers.

RESISTANCE ACTION COMMITTEES

- Insecticide Resistance
- Fungicide Resistance
- Rodenticide Resistance
- Herbicide Resistance

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) developed a voluntary International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides to provide standards for pesticide activities until countries have developed adequate national regulatory infrastructures for pesticides.

The original FAO Code was published in 1985; the most recent version, published in 2013, gives extended attention to health and environmental aspects of pesticides and highlights the risks posed by Highly Hazardous Pesticides and the need for mitigation. This version was renamed the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (ICoC) and endorsed by the WHO Executive Board and jointly published by FAO and WHO under the auspices of the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

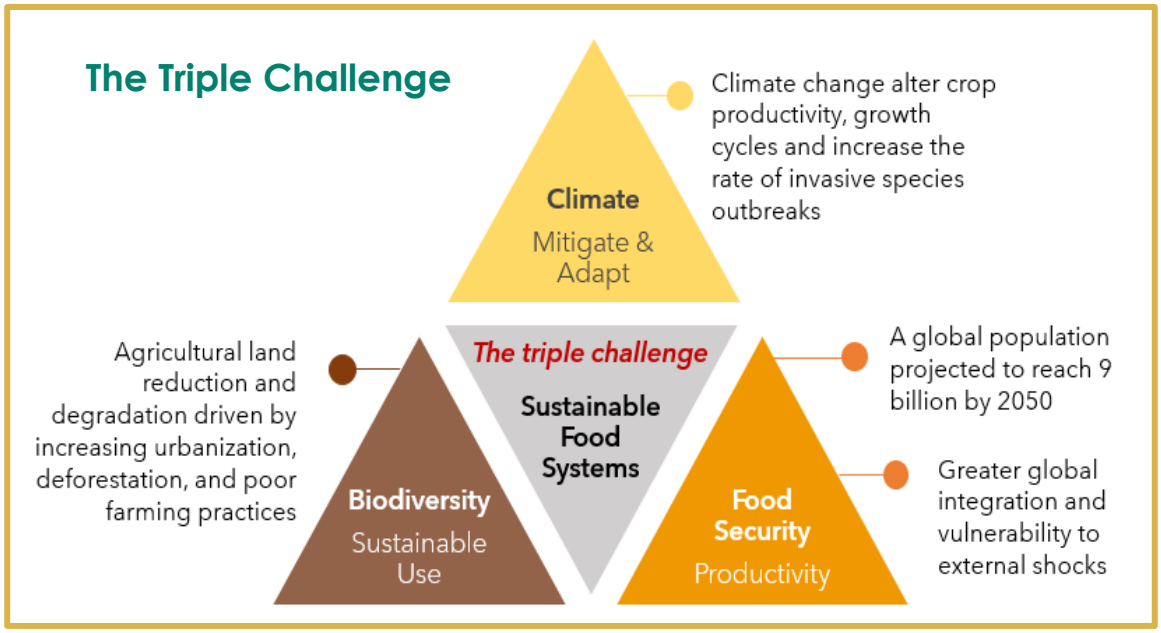
Recently, CropLife International developed a Guide for Industry on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. In the first section of the booklet, each article of the ICoC is reproduced in full, along with a summary and examples of current activities undertaken by the industry in support of the Code. The second part of the booklet summarizes the available guidance for those involved in specific activities in the production, marketing, development, and registration of crop protection products. Appendices provide relevant international instruments that support the Code, FAO/WHO guidelines that underlie the code, as well as guidelines and materials produced by CropLife International in accordance with our stewardship arc.

CropLife International supports its members and global network of associations in training their teams on the updated Code, including through an eLearning course, which more than 5,700 individuals have completed. All CropLife associations require adherence to the Code as a condition of membership.

SUSTAINABLE PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework (SPMF) is a five-year holistic program in support of sustainable and responsible use of pesticides deployed in nine countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Pesticides play a critical role in the face of today's global food systems beset with the triple challenge of climate change, biodiversity loss, and food security. This is even more crucial in low- and middle-income countries and tropical climates, where the impact of crop losses on food security and farmer livelihoods can be particularly severe. However, pesticides can also pose a risk to human and environmental health, especially with regard to Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs). A key element of SPMF is to strengthen risk management so as to drive down any negative impacts.



The SPMF program is underpinned by the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and aims to accelerate its implementation in low and middle-income countries. Recognizing the extensive scope and resource-intensive needs to implement the Code, the multi-year program serves to provide the countries with the necessary technical and financial capacity to establish an integrated framework that fulfills the Code's wide scope for sustainable pesticide management.

Finally, SPMF is guided by the principles of shared responsibility and partnerships to contribute to wide-scale implementation and effect long-term change. This includes host country government stakeholders and local delivery partners, as well as international non-governmental organizations and donors. Successful implementation will require a

coordinated effort, and the SPMF actively forge these collaborations as we work toward a transformational approach to pesticide management.

Three Pillars of the SPMF		
Reduce reliance on HHPs and demonstrate change	**Increase innovation**	**Responsible and effective use**
Establish systematic and science-based risk assessment, mitigation and monitoring approaches and capacity and develop sustainable transition periods for phase-out including controls for illegal trade	This pillar is focused on developing regulations as the basis for market access, safety, and compliance for new innovations to enhance a farmer's toolbox. Innovations may include product alternatives whether they are newer chemical solutions or non-chemical innovations such as biological pesticides to accelerate the transition from HHPs, application technology alternatives such as drones or system technologies such as the digitization of public IT systems for pesticide registration, stewardship training, and data traceability that improve efficiency and effectiveness of pesticide management.	This pillar focuses on ensuring responsible and effective use across all touchpoints of a pesticide and mitigating its risks along the supply chain. SPMF aims to scale up training at the distribution level including retailers, farmers at the user level as well as at the disposal stage on safe and responsible use. It will also invest efforts in developing logistical infrastructures for empty pesticide container collection and disposal.

REGULATORY CAPACITY BUILDING

CropLife International is engaged in building capacity for risk assessment, mitigation, and management for regulators and users in low-income countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Tools are developed in partnership with local authorities and CropLife regional associations and are used in dedicated workshops with country regulators and other relevant stakeholders. All trainings follow and support the FAO's Pesticide Registration Toolkit.

Workshops include the promotion of GHS implementation; in this regard, CropLife International joined the global alliance established at the SAICM IP3 meeting in Bangkok to accelerate the implementation of GHS by all countries under the new global chemical framework to be endorsed at ICCM5 in September 2023.

Since ICCM4, regulatory capacity building also includes specific activities and modules relating to HHPs management, developed to support local companies in the CropLife network to raise awareness of the issue, how to identify HHPs, and about related risk management approaches including the use of alternative solutions or the improvement or restriction of existing uses when necessary. Likewise, workshops have been held with the West and East African communities and in Thailand to support mainstreaming of the HHP policy issue among different governmental departments, e.g., environment, agriculture, and health ministries, one of the key enablers to drive inclusive policy approaches that require multisectoral perspectives.

BIODIVERSITY & POLLINATORS



CropLife International members are committed to improving sustainability in agriculture through innovation, engagement with farmers, and in partnership with a variety of stakeholders including academia, governments, industry collaborations, NGOs, and other companies with expertise related to biodiversity.

In 2020, a membership survey was undertaken to provide an overview of actions and programs addressing the triple challenge of achieving food security and improving crop productivity while improving biodiversity and mitigating the effects of climate change. A subsequent report on these activities relating to biodiversity and climate was published in 2021. A 2022 addendum to the original report provides a more detailed overview of activities specific to the support and protection of pollinators. Both reports are part of CropLife International`s commitment to the Sharm el Sheik action agenda called upon by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Many new and future agricultural innovations, as well as the convergence of these innovations, offer significant potential for improving biodiversity, while addressing the climate problem without sacrificing agricultural productivity. The adoption of these innovations can achieve these ambitions without converting more land to agriculture and result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Both reports provide specific examples of how industry is engaging in global discussions related to the development and implementation of a global biodiversity framework, and details on how these innovations and best management practices can increase crop productivity while decreasing the environmental impact of their use.

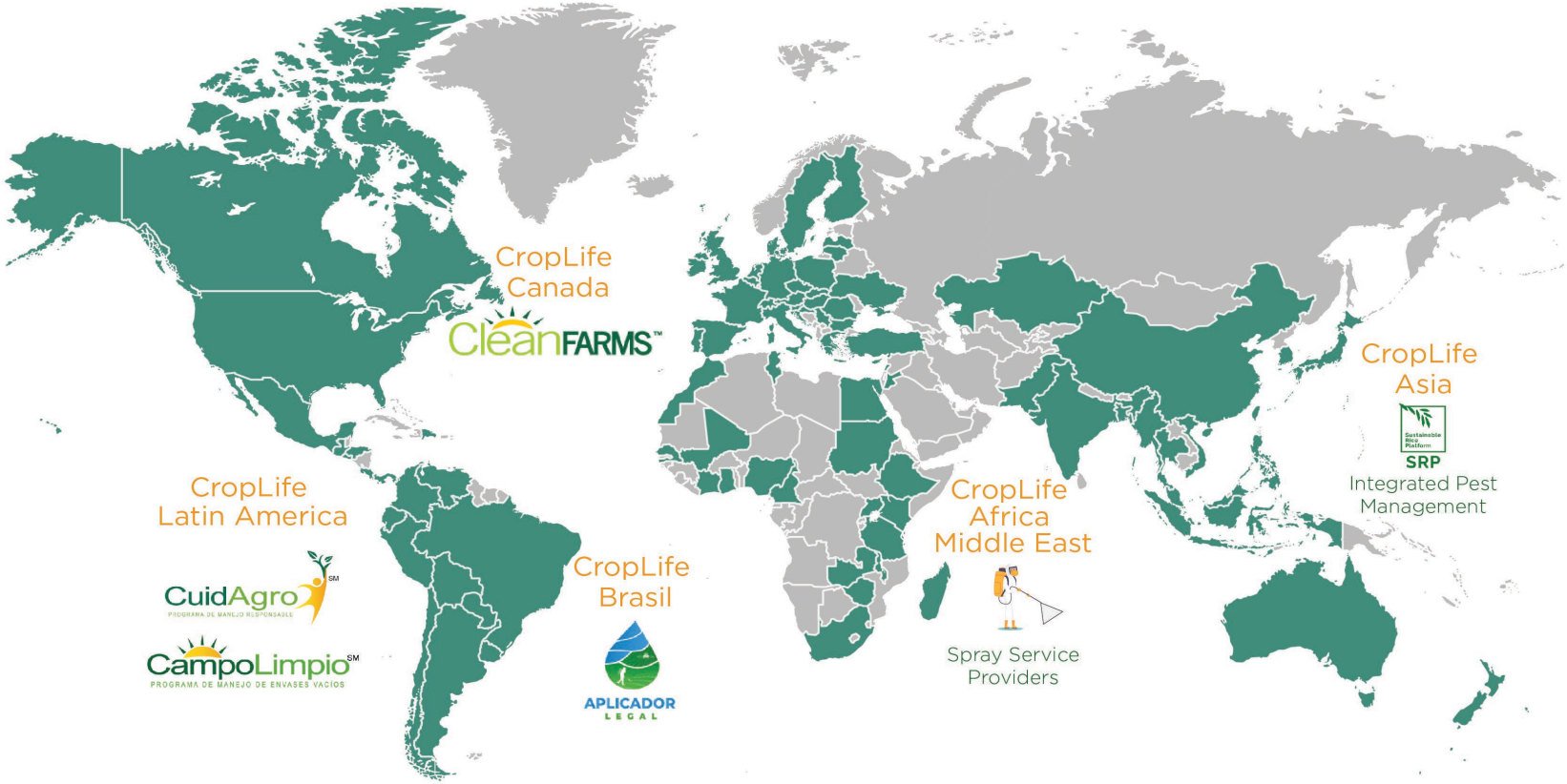
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CROPLIFE INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR IP 4.3 & ICCM5

- CropLife International (CLI) is fully committed and supportive of ambitious policy goals by the Beyond 2020 chemicals and waste management framework.
- We understand and embrace the importance of including multi-sectoral perspectives in the development of coherent policy approaches. As such, we appreciate the opportunity to provide our insights to IP 4.3 and ICCM5.
- The overview provided by this INF document demonstrates the breadth of activities conducted and supported by CropLife International and its network in relation to chemicals management.
- These activities are well aligned with objectives A to E of the new instrument, e.g., Capacity Building, Knowledge transfer and accessibility, Addressing issues of concern, Enabling safer alternatives and approaches, and Waste management.
- We believe that these objectives remain critical for progress and the success of global chemicals management. In this regard, we fully support the proposal made by the International Council of Chemicals Associations (ICCA) to establish a Capacity Building Hub (CB Hub).
- This Hub could further support the identification of priorities and synergies among different stakeholders, including governments, as well as act as a transparent resource for the many activities already undertaken by the industry to support global chemicals management.

ANNEX: OVERVIEW OF SELECTED CROPLIFE STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS & PROGRAMS

In 2021, the CropLife global network and member companies trained **19.4 million farmers** in good stewardship practices and raised awareness with an additional **12.4 million**, bringing the total outreach for the year to **31.8 million individuals**.



Global

Drone Management: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are increasingly being used by large- and small-scale farmers for mapping, crop surveillance and scouting, pesticide application, monitoring irrigation, and monitoring grazing livestock. Their use offers not only substantial labor-saving opportunities, but if handled properly, more targeted application, increased risk management in many agricultural situations. With this increasing use comes the need to ensure appropriate stewardship measures are put in place to maximize benefits while minimizing risks. CropLife International, recognizing the importance of stewardship in crop protection, developed Guidance for Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for Application of Crop Protection Products.

Africa Middle East

Spray Service Providers (SSPs) are professionally trained crop protection businesses. They scout for pests, promote IPM, and, if crop protection products are required, know the correct product to control the pest and how to manage risks in its handling and application. They also promote resistance management approaches and the responsible management of empty pesticide containers. The SSP model has been successfully used in several African countries, such as Madagascar – where almost 300 rice farmers have made use of SSP services, and Zambia – where 1,250 SSPs have helped almost 10,000 farmers. But the big leap forward came from West Africa, where CropLife Africa Middle East partnered with the World Cocoa Foundation to train SSPs in the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, and Cameroon. The project trained more than 3,000 SSPs who can now reach more than 50,000 farmers every year.

Asia

Integrated Pest Management: In partnership with GIZ, CropLife Asia trained more than 100,000 rice farmers in best practices in IPM and climate smart agriculture in Thailand and Vietnam. Given that Asia produces more than 90% of the world's rice – a staple crop for billions of people – sustainable pesticide management on this critical crop is paramount. With support from government bodies and local NGOs, GIZ and CropLife developed new IPM training manuals for farmers and retailers, focusing on current challenges in rice production. These materials are now being promoted by the Departments of Agriculture in Vietnam and Thailand and are a key component of the pest management toolbox of the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP). The SRP standard has been achieved by more than 420,000 farmers in 21 countries.

Canada

CleanFARMS is one of many global brands that represent container management, other agricultural plastics, and obsolete stock programs around the world. The brand is essentially a mark, signifying programs that are supported by the global CropLife network. Originally developed by CropLife Canada, the brand has been extended to members of the global CropLife network that are implementing or have existing container management programs in

operation. They have also expanded to collect and manage other agricultural plastics, including seed and fertilizer bags. The mark can be utilized to create awareness in program resources including print, press releases, websites, and other materials. Learn more.

Brazil

Incorrect application is the main cause of pesticide incidents in Brazil. To address this, CropLife Brazil is working with partners across the sector to provide uniform, government-approved training for all 2 million pesticide applicators in the country by 2026. Working with SENAR, CropLife Brazil is currently compiling a "dream team" of experts to train about 1,000 instructors — mostly agronomists — who will in turn train the applicators, employing a combination of digital and in-person instruction to broaden their reach. In addition to chemical pesticides, CropLife Brazil is also providing stewardship support on the use of biological control agents and exploring their deployment with drones.

Latin America

CuidAgro promotes good agricultural practices through education and training on responsible use of pesticides, including the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment and principles of Integrated Pest Management. In Guatemala, this management of risks has led to almost no poisoning incidents being recorded by their poison information center. In cooperation with partners from the Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture, universities, non-governmental organizations, and agricultural associations, more than 264,500 people were trained under CuidAgro in 2022.

CampoLimpio is the region's container management program, with nearly 8,000 collection centers across 18 countries. In 2022, 81,500 tons of empty containers were recovered in Latin America; 78% of the plastic recovered was recycled and transformed into new products such as plastic lumber, drainage pipes, and fence posts. The remainder was sent to a kiln for energy recovery and co-processing.

Stories from the Field

- Herbicides Replace Injurious Hand-Weeding in Africa
- Progress Through Partnerships in Honduras
- Avocado: The Green Gold of Mexico
- Colombia Coffee: A Story of Good Agricultural Practices
- A Chilean Blueberry Story
- Cocoa in West Africa: Training Through Local Partnerships

UNITED NATIONS

UNEP

SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/18

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

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Item 5(a) of the provisional agenda

The Sixth Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) Report - Setting Bold Chemical Footprint Reduction Goals

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by Clean Production Action on "*The Sixth Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) Report - Setting Bold Chemical Footprint Reduction Goals*". Annex 1 contains an explanatory note and executive summary of the document as submitted by Clean Production Action and annex 2 contains the full document.

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Clean Production Action is submitting a report titled "**The Sixth Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) Report - Setting Bold Chemical Footprint Reduction Goals**." This document provides empirical evidence on the assessment of corporate progress towards safer alternatives and measuring chemical footprints. It is noteworthy that companies that participate in the Chemical Footprint Project continuously demonstrate their ability to significantly reduce the use of hazardous chemicals. As such, **Clean Production Action encourages businesses to set goals to reduce their chemical footprint by at least 50% by 2030, and to achieve a zero-chemical footprint by 2040.**

The "**Sixth Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) Report - Setting Bold Chemical Footprint Reduction Goals"** saw the participation of companies from seven business sectors with over $1 trillion in annual revenue. These companies collectively reported an impressive chemical footprint reduction of 83.4 million pounds/37.8 million kilograms in a year. Walmart, one of the world's largest retailers, exceeded its 10% chemical footprint reduction goal in formulated products by achieving a 17% reduction. Furthermore, they also encouraged their suppliers to set impactful chemical footprint reduction goals. Reckitt, a major consumer goods company and retailer supplier with popular brands including Lysol, Woolite, and Calgon, has announced their ambitious target of a 65% reduction in their chemical footprint by 2030. In addition, investors are increasingly utilizing the Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) as a leadership framework in their benchmarking assessments and shareholder resolutions. Finally, the US Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) proxy voting disclosure requirements for institutional investment managers now list "chemical footprint" among the examples for "Environment or climate" reporting requirements. These developments indicate the growing importance of chemical footprint reduction and the need for businesses to take proactive steps towards achieving this goal and setting global targets in chemical footprint reduction.



CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT PROJECT

2021 SURVEY RESULTS
OUR SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

SETTING BOLD CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT REDUCTION GOALS

cfp the chemical footprint project

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the chemical
footprint project

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 6th Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) report.

CFP is a program of Clean Production Action and was co-founded by the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, the consultancy Pure Strategies, and Clean Production Action.

CFP includes two major initiatives for identifying and moving away from the use of chemicals of high concern (CoHCs) towards safer solutions. One initiative is the **CFP Survey**, a holistic assessment of where an organization is in its efforts to move beyond regulatory compliance towards best practices in chemicals management. The other initiative is the **chemical footprint metric**, a quantitative measure of the production and use of CoHCs. The chemical footprint metric is embedded into the CFP Survey and provides a means for companies to set goals, quantify their use of CoHCs, and measure progress.

In this report you will find:

- **WHY now is the time to set bold goals for chemical footprint reductions.**
- **WHY investors want companies to disclose their chemical risks and how they advocate for greater transparency.**
- **WHO the CFP Signatories are.**
- **AN OVERVIEW of the CFP Survey and the Chemical Footprint Metric.**
- **WHO participated in the 2021 CFP Survey.**
- **THE 2021 CFP SURVEY RESULTS. This part of the document includes the steps to best practices in chemical safety, who the CFP Frontrunners and Disclosure Leaders are, and examples of best practices in chemicals management across the four pillars of the CFP Survey.**
- **HOW to take action and join the movement towards chemical footprint reduction.**

Now is the time to action to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals of Good Health and Well-Being (Goal 3), Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6), and Sustainable Consumption and Production (Goal 12). Chemical footprint reductions and safer solutions are critical to achieving these goals.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 6TH CFP REPORT

- Companies with over $1 trillion in annual revenue from seven business sectors participated in the 2021 CFP Survey. Over one year, they reported chemical footprint reductions of 83.4 million pounds/37.8 million kilograms.
- Walmart, one of the world's largest retailers, surpassed its 10% chemical footprint reduction goal in formulated products by achieving a 17% reduction and encouraged suppliers to set impactful chemical footprint goals.
- Reckitt, a major consumer goods company and retailer supplier with brands including Lysol, Woolite, and Calgon, announced it is "aiming for a 65% reduction in our chemical footprint by 2030."
- CFP Signatories including investors and retailers established the CFP Survey as a leadership framework in shareholder resolutions and benchmarking assessments.
- The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in its new proxy voting disclosure requirements for institutional investment managers listed "chemical footprint" among examples for "Environment or climate" reporting requirements.



NOW IS THE TIME FOR BOLD CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT REDUCTION GOALS

IF HUMANITY IS TO REDUCE THE EVER-INCREASING HARM caused by chemical pollution to people and the planet, businesses and governments need to set and implement bold goals to reduce their chemical footprint. Scientific studies documenting the widespread evidence that chemical pollution is reaching a tipping point and threatening the stability of global ecosystems essential to humanity continue to grow. We are now at a critical inflection point and need a paradigm shift to accelerate the transition to greener, safer, healthier, and more sustainable chemicals, materials, and products.

Persson et al., in their article titled, "Outside the Safe Operating Space of the Planetary Boundary for Novel Entities," concluded that "novel entities" now exceed the planetary boundary. "Novel entities" refers to "chemicals and other new types of engineered materials or organisms not previously known to the Earth systems as well as naturally occurring elements (for example, heavy metals) mobilized by anthropogenic activities." The authors of the study concluded that:

> **"The increasing rate of production and releases of larger volumes and higher numbers of novel entities with diverse risk potentials exceed societies' ability to conduct safety related assessments and monitoring. We recommend taking urgent action to reduce the harm associated with exceeding the boundary by reducing the production and releases of novel entities, noting that even so, the persistence of many novel entities and/or their associated effects will continue to pose a threat."**[1]

Studies and reports continue to highlight the harm associated with exceeding the planetary boundary for novel entities, especially chemical pollution. For example, the recent United Nations (UN) report, The Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment, noted that the "production of chemicals doubled between 2000 and 2017, and is expected to double again by 2030 and triple by 2050," resulting in "hundreds of millions of tons of toxic substances released into air, water and soil annually."[2]

Toxic chemicals, such as the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), known as the "forever chemicals," now have contaminated the entire planet, even remote areas in the Himalayas and Pacific and Atlantic oceans.[3] A recent article by Cousins, et al., concluded that the global spread of four perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs), a subset of PFAS, "in the atmosphere has led to the planetary boundary for chemical pollution being exceeded."[4]

TAKE ACTION

- **BRANDS, RETAILERS, & MANUFACTURERS**
  - commit to reducing your chemical footprint by at least 50% by 2030
  - participate in the 2023 CFP Survey chemicalfootprint.org
- **INVESTORS:** sign on as a CFP Signatory chemicalfootprint.org/value/be-a-signatory and join the Investor Environmental Health Network iehn.org
- **PURCHASERS & NGOs:** sign on as a CFP Signatory chemicalfootprint.org/value/be-a-signatory
- **All:** participate in the BizNGO Chemicals Management Work Group biznogo.org/safer-chemicals

chemical pollution is one of the three planetary crises confronting humanity along with climate change and biodiversity loss

"THE BOLD GOAL FOR CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT REDUCTION IS ZERO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

PFAS and other toxic chemicals cause significant adverse health effects to people across the planet. For example, "pollution and toxic substances cause at least 9 million premature deaths, double the number of deaths inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic during its first 18 months."[5]

For these reasons, chemical pollution is one of the three planetary crises confronting humanity along with climate change and biodiversity loss.[6] The chemical industry and chemical pollution, in turn, exacerbate climate change and biodiversity. In terms of climate change, the chemical industry itself is a significant consumer of fossil fuels, more than 10 percent of fossil fuels produced globally, and emitter of greenhouse gas emissions, an estimated 3.3 billion tons annually.[7] In terms of biodiversity loss, pollution and toxic substances are "one of the five main drivers of the catastrophic decline in biodiversity, with particularly negative impacts on pollinators, insects, freshwater and marine ecosystems (including coral reefs) and bird populations."[8]

In summary, the presence of hazardous chemicals in the environment and the resulting exposures to these substances are disrupting the stability of the planetary environment that sustained humanity for the past 10,000 years. Society passed the planetary boundary for hazardous chemicals and needs to bend the curve of production and use down immediately, especially to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, including:

- **Goal 3 — Good Health and Well-Being, Target 3.9:** substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination.
- **Goal 6 — Clean Water and Sanitation, Target 6.3:** by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
- **Goal 12 — Sustainable Consumption and Production, Target 12.4:** achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water, and soil to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

Given the overwhelming weight of evidence of harm caused by the production, use, disposal, and resultant exposure to hazardous chemicals, which are antithetical to achieving SDGs 3, 6, and 12, we conclude that **the bold goal for chemical footprint reduction is zero as soon as possible. Significant chemical footprint reductions are needed by 2030 to progress towards SDGs 3, 6, and 12. We encourage businesses to set chemical footprint reduction goals of at least 50% by 2030 and zero by 2040.**

"SIGNIFICANT CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT REDUCTIONS ARE NEEDED BY 2030 TO PROGRESS TOWARDS SDGS 3, 6, AND 12. WE ENCOURAGE BUSINESSES TO SET CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT REDUCTION GOALS OF AT LEAST 50% BY 2030 AND ZERO BY 2040."

Zero production and use of what the Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) defines as chemicals of high concern, or CoHCs, is the goal because:

- Substances that are a combination of persistent (P), bioaccumulative (B), mobile (M), or toxic — including persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT); very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB); very persistent and toxic (vPT); very bioaccumulative and toxic (vBT); persistent, mobile, and toxic (PMT); very persistent and very mobile (vPvM) — pose insurmountable management problems across their lifecycles. Any amount in the environment matters when a substance: persists in the environment because it degrades very slowly; bioaccumulates in organisms and biomagnifies up the food chain; is mobile through the soil, thereby making it more likely to leach to groundwater or runoff into lakes and rivers; and/or is toxic to people or the environment.
- For carcinogens there is no safe threshold: "For substances that are genotoxic and carcinogenic, the traditional assumption is that there may not be a threshold dose and that some degree of risk may exist at any level of exposure."[9]
- For endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) the thresholds of adversity can be very low or absent during early development.[10]

Governments are increasingly calling for and setting zero production and use goals for CoHCs. For example, The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) passed in 2001, exemplifies global alignment to the need to protect human health and the environment by eliminating the production and use of substances that are persistent, are bioaccumulative, have the potential for long-range environmental transport, and are toxic. More recently, the European Commission in its *Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability towards a Toxic-Free Environment* set goals of:

- Zero for toxic chemicals in consumer products, which include food packaging, toys, childcare products, cosmetics, detergents, furniture, and textiles. Toxic chemicals include those that cause cancers, gene mutations, affect the reproductive or endocrine system, or are persistent and bioaccumulative.[11]
- The elimination of PFAS with exceptions for essential uses: PFAS "require special attention, considering the large number of cases of contamination of soil and water — including drinking water — in the EU and globally, the number of people affected with a full spectrum of illnesses and the related societal and economic costs. That is why the Commission proposes a comprehensive set of actions to address the use of and contamination with PFAS. Those aim to ensure, in particular, that the use of PFAS is phased out in the EU, unless it is proven essential for society."[12]

Companies are using CFP's definition of a chemical footprint to measure progress towards a zero chemical footprint. CFP defines the **Chemical Footprint of an organization that sells tangible products as the total mass of chemicals of high concern (CoHCs) in:**

1. **products sold,**
2. **manufacturing operations**, for example, solvents used to clean parts in a manufacturing process, but do not become part of the product or are not intended to become part of the product,
3. **facilities' maintenance and upkeep,** for example, cleaning floors in a building,
4. **packaging,** and
5. **suppliers' manufacturing operations.**

The chemical footprint of organizations that do not sell tangible products is the total mass of CoHCs in products purchased. For example, see the Chemical Footprint of Products Commonly Used in Pediatrics report by Clean Production Action.[13]

As detailed below, companies participating in the CFP Survey demonstrate the actions that need to be taken to measure and reduce their chemical footprints.

DEFINITIONS...

Chemical footprint: total mass of chemicals of high concern (CoHCs) used by an event, organization, service, building, or product.

Chemical footprint of an organization: total mass of chemicals of high concern (CoHCs) in products sold by a company; used in its manufacturing operations, facilities, and by its suppliers; and contained in packaging.

Chemicals of High Concern (CoHCs): A carcinogen, mutagen, or developmental/reproductive toxicant; persistent, bioaccumulative (vPvB); or any other chemical for which there is scientific evidence of probable serious effects to human health or the environment that gives rise to an equivalent level of concern — such as endocrine disruption or neurotoxicity — or a chemical whose breakdown products result in a CoHC that meets any of the above criteria.

DISCLOSURE

INVESTORS SEEK DISCLOSURE OF HOW COMPANIES MANAGE CHEMICAL RISKS

How companies manage the reputational and regulatory risks of toxic chemicals in products, manufacturing, and supply chains is typically opaque. Very few companies publicly disclose how they manage chemicals beyond legal requirements, despite the increasing regulatory and reputational risks posed by toxic chemicals in products, manufacturing operations, and supply chains. Regulatory risks for toxic chemicals are rising rapidly as the European Union and state governments in the U.S. restrict toxic chemicals in products. For example, in the "US there are now 289 policies in 38 states, setting restrictions on the use of toxic chemicals in products."[14] In Europe, as highlighted above, the new Chemicals Strategy calls for eliminating all toxic chemicals in consumer products and phasing out all PFAS uses (with exceptions for essential uses).

Reputational risks include finding toxic chemicals, such as PFAS, in products, especially consumer goods. For example, in 2022, three apparel brands were called out for PFAS in their products: "LulaRoe, Lululemon, and Old Navy were among the brands that tested positive for PFAS."[15] In an interview with *Responsible Investor,* Susan Baker, director of shareholder advocacy at Trillium Asset Management, noted that "there's clear reputational risk if hazardous chemicals are found in some of their branded products." Susan addressed this issue when speaking of shareholder resolutions filed with Costco and Disney that asked the firms to publish quantitative and qualitative data on how they are eliminating chemicals of concern.[16]

While the **Sustainability Accounting and Standards Board (SASB)** has set key performance indicators (KPIs) for reporting on chemicals and materials of concern across sectors,[17] very few companies report to those KPIs and standard reporting requirements on how to report to SASB's KPIs are lacking.

The result, investors are asking companies to disclose how they manage chemical risks:

> *"Chemicals management poses material risks to companies, and to their investors,"* noted Larisa Ruoff, Director of Shareholder Advocacy, The Sustainability Group of Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge. *"Shareholders should have access to clear, comparable information on how companies are managing these risks. This is why investors are asking companies to measure, reduce and disclose their chemical footprints—just as they are doing for their carbon footprints,"* concluded Ruoff.[18]

Increasingly asset managers in the Investor Environmental Health Network, a program of Clean Production Action, are utilizing shareholder resolutions to increase corporate transparency on chemicals management practices. For example:

- **Dollar General:** "Shareholders request that the company reduce its chemical footprint by adopting new policies."[19]
- **Burlington Stores:** Shareholders request a report "describing if, and how, it plans to reduce its chemical footprint."[20]
- **Bed Bath & Beyond:** Shareholders request a report "on the outcomes of the Company's chemical reduction efforts by publishing quantitative and qualitative data on progress to eliminate the use of chemicals of concern."[21]
- **McDonald's:** Shareholders request a report "on the potential public health and/or environmental impacts of toxic materials used in food contact settings."[22]

Acknowledging the growing requests for reporting on chemical footprints, the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in its new proxy voting disclosure requirements for institutional investment managers listed "chemical footprint" among examples for "Environment or climate" reporting requirements. The SEC now requires among its proxy voting disclosure requirements the reporting of "All categories applicable to the matter voted on from the following list of categories," including "Environment or climate (examples: greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, transition planning or reporting, biodiversity or ecosystem risk, **chemical footprint** *[emphasis added]*, renewable energy or energy efficiency, water issues, waste or pollution, deforestation or land use, say-on-climate, environmental justice)."[23]

THE TREND IS CLEAR, INVESTORS WANT TO KNOW WHERE COMPANIES STAND IN THEIR CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT PRACTICES BEYOND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

CFP SIGNATORIES

Investors, health care organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments, and retailers want to know where companies are on their chemicals management journey. Signatories to CFP encourage companies in their sphere of influence to reduce their chemical footprint and participate in the CFP Survey, and provide feedback to Clean Production Action on how to improve the Survey. Become a Signatory at chemicalfootprint.org/value/be-a-signatory.

Health Care, Retail, & NGO Signatories

American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC)
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
ChemSec
CommonSpirit Health
Credo Beauty
CVS Health
Dollar Tree
Edward-Elmhurst Healthcare
Environmental Defense Fund
Fairview Health Services
Geisinger Health System
Hackensack Meridian Health
Inova Health Systems
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)
Kaiser Permanente
Mind the Store Campaign
Partners Healthcare
Premier, Inc.
Rite Aid
SAHTECH
Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families
San Francisco Department of Environment
St. Joseph Health
Staples
Target Corporation
The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
Trinity Health
University of Cantabria
University Hospitals
Vizient, Inc.
Walmart
Whole Foods Market
Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC)

CFP Investor Signatories

Adrian Dominican Sisters
Advocate Health Care
Anne Arundel Medical Group
Arjuna Capital
As You Sow Foundation
Athens Impact Socially Responsible Investments
Australian Ethical Investment
Aviva Investors
Bank J. Safra Sarasin Ltd.
Boston Common Asset Management
Calvert Research & Management
Carnegie Investment Counsel
Christopher Reynolds Foundation
Clean Yield Asset Management
Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise
Domini Impact Investments
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Everence and the Praxis Mutual Funds
Figure 8 Investment Strategies
First Affirmative Financial Network
Green Century Capital Management
Harrington Investments
Impax Asset Management
Investor Voice
JLens Investor Network
Legal & General Investment Management
Maryknoll Sisters
Mercy Health
Mercy Investment Services
Miller/Howard Investments
Natural Investments
Newground Social Investment
NorthStar Asset Management
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Parnassus Investments
Rhode Island Treasury
Signity Financial
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Sonen Capital
The Sustainability Group of Loring, Wolcott and Coolidge
Trillium Asset Management
Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk
Walden Asset Management
WHEB Asset Management
Zevin Asset Management

INVESTOR SIGNATORIES REPRESENT OVER $2 TRILLION IN ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT AND PROCUREMENT SIGNATORIES REPRESENT OVER $800 BILLION IN PURCHASING POWER.

INTRODUCTION

TO THE CFP SURVEY AND CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT METRIC



The Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) Survey is a holistic assessment of an organization's journey beyond regulatory compliance towards best practices in chemicals management. The Survey assesses organizations on four pillars of chemicals management:

- **Management Strategy:** evaluates the scope of corporate chemicals policies and their integration into business strategy, accountability, and employees' incentives for safer chemical use, as well as the company's external advocacy for safer chemical use.
- **Chemical Inventory:** evaluates the efforts a company makes to identify chemicals of high concern (CoHCs) in its products, the extent of chemical data collected from its suppliers, and its systems for managing chemical data and ensuring supplier compliance with its reporting requirements.
- **Footprint Measurement:** evaluates the goals that a company sets to reduce chemicals of high concern, its efforts to establish a baseline chemical footprint and measure progress, and its process for assessing and implementing safer alternatives.
- **Disclosure and Verification:** evaluates the extent to which a company publicly discloses the chemicals in its products beyond regulatory requirements, discloses its score and its answers to the CFP Survey questions, and whether a third party independently verified its Survey answers.

Across the four pillars are 19 questions worth a total of 103 points (see Table 1 below). Each question has multiple response options tiered from initial steps beyond compliance to best practices of leaders in the field. [24]

TABLE 1.
CFP 2021 Survey: Question Topics by Pillar (points per question)

CHEMICAL INVENTORY (I)
30 points

#	Topic	Points
I 1	Restricted Substances List (RSL) / Manufacturing RSL	5
I 2	RSL/MRSL Compliance	5
I 3	Data collection	5
I 4	Full chemical ingredient information	5
I 5	Data management	5
I 6	Supplier conformance	5

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (M)
20 points

#	Topic	Points
M 1	Chemicals policy	8
M 2	Business strategy	4
M 3	External engagement	4
M 4	Accountability	4

FOOTPRINT MEASUREMENT (F)
33 points

#	Topic	Points
F 1	Footprint reduction goal	6
F 2	Footprint measurement	8
F 3	Footprint change	10
F 4	Hazard assessment	3
F 5	Safer alternatives	6

DISCLOSURE & VERIFICATION (D)
20 points

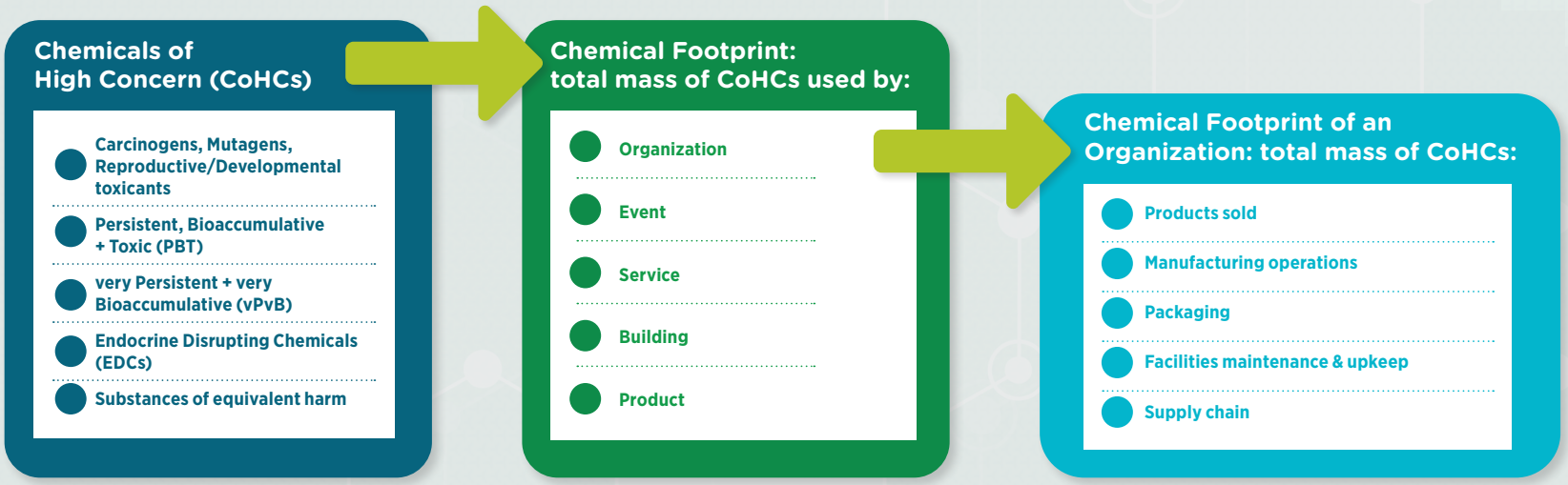
#	Topic	Points
D 1	Chemical ingredients	8
D 2	CFP responses	3
D 3	CFP score	5
D 4	Verification	4



The chemical footprint metric measures the production and use of chemicals of high concern to people and the planet. Core definitions critical to measuring a chemical footprint is the definitions of: 1) "chemical of high concern (CoHC);" 2) "chemical footprint;" and 3) "chemical footprint of an organization" (see the "Definitions" box on page 5). Figure 1 below illustrates how these definitions build upon and interconnect with each other. CoHCs define a chemical footprint. A chemical footprint can be measured at different units of analysis. One of those units of analysis is an "organization," which is the focus of the CFP Survey.

Questions F2 and F3 in the CFP Survey ask companies about chemical footprint measurement and progress in reducing chemical footprints. The CFP Survey specifies the chemicals for footprint measurement in the CFP CoHC Reference List.[25] The chemicals on the CFP CoHC Reference List meet the criteria of the CFP definition of CoHC and are identified using the GreenScreen® chemical hazard assessment methodology. Specifically, CFP CoHC Reference List chemicals are GreenScreen® Benchmark-1 and List Translator-1 chemicals.[26]

FIGURE 1.
Core Components of Measuring the Chemical Footprint of an Organization



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 6TH ANNUAL CFP SURVEY

List of Responders

Building Products & Furnishings: Andersen Corporation, Herman Miller, Inc., HNI Corporation, Naturepedic Organic Mattresses & Bedding, Shaw Industries

Chemical / Pharmaceutical: Anonymous (2)

Household & Personal Products: Anonymous (1), Beautycounter, Clorox, Colgate-Palmolive, Ecolab, GOJO Industries, Inc., Insignem Pte Ltd, Procter & Gamble, Reckitt Benckiser (Reckitt)

Medical Equipment & Suppliers: BD, Case Medical, Stryker Corporation

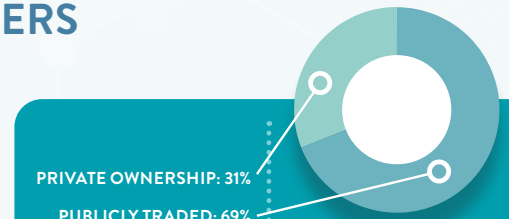
Retail: Ahold Delhaize USA, ALDI, Dollar Tree, Grove Collaborative, Rite Aid, Target, Walmart, Whole Foods

Technology: HP Inc.

Toys: Hasbro, Inc.

SURVEY RESPONDERS BY THE NUMBERS

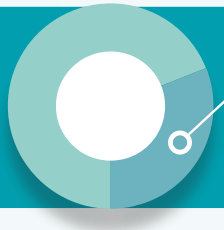
29 COMPANIES IN SURVEY



COMPANY OWNERSHIP



COMPANY SIZE



COMPANIES REPORTING ON PACKAGING (BETA): 31%



SURVEY EXPERIENCE

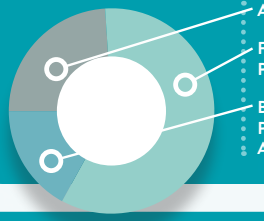
FRONTRUNNERS (24%): *scored greater than or equal to 80 points*

RETURNING RESPONDERS* (55%): *participated in more than one CFP Survey*

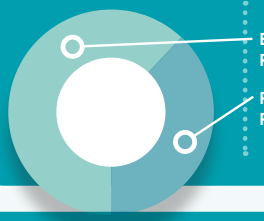
NEW RESPONDERS* (21%): *first-time participants in the Survey*

** Excepting those companies that are Frontrunners*

COMPANIES REPORTING ON...



COMPANIES REPORTING ON...

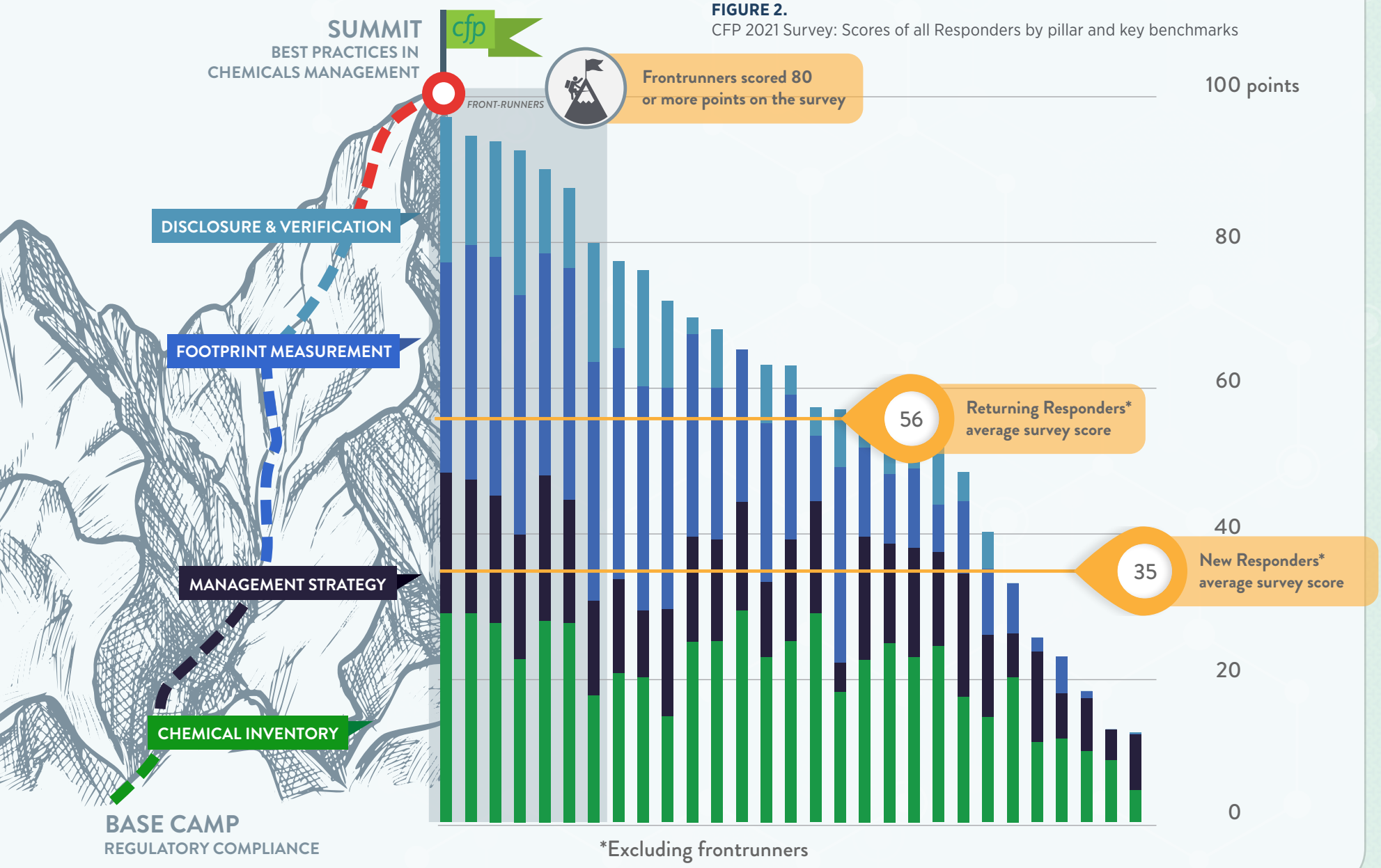


79% OF RESPONDERS ARE COMPANIES WITH MANUFACTURING

7 SECTORS

- BUILDING PRODUCTS & FURNISHINGS
- CHEMICAL / PHARMACEUTICAL
- HOUSEHOLD & PERSONAL PRODUCTS
- MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES
- RETAIL
- TECHNOLOGY
- TOYS

FIGURE 2.
CFP 2021 Survey: Scores of all Responders by pillar and key benchmarks





2021 RESULTS

EXAMINING THE SURVEY RESULTS: HOW OUR FRONTRUNNERS ARE DEFINING BEST PRACTICES IN CHEMICAL SAFETY

Frontrunners were the seven companies that scored 80 or more points out of the total 103 points in the 2021 Survey. They were a mix of New and Returning Responders. Frontrunners are future-proofing their organizations by developing and implementing chemical policies, practices, and procedures that go far beyond regulatory compliance, and therefore stay ahead of new regulations and consumer demands. **The Frontrunners from 2021 CFP Survey were Beautycounter, Case Medical, Herman Miller, HP, Insignem, Naturepedic, and Reckitt.**

The Frontrunners represented a mixture of small, medium, and large businesses selling articles and/or formulated products in four sectors:

- Building products and furnishings (articles): **Herman Miller** and **Naturepedic**
- Household and personal care products (formulated products): **Beautycounter**, **Insignem**, and **Reckitt**
- Medical equipment and supplies (articles and formulated products): **Case Medical**
- Technology (articles and formulated products): **HP**

Frontrunners scored significantly higher on average than Returning Responders and New Responders across all four pillars (see Figures 2 and 3).

Returning Responders were the 17 companies that participated in more than one CFP Survey and were not a Frontrunner. They averaged 56 points overall.

New Responders were the five companies that participated in the CFP Survey for the first time and were not a Frontrunner. They averaged 35 points overall.

New and Returning Responders scored highest on the Chemical Inventory and Management Strategy Pillars, lower on Footprint Measurement, and lowest on Disclosure & Verification. New and Returning Responders scored in parallel across

THE CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT PROJECT FRONTRUNNER AWARD

OUR 2021 FRONTRUNNER AWARD WINNERS

hp
reckitt
Insignem
HermanMiller
BEAUTYCOUNTER
Case Medical
naturepedic

most questions in the Survey, with Returning Responders generally scoring higher (see Figure 4).

New and Returning Responders scored on average the highest for Chemical Inventory followed by Management Strategy and Footprint Measurement, and the lowest for Disclosure & Verification. Frontrunners on the other hand scored highest for Footprint Measurement, followed by Management Strategy and Chemical Inventory, and lowest for Disclosure & Verification. Frontrunners scored highly across the entire Survey, with their highest score in Footprint Measurement indicating a clear organizational commitment to chemical and product safety.

Disclosure Leaders were the 10 companies that agreed to publicly disclose their CFP responses (Question D2) and CFP score (Question D3). CFP created the Disclosure Leader award to recognize companies that overcome the challenges of publicly sharing their chemical safety journey by disclosing both their responses and score on the CFP website at chemicalfootprint.org/results/disclosure-leaders. The ten Disclosure Leaders from the 2021 Survey were: **Beautycounter, BD, Case Medical, GOJO, Grove Collaborative, Herman Miller, HP, Insignem, Naturepedic, and Walmart** (see Disclosure & Verification Pillar).

STEPS TO BEST PRACTICES IN CHEMICAL SAFETY

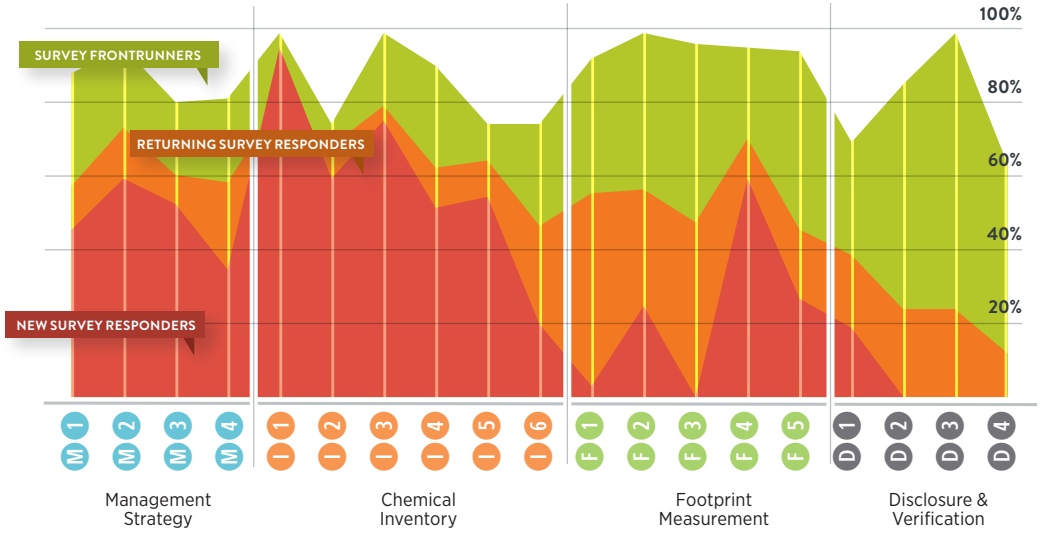
The 2021 CFP Survey results revealed how companies move from the first steps beyond regulatory compliance to best practices:

- Create a restricted substances list (RSL) or manufacturing RSL (MRSL).
- Know the chemicals in products and engage suppliers (Chemical Inventory Pillar).
- Develop company-wide chemicals management policies and practices beyond regulatory compliance (Management Strategy Pillar).
- Demonstrate action and change with chemical footprint goals, measurement, and reductions, and safer solutions (Footprint Measurement Pillar).
- Be transparent (Disclosure & Verification Pillar).

FIGURE 3.
CFP 2021 Survey: New Responders, Returning Responders, and Frontrunners
average scores for each pillar and all four pillars combined (percent of possible points scored)



FIGURE 4.
CFP 2021 Survey: New Responders, Returning Responders, and Frontrunners
average scores for each question in the Survey (percent of possible points scored)



2021 RESULTS

THE CHEMICAL INVENTORY PILLAR (I)

RSLS/MRSLS WERE THE MOST POPULAR ACTION IN THE SURVEY

In the 2021 CFP Survey, almost all responders had a restricted substances list (RSL) for chemicals in products or a manufacturing RSL (MRSL) for chemicals used in manufacturing operations (Question I1). In fact, RSLs/MRSLs were the highest scoring response in the Survey. Responders to the 2021 Survey scored higher for Question I1 than for any other question in the Survey with 92% of total points achieved (see Figure 4, Question I1).

An RSL/MRSL is a list of chemicals companies do not allow in products/manufacturing operations above a certain threshold. Suppliers are required to meet the RSL/MRSL criteria. Companies also create other lists of chemicals they recommend, but do not require, suppliers to eliminate. These lists can go by different names, such as a "priority chemical list" or "watch list." See model examples of comprehensive RSLs, MRSLs, and priority chemical lists from CFP Responders on the next page.

Beyond Question I1, the higher scores in the Chemical Inventory Pillar for New and Returning Responders in comparison to other Pillars in the Survey, highlighted how taking action to know chemicals in products and engage suppliers in disclosing chemical ingredient information are common initial steps beyond RSLs. Based on the average scores of New and Returning Responders from highest to lowest in the Chemical Inventory Pillar, companies prioritized Data Collection (Question I3), followed by RSL/MRSL Compliance (Question I2), Data Management (Question I5), and Full Chemical Ingredient Information (Question I4), with a steeper drop-off in activities concerning Supplier Conformance (Question I6) (see Figure 4).

A critical action in the Chemical Inventory Pillar is Collecting Full Chemical Ingredient Information (Question I4). In addition, companies need to know the chemicals in their products to calculate their chemical footprint (Question F2). Frontrunners scored high for both Questions I4 and F2, while New Responders and Returning Responders scored much lower for I4 and for F2 (see Figure 5).

COMPANIES NEED TO KNOW THE CHEMICALS IN THEIR PRODUCTS TO CALCULATE THEIR CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT.

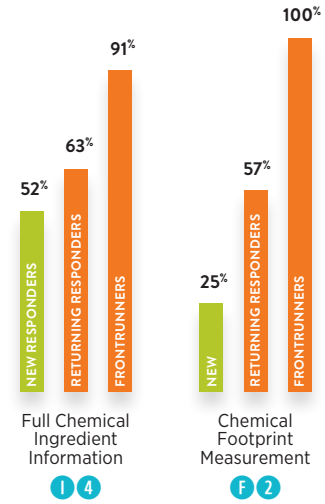


FIGURE 5.
CFP 2021 Survey Scores: New Responders, Returning Responders, and Frontrunners for Full Chemical Ingredient Information (Question I4) and Chemical Footprint Measurement (Question F2) (percent of total points achieved for each question)

BEST PRACTICES, CHEMICAL INVENTORY

RSLS/MRSLS/PRIORITY CHEMICAL LISTS (QUESTION I1)

MODEL EXAMPLES OF COMPREHENSIVE RSLS, MRSLS, AND PRIORITY CHEMICAL LISTS FROM CFP RESPONDERS

Beautycounter: "we've committed to a health and safety standard that goes well beyond what is legally required in the United States. The Never List™ is made up of more than 1,800 questionable or harmful chemicals that we never use as ingredients in our products. This includes the over 1,400 chemicals banned or restricted in personal care products by the European Union, plus additional chemicals screened by Beautycounter and found to be of concern." Chemical classes include: coal tar ingredients, ethanolamines, parabens, phthalates, polyethylene glycol (PEG) compounds, and synthetic fragrances or flavorings.

Herman Miller: "we are focused on removing chemicals of concern from our products and ensuring they are not used in our new products. To do this, we have developed a Herman Miller Restricted List of Chemicals based on voluntary building standards, product certifications, and applicable regulations." Chemicals and chemical classes prioritized for elimination include: antimicrobials, formaldehyde, halogenated flame retardants, heavy metals and heavy metal compounds, methylene chloride, organotins, perfluorinated compounds, phthalate plasticizers, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.

Naturepedic: Does not use flame barriers, flame retardants, formaldehyde, pesticides, phthalates, polyurethane foam, and PVC; and meets standards that have RSLs, including: Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), Made Safe, and GreenGuard® Gold.

HP's *Standard 011 General Specification for the Environment* lists restricted chemicals by product type and includes reference(s) for the listing. References include: European Union regulations, California Proposition 65, U.S. Toxics Substances Control Act, Norway Product regulations, Japan Chemical Substance Control Law, and State of Maine law. Chemical classes include: benzidine based dyes, beryllium compounds, dibutyltin compounds, halogenated flame retardants, heavy metals and their compounds (arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury), isocyanates, ozone depleting substances, perfluoroalkyl carboxylic acids (PFCAs) C9–C14, perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS), phenylmercury and compounds, polychlorinated naphthalenes, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and phthalates.

Target has two priority chemical lists:

- **Formulated Products Target Priority Chemical List (TPCL)** that is "built into business processes to incentivize and design products that are better for people and the planet." Chemical classes include: alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEs); coal tar ingredients; ethanolamines and ethanolamides; formaldehyde donors; fragrances — nitro musks, polycyclic musks, and other fragrances; glycol ethers; nitrilotriacetic acid and salts, nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs); parabens; PFAS; phthalates; siloxanes; solvents (xylene, toluene); and UV absorbers.
- **Textile Chemical RSL/MRSL:** The RSL applies to all owned brand products for Target and includes clothing and non-clothing (furniture, bedding, footwear, umbrellas, etc.), textiles. The RSL includes heavy metals, long chain perfluorinated alkyl carboxylates, PFOA/PFOS, and phthalates. The MRSL applies to owned brand textile supply chains only and includes: clothing, accessories, footwear, bedding, bath, and kitchen textiles; and factory dyeing/finishing forward. Target uses ZDHC's MRSL for textile chemicals.

Walmart Reference Lists of Priority Chemicals: These "authoritative and regulatory lists may be used as resources to identify Walmart Priority Chemicals for reduction, restriction, or elimination in accordance with Walmart's Commitment to Sustainable Chemistry in Consumables." The reference lists are from the European Union, International Agency for Research on Cancer, UN Environment Programme, US EPA, US National Toxicology Program, and States of California, Maine, Minnesota, and Washington.

2021 RESULTS

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PILLAR (M)

"A COMPREHENSIVE CHEMICALS POLICY INDICATES THE CAPACITY AND WILLINGNESS TO SET AND ACHIEVE BOLD CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT REDUCTION GOALS."

Two key performance indicators of best practices in chemicals management are the comprehensiveness of an organization's Chemicals Policy (Question M1) and Accountability Measures (Question M4). Figure 6 illustrates how the comprehensiveness of chemicals policies and accountability measures increases from New and Returning Responders to Frontrunners.

Chemical Policies: Question M1

Corporate policies set the organizational direction for chemicals management. Thus, **a comprehensive chemicals policy indicates the capacity and willingness to set and achieve bold chemical footprint reduction goals.** A comprehensive chemicals policy:

- Addresses chemicals of high concern and safer alternatives in:
  - products,
  - packaging,
  - supply chains,
  - facilities, and
  - manufacturing (if applicable).
- Takes a hazard-based approach to prioritizing chemicals of concern and identifying safer alternatives.
- Is publicly available.

Eight companies scored seven or more points on their chemicals policy. Those eight were a diverse mix of small to very large companies across five different sectors. Two examples of comprehensive chemical policies are HP's "Materials and Chemical Management Policy"[27] and Walmart's "Sustainable Chemistry Commitment"[28] for formulated products (see below).

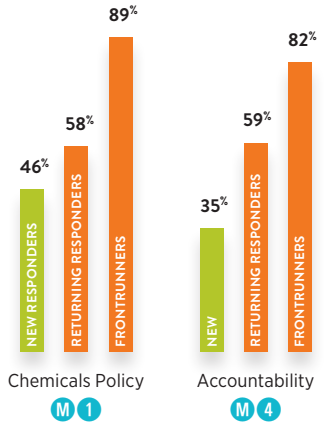


FIGURE 6.
CFP 2021 Survey Scores: New Responders, Returning Responders, and Frontrunners for Chemicals Policy (Question M1) and Accountability (Question M4) (percent of total points achieved for each question)

HP USES "A PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH" TO "REDUCE HAZARD BY REPLACING A CHEMICAL OF CONCERN WITH A LESS HAZARDOUS ALTERNATIVE"

Accountability Measures: Question M4

Question M4 addresses the comprehensiveness of corporate accountability measures for chemicals management, including:

- job descriptions and individual annual performance metrics,
- senior management responsibilities,
- financial incentives for senior management, and
- Board engagement.

"COMPANIES NEED TO SET GOALS, MEASURE THEIR FOOTPRINT, AND DOCUMENT PROGRESS TOWARDS SAFER CHEMICALS IF SOCIETY IS TO MEET SDGS 3, 6, AND 12."

Eight companies scored full points for M4, with a mixture of company sizes (small to very large), sectors (four), and a variety of formulated products and articles. Examples of accountability measures from public disclosures include:

- **Reckitt:** "We have reporting lines for Safety and Quality to our Global Executive Committee and Board sub-committee. This gives strong accountability, governance, and oversight, supported by an independent internal audit programme."[31]
- **HP:** "We are committed to ensuring the principles outlined in this policy are integrated into our business operations. This includes conducting assessments, defining performance goals and metrics, reviewing results with senior management regularly, and publicly reporting on our continual improvement in areas covered by this policy."[32]

Corporate accountability measures and policies institutionalize proactive chemicals management initiatives and leave companies less vulnerable to these initiatives not being implemented after internal corporate champions depart the company.

BEST PRACTICES, CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

EXAMPLES OF COMPREHENSIVE CHEMICALS POLICIES: HP AND WALMART

HP's policy meets all the key attributes of a comprehensive chemicals policy by making it publicly available and clearly stating that:

- It applies to: "materials and chemicals for use in products, packaging, and manufacturing processes"; and "all HP employees and businesses worldwide, and also extends to HP's suppliers."
- The organization will:
  - "proactively evaluate materials and chemicals in HP's products and supply chain, and prioritize them for restriction;"
  - "determine the hazard characteristics of chemical constituents and formulations in products, packaging, and manufacturing processes;" and
  - use "a precautionary approach, reduce hazard by replacing a chemical of concern with a less hazardous alternative."[29]

Similarly, Walmart's "Sustainable Chemistry Commitment" meets the key attributes of a comprehensive chemicals policy specifically for formulated products by making it publicly available and clearly stating that the company will:

- "Annually participate in the Chemical Footprint Project."
- Encourage "all suppliers to provide full online public ingredient disclosure for formulated consumable items sold at Walmart U.S. and Sam's Club U.S. stores" because "customers increasingly want to know more about the ingredients in their products."
- Advance safer formulations by embracing the "use of the principles of green chemistry" and encouraging "informed substitution by suppliers and manufacturers to mitigate, reduce, and eliminate potential hazards associated with product formulations."
- "Reduce the consumables chemical footprint of Walmart U.S. and Sam's Club U.S. stores by 10 percent" by 2022.[30]

2021 RESULTS

FOOTPRINT MEASUREMENT PILLAR (F)

"COMPANIES NEED TO SET GOALS, MEASURE THEIR FOOTPRINT, AND DOCUMENT PROGRESS TOWARDS SAFER CHEMICALS IF SOCIETY IS TO MEET SDGS 3, 6, AND 12."

Companies need to set goals, measure their footprint, and document progress towards safer chemicals if society is to meet SDGs 3, 6, and 12. The CFP Survey tracks these three key performance indicators through: Footprint Reduction Goal (F1), Footprint Measurement (F2), and Footprint Change (F3). These three questions represent 73% of the points (24 of 33 points) in the Chemical Footprint Pillar. Question F3 is the most heavily weighted question at 10 points to incentivize reducing chemical footprints.

Frontrunners differentiated themselves from New and Returning Responders in the Footprint Measurement Pillar. In averaging 97% of total points for the Footprint Measurement Pillar (see Figure 3), Frontrunners demonstrated that taking action to identify and avoid CoHCs and use safer alternatives is an organizational priority. They set chemical footprint reduction goals, measured and reduced their chemical footprints, and integrated criteria for safer alternatives into their design and safety processes. The dramatic drop for Questions F1, F2, and F3 from Frontrunners to Returning Responders and from Returning Responders to New Responders (see Figure 4) highlights the need for organizational leadership in setting goals, measuring the current state, and making and reporting progress in reducing chemical footprints.

Chemical Footprint Reduction Goal: Question F1

Twenty-four responders to the 2021 Survey set a goal to reduce individual chemicals, one or more chemical classes, or their chemical footprint; or did not use any CoHCs in their products. Sixteen of those 24 companies publicly disclosed the goal, CoHCs or chemical classes included in the goal, annual progress towards meeting the goal, or that their products contain no CoHCs. Examples include:

- **Reckitt**, a major consumer goods company and retailer supplier with brands including Lysol, Woolite, and Calgon, announced it is "aiming for a 65% reduction in our chemical footprint by 2030." Reckitt defines "chemical footprint as net revenue from SKUs containing >0.1% (by weight) of chemicals of high concern (CoHC), as legally allowed, across all business units."[33]
- **Target's** CoHC reduction goals include removing: perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) from textile products by 2022; flame retardants in textiles that "are potential carcinogens or pose harm" by 2022; and PFAS from "owned brand products including but not limited to textiles, formulated cosmetics, and beauty and cookware items" by 2025.[34]
- **Walmart** set its goal in 2017 to reduce the chemical footprint of consumables (household and personal care products) by 10% by 2022.[35]

reckitt

RECKITT'S GOAL IS A 65% REDUCTION IN THEIR CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT BY 2030.

OVERALL, THE NET CHANGE AMONG THE SEVEN COMPANIES CALCULATING THEIR CHEMICAL FOOTPRINTS BY MASS WAS A REDUCTION OF 83.4 MILLION POUNDS/37.8 MILLION KILOGRAMS IN COHCS.

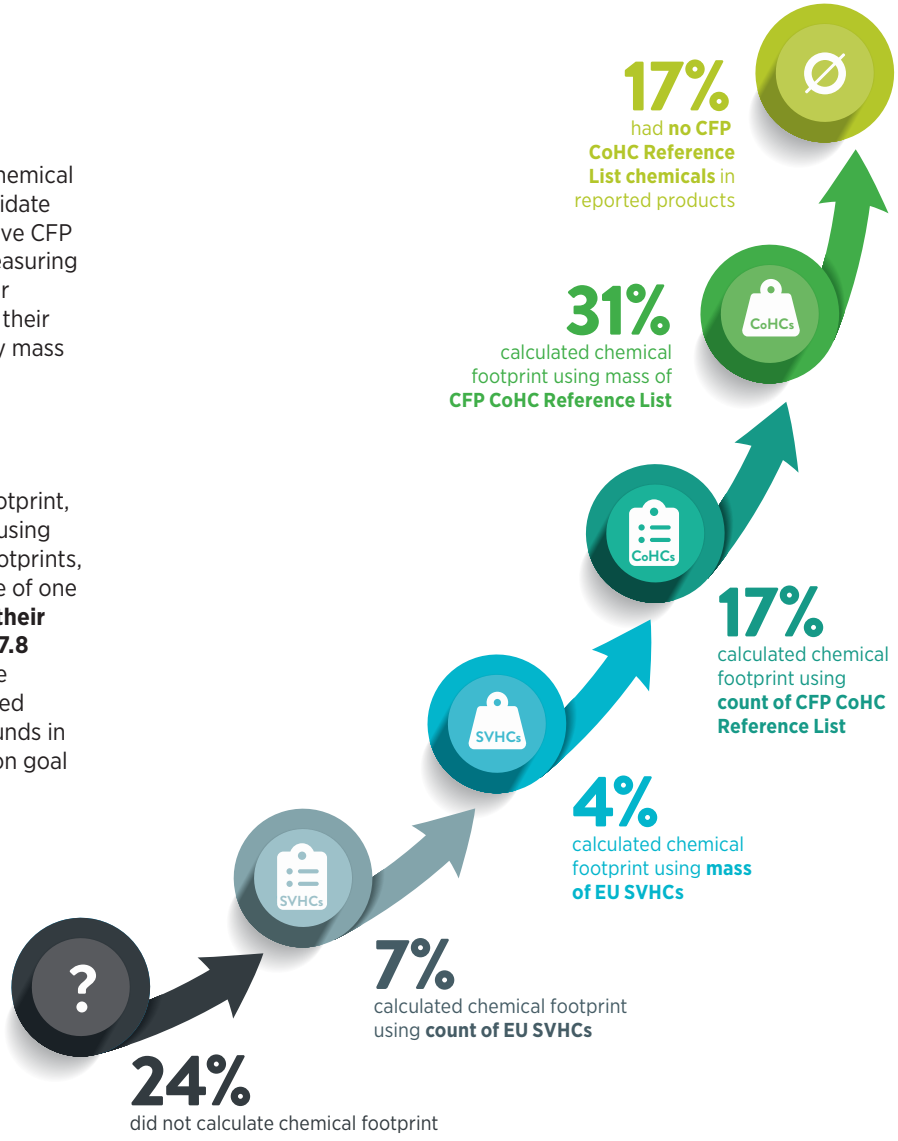
Chemical Footprint Measurement: Question F2

The CFP Survey offers Responders different levels for measuring their chemical footprint. They can either measure based on the European Union's Candidate Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC's) list or the more comprehensive CFP CoHC Reference List. In the 2021 Survey, 76% of companies reported measuring their footprint or reported no CFP CoHC Reference List chemicals in their products, an improvement from the 2020 Survey where 60% calculated their footprint. Nearly one-third of the companies calculated their footprint by mass of CoHCs using the CFP Reference List.

Chemical Footprint Change: Question F3

Demonstrating that companies can measure and track their chemical footprint, seven companies calculated their change in chemical footprint by mass using the CFP CoHC Reference List. Five companies reduced their chemical footprints, while two saw their footprints rise due to increased sales over the course of one year. **Overall, the net change among the seven companies calculating their chemical footprints by mass was a reduction of 83.4 million pounds/37.8 million kilograms in CoHCs.** Walmart, for example, publicly reported the change in its chemical footprint for consumables, reporting that it reduced priority chemicals from 218.6 million pounds in 2018 to 206.2 million pounds in 2019 to 179.4 million pounds in 2020; thereby exceeding its 10% reduction goal with a 17% reduction.[36]

To put the chemical footprint reductions reported to CFP in context, the successful Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction program documented companies reducing toxic chemicals shipped in products by 53 million pounds over 13 years, from 2007 to 2020.[37] Because of the large size and sales of companies in the Survey, their reductions of CoHCs in products sold over one year were 150% greater than what companies in Massachusetts reduced in toxic chemicals shipped in products over 13 years.





"TARGET: 'ONE KEY PRINCIPLE OF OUR CHEMICAL POLICY IS THE DESIRE TO FIND SAFER ALTERNATIVES AND AVOID REGRETTABLE SUBSTITUTIONS.'"

Safer Alternatives: Question F5

The CFP Survey assesses where companies are on the journey to safer solutions to CoHCs by asking whether a company:

- defines "safer alternative" consistent with the CFP definition,
- communicates its definition of safer alternative to suppliers,
- rewards suppliers for using safer alternatives,
- integrates safer alternative criteria into product development,
- tracks progress to implementing safer alternative criteria across products, and
- publicly discloses its definition of safer alternatives.

Sixteen companies scored four points or more for Question F5, which is a six-point question. Companies communicate the concept of safer chemicals using a variety of terms, including:

- **Herman Miller:** "Material Chemistry"[38]
- **HP:** "Responsible Chemistry"[39]
- **Reckitt**[40] **and Target**[41]**:** "Green Chemistry"
- **Walmart:** "Sustainable Chemistry" and "Green Chemistry" [42]

Here are a few highlights in publicly disclosed statements on how companies communicate their approach to safer alternatives:

- **HP:** "When exploring safer alternatives to materials currently in use, we follow a precautionary approach, use the National Academy of Sciences publication A Framework to Guide Selection of Chemical Alternatives, and incorporate the GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals methodology. We screen all ingredients in HP-formulated inks using the GreenScreen methodology, as part of our new product development process… We continually innovate to reduce the use of materials of concern. Highlights in 2021 included: 83% of personal systems product series are low halogen; 45% of EPEAT® registered personal systems products contain GreenScreen Benchmark 2 or 3 plasticizers and flame retardants."[43]
- **Reckitt:** Our "Ingredient Steering Group oversees how we adopt safe and effective alternatives in new or reformulated products. This is a global, cross-functional task force to screen new and safer alternatives to use across our portfolio. To help us develop safe products with the lowest possible environmental impact, we use the key concepts of green chemistry in product development: Designing safer products; Preventing waste; Designing for energy efficiency; Designing for degradation, reuse or recyclability; [and] Designing for bio-based or renewable raw materials."[44]
- **Target:** "One key principle of our chemical policy is the desire to find safer alternatives and avoid regrettable substitutions. We've made detailed guidance and resources available to our suppliers on how to find, assess, compare and select safer alternatives to harmful chemicals in their products and how to avoid regrettable substitutions."[45]
- **Walmart:** "Advancing Safer Formulation: The scientific community with which Walmart consults considers safer chemicals to be chemical products designed to preserve efficacy of function while reducing toxicity. As part of the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry, Walmart embraces use of the principles of green chemistry and encourages informed substitution by suppliers and manufacturers to mitigate, reduce, and eliminate potential hazards associated with product formulations."[46]

All of these companies communicate to their suppliers that they want them to use demonstrably safer alternatives to CoHCs.

2021 RESULTS

DISCLOSURE & VERIFICATION PILLAR (D)

"IF COMPANIES WANT TO MAINTAIN SHAREHOLDER CONFIDENCE THEY MUST PROVIDE HONEST AND TRANSPARENT PLANS FOR ADDRESSING THEIR CHEMICAL RISK"
– ALISSA SASSO, ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

Transparency in chemicals management beyond regulatory requirements is lacking for most companies, whether or not they participate in the CFP Survey. Companies are reluctant to disclose where they are on the journey to safer chemicals, preferring to announce achievements rather than work in progress. Yet at the same time, investors and consumers demand greater transparency on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues, including chemicals management and safety. If companies want to maintain shareholder confidence "they must provide honest and transparent plans for addressing their chemical risk."[47]

The Disclosure & Verification Pillar scores companies on their public disclosure of chemical ingredients in products (Question D1), CFP responses (Question D2), and CFP score (Question D3); as well as on whether their answers are verified by a third party (Question D4). On average, all companies scored lowest on the Disclosure & Verification Pillar. The very low score for New Responders — 8% of total points, and low score for Returning Responders – 27% of total points (see Figure 3), for the Disclosure & Verification Pillar reflects the generally low visibility of information on chemical safety.

Chemical transparency is on the rise in the household and personal care and building product sectors. Beautycounter exemplifies transparency in the personal care product sector with its commitment to "Share Transparently — Every formula ingredient, including known components of fragrances, flavors, and intentionally added preservatives, are listed on our product labels or on Beautycounter.com."[48] In the building product sector, the rapidly growing supply of products with Health Product Declarations (HPDs)[49] reflects the rising demand for greater materials transparency.[50] In addition, companies in these two sectors were the leading business signatories to the Principles for Chemical Ingredient Disclosure, which call for greater transparency of chemicals in products.[51]

The CFP Survey awards transparency by recognizing Disclosure Leaders, those companies that disclose their CFP responses (D2) and score (D3). The ten Disclosure Leaders from the 2021 Survey were: Beautycounter, BD, Case Medical, GOJO, Grove Collaborative, Herman Miller, HP, Insignem, Naturepedic, and Walmart.

Question D4: Verification asks whether a third party independently evaluated a company's CFP Survey answers. Very few companies currently verify their answers, but this is one of the most frequently asked questions concerning the CFP Survey: "how can you trust the responses?" While Clean Production Action reviews the documentation of all responses to the Survey, we encourage responders to the Survey to take the next step and validate answers by using a third party to verify their responses to the CFP questions.[52]

THE CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT PROJECT DISCLOSURE LEADER

OUR 2021 DISCLOSURE LEADER AWARD WINNERS

hp
BD
Grove COLLABORATIVE
Insignem
HermanMiller
naturepedic
GOJO
BEAUTYCOUNTER
Walmart
Case Medical

TAKE ACTION

The rising demands of investors, business customers, and consumers for greater transparency on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues means that companies will continue to confront important decisions concerning chemicals management and safety. The CFP Survey is a unique and authentic evaluation framework for companies that want to benchmark their performance to an externally validated methodology and communicate to their stakeholders about their chemical safety efforts. Stakeholders can join the chemical footprint movement by:

- **Brands, retailers, & manufacturers:**
  - Commit to chemical footprint reductions by at least 50% by 2030.
  - Participate in the 2023 CFP Survey (https://www.chemicalfootprint.org).
- **Investors:**
  - Sign on as a CFP Signatory (https://www.chemicalfootprint.org/value/be-a-signatory).
  - Join the Investor Environmental Health Network (https://iehn.org).
- **Purchasers & NGOs:** sign on as a CFP Signatory (https://www.chemicalfootprint.org/value/be-a-signatory).
- **All:** participate in the BizNGO Chemicals Management Work Group where discussions and decisions on chemical footprint metrics and key performance indicators happen (https://www.biznGO.org/safer-chemicals).

Join the chemical footprint movement today!

CFP WELCOMES...

Investors, purchasers, retailers, and NGOs in engaging companies in participating in the 2023 Survey.

Companies demonstrating their leadership in chemicals management by participating in the 2023 Survey.

The CFP Survey will be open from March to June 2023.

For more information contact us at moreinfo@chemicalfootprint.org or go to https://chemicalfootprint.org.

ENDNOTES

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cfp the chemical footprint project

The Chemical Footprint Project (CFP), a program of Clean Production Action, is the first-of-its-kind initiative to measure chemical footprints and assess corporate progress away from hazardous chemicals to safer alternatives. Now companies can chart and report on their progress in reducing hazardous chemicals to a common framework. Signatories to the Chemical Footprint Project include investors with over $2 trillion in assets under management and purchasers with over $800 billion in procurement power. Together with these supporters we engage brands in assessing and reporting their chemicals management policies, procedures, and practices through the annual CFP Survey. Founded by Clean Production Action, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Pure Strategies in 2014, CFP is now a program of Clean Production Action.

IEHN

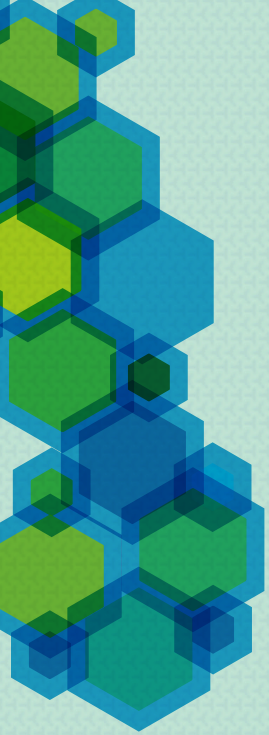
Investor Environmental Health Network (IEHN), a program of Clean Production Action, is a leadership network of investors reducing the financial risks of chemical pollution while leveraging the economic value of green chemistry. IEHN recognizes that a company's brand reputation, public trust, and market share are linked to the environmental and human health risks and safety of its products. Through direct corporate engagement IEHN members advance solutions and strategies like the Chemical Footprint Project to transform business practices.

cpa Clean Production Action

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Clean Production Action's mission is to design and deliver strategic solutions for green chemicals, sustainable materials, and environmentally preferable products. We are a solutions organization. Our tools, GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals and Chemical Footprint Project, simplify the complexity of substituting chemicals of concern to human health and the environment with green chemistry solutions. Our collaborations, BizNGO and Investor Environmental Health Network, provide effective platforms for practitioners and thought leaders to work together in advancing chemicals, materials, products, and systems that are healthy for people and the planet. Together our tools and collaborations are transforming the toxic chemical economy into one that is healthy for people and the planet.

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cfp the chemical footprint project

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Item 5(a) of the provisional agenda

Activities of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to support SAICM Implementation

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals on "*Activities of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to support SAICM Implementation*" (see annex).

2. The document is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Annex



Activities of the IOMC to support SAICM Implementation

August 2023

Prepared for the Fifth Session of the International Conference for Chemicals Management (ICCM5)

Bonn, Germany, 25–29 September 2023

I. Background

1. The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established in 1995 to strengthen cooperation and increase coordination among inter-governmental organizations in the field of chemical management. The IOMC currently comprises nine participating organizations: FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, the World Bank, and OECD. The individual IOMC organizations have all endorsed or formally acknowledged support for SAICM, and their activities support the SAICM objectives as well as implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which identifies IOMC organizations as actors for eighty percent of its activities. These activities are formally coordinated by the IOMC, including through its bi-annual meetings. During these meetings, IOMC regularly holds discussions with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the SAICM Secretariat, and other relevant entities.

II. New IOMC Activities and Resources since ICCM-4/OEWG-3

Response to the Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG)

2. In response to the endorsement of the OOG at ICCM-4, the IOMC organizations, as well as the BRS Secretariat, IAEA, and UNECE, completed the implementation tables for the "Overall Orientation and Guidance for Achieving the 2020 Goal" (OOG) which provide detailed information regarding planned actions to implement the OOG and set out action points that will assist in the prioritization of SAICM implementation efforts towards 2020. It is available at https://partnership.who.int/iomc/iomc-and-saicm.

SDGs and Agenda 2030

3. In 2018, the IOMC published a brochure entitled "Chemicals and Waste Management: Essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" which highlights how sound chemicals and waste management are related to achieving all of the SDGs. Limited copies of this document are available during this meeting at the IOMC booth and it can also be accessed, along with an interactive version, at the IOMC website: www.iomc.info.

4. Also updated in 2018 was the 2017 report "IOMC plans for future actions to implement the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda" which focuses on future actions and policies beyond 2020 specifically linked to the SDGs and 2030, provides information from all Participating Organizations regarding the main policies and actions they have or plan to undertake regarding sound chemicals and waste management in the context of the SDGs, and includes a chart mapping IOMC organizations chemicals and wastes activities against the 17 SDGs.[1]

IOMC indicators of progress in implementing SAICM

5. Since being proposed at ICCM-4, the IOMC has compiled and provided data on eight (now twelve as of 2022) IOMC indicators of progress in implementing SAICM, which are also used in the SAICM reports on progress and the Global Chemicals Outlook-2 (GCO-II). For more information: https://partnership.who.int/iomc/iomc-indicators-of-progress-in-implementing-saicm. IOMC have participated actively in the intersessional work to prepare targets and indicators for the beyond 2020 framework, including proposing additional target-specific and cross-cutting indicators as well as health and environment impact indicators. Beginning in 2021, an IOMC indicators working group developed an analysis document which identifies an initial "long list" of 279 existing indicators that are relevant and/or meaningful to the chemicals and waste agenda. These include indicators from various indicator frameworks. A screened list of 63 indicators were selected in three steps which met several criteria and by which availability of data to establish a baseline, existence of custodian agency responsible for collection of indicator data and a methodology to measure progress against the indicator are confirmed. This analysis has been provided as an input to the intersessional process and ICCM-5.

IOMC Toolbox

6. The IOMC internet-based "Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management" has been updated with a new user interface and use of the website by stakeholders is being supported by a series of national and regional training workshops (seven workshops or events during 2018, seven workshops during 2019, and at least seven workshops in 2020), as well as a series of webinars (a total of nine to date) on the Toolbox including related toolkits and tools. The IOMC Toolbox includes management schemes and identifies appropriate actions and guidance for seven key topics of chemicals management. Toolkits are also available on environmental risk assessment, chemical leasing, pesticide registration, chemical hazards (health risks), and innovative approaches to the sound management of chemicals and chemical waste. Lastly, entry points are being developed for easier access to the tools for specific target audiences, including the health sector, for MEAs, and plans for entry points for other stakeholders such as industry and trade unions. During 2020-22 the new user interface for the Toolbox was released, new entry points were introduced 1) for the WHO Road map to enhance health sector engagement in SAICM towards the 2020 goal and beyond, and 2) for world of work stakeholders in the Occupational Safety and Health Management Scheme, and all the management schemes were reviewed and updated in line with the new user interface. The UNIDO Green Chemistry Toolkit was added as a new toolkit and individual tools developed by participating organizations were added or updated on the following topics: pesticide registration criteria, alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides, screening level assessments for environmental risks to soil organisms from pesticides, and guidelines for establishing a poison centre. The Toolbox and its management schemes and tools were promoted during 2020-22 at more than 30 training workshops or webinars convened by participating organizations. For more information: https://iomctoolbox.org/. A new phase IV of the IOMC Toolbox is in early stages of implementation with the support of the European Commission.

IOMC Mercury Group

7. The participating organizations of the IOMC Mercury Group (ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank, and the OECD), as well as the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the GEF, continue activities intended to support the ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention, involving close cooperation and coordination among these organizations. The broad range of activities includes: Minamata Convention Initial Assessments (MIAs), funded by the Global Environment Facility; support for developing National Action Plans on Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM); and the development of guidance, hosting regional workshops, etc. IOMC organizations are now starting to review the lessons learned from the MIA and NAP processes and analyse what key issues and priorities are emerging from these valuable documents with the aim to determine how best to support Parties in the coming years. Now that the Convention is moving from initial ratification and assessment activities towards implementation, it is increasingly important to support

[1] Available at: http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/meetings/OEWG3/inf/OEWG3-INF-15-IOMC-plans-.pdf

the parties in fulfilling the obligations of the Convention to reduce the health and environmental impacts of mercury. The challenges of addressing mercury require multisectoral collaboration at country level and the IOMC therefore plays a crucial role in coordinating technical support to countries from the IOMC organizations which bring a range of sectoral and other expertise. A major highlight of this is the planetGOLD programme which began in 2019, funded by the GEF and implemented as a collaborative effort between UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and other partners; so far, 25 countries are implementing or developing planetGOLD projects. In addition, IOMC organisations are collaborating on GEF-funded initiatives addressing mercury-containing products and medical devices. Following the Bali Declaration at COP4, IOMC organisations are addressing the issue of mercury trade in various regions. The IOMC mercury group has also made joint statements at all Minamata Convention COPs to date and detailed information regarding activities and outcomes can be found in the related COP documents.

Database of IOMC activities in countries

8. The database of IOMC activities in countries provides an overview of where individual IOMC organizations are working on chemicals issues in countries. The entries relate to country-specific activities and not normative or general activities applicable to many countries, such as the development of guidelines. Information from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions is also included. The database is searchable by country or by IOMC organization and is available here: https://partnership.who.int/iomc/work-in-countries.

SAICM emerging issues

9. IOMC Participating Organizations have continued to act as leads for the various Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and other issues of concern. Reports on progress and additional information may be found in related documents available at this meeting.

Inter-agency meetings on sound chemicals management

10. The *Inter-Agency Meetings on Sound Chemicals Management* (IAM) were initiated by the IOMC in May 2016 and in follow-up to the UN EMG report "United Nations and Sound Chemicals Management: Coordinating delivery for member states and sustainable development". The purpose of the meetings is to provide an opportunity for direct dialogue between a range of interested agencies and organisations and consider collaboration on the way forward towards the 2020 goal and beyond, in the context of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Specific items are discussed in particular meetings, as needed. At the first meeting, agencies indicated the usefulness of meeting around one time per year, for purposes of coordination, sharing information, and obtaining feedback on new activities. To date, seven Inter-agency meetings have been held in May and October 2016, March 2017, November 2018, October 2019, and March and June 2021. The most recent meeting brought together 29 participants from 16 different agencies and Secretariats and focused on the theme of green and sustainable chemistry. IAM meetings have also discussed input to and considerations on the SAICM intersessional process for "beyond 2020", preparations for ICCM-5 and shared information about on-going and new initiatives and results of existing or past collaborations. For more information: https://partnership.who.int/iomc/inter-agency-meetings.

SAICM meetings and the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

11. IOMC has been very engaged with the SAICM processes and has also been actively giving consideration to the role and engagement of IOMC in the Beyond 2020 framework at its own biannual meetings. The Chair of the IOMC participates in all ICCM bureau meetings and a joint meeting of the IOMC and ICCM bureau was held in November 2017, as well as several meetings held with the ICCM President. The IOMC Chair participates in the project steering committee of the SAICM GEF project on global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under SAICM. UNEP and WHO also participate in the project steering committee as project partners. A number of IOMC organizations contributed to the implementation of this project providing co-finance support and executing project activities.

12. IOMC organizations participated actively at OEWG-3 in April 2019, including making a joint opening statement, submission of a number of INF documents, hosting an IOMC booth, and organization or participation at a range of side-events. WHO supported the attendance of additional ministry of health representatives.

13. IOMC organizations have also participated actively at all of the meetings of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and provided a

joint statement at the opening of each. At IP-3 in October 2019, sector meetings for health, labour, agriculture, and environment were hosted by WHO, ILO, FAO, and UNEP with the purpose of identifying opportunities for improving multi-sectoral participation and cooperation in the chemicals and waste agenda.[2] The participation of additional delegates from the health and labour sectors at IP-3 and IP-4 was supported by WHO and ILO.

14. Preceding IP-4.1, the IOMC convened a workshop on "Strengthening integrated chemicals and waste management: how can a future framework beyond 2020 ensure effective engagement of all key stakeholders?"[3] and preceding IP4.2, a technical briefing on "Implementing the "Beyond 2020" Strategic Objectives and Targets through inclusive Programmes"[4]. In addition, IOMC hosted a workshop in January 2023 on "Advancing global chemicals and waste management in chemical intensive economic sectors and value chains"[5] and a multi-stakeholder expert workshop in June 2023 on "Advancing Chemicals and Waste Management in Economic Sectors and Industries" focusing on the development of guidance and elements of a possible global programme in preparation of IP 4.3 and ICCM5.[6] All of these events were intended to inform and assist ICCM-5 and its preparations.

15. Starting in 2021, the IOMC ran a series of webinars on key cross-sectoral issues and as a contribution to the on-going Beyond 2020 discussions. The six webinars, which were open to all interested stakeholders participating in the SAICM/Beyond 2020 process and beyond, aimed to exchange information and share examples of good practices and policy options in a multi-sectoral context. For more information: www.globalwebinars.org/.

16. Additionally, a number of IOMC organizations:

- participated in the UNEP Global Consultation on priorities for further work and potential further international action on issues of concern held 12-13 July 2023.
- provided progress reports on SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern for ICCM5
- joined the Technical Working Group on targets, indicators and milestones
- contributed to or made comments on documents developed for the intersessional process (such as the Co-Chairs papers and on "Additional measures to achieve multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement")
- participated in meetings of the *High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste*
- participated at the January 2018 workshop on "The Aichi Biodiversity Targets: Are approaches and lessons from the biodiversity cluster relevant for the management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020?" (organized by UNITAR with support from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany)
- participated at the February 2019 "Stakeholder workshop on strengthening governance for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020: From national to global: Learning from experience, exploring options" (organized by UNITAR with support from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany and the Federal Office of the Environment of Switzerland, hosted at ILO)[7]
- participated at the September 2019 "Stakeholder workshop on strengthening governance for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020" (organized by UNITAR with support from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany, and hosted at ILO)[8]
- participated at the January 2020 "Workshop on strengthening governance for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020" (organised by UNITAR and supported by the Governments of Germany, Norway, and Switzerland)[9]

[2] https://partnership.who.int/iomc/newsroom/news/item/01-10-2019-iomc-hosts-sectoral-discussions-at-ip-3-meeting-october-2019

[3] https://partnership.who.int/iomc/newsroom/news/item/02-09-2022-iomc-engagement-at-ip-4

[4] https://partnership.who.int/iomc/newsroom/news/item/02-03-2023-iomc-contributions-at-ip-4.2

[5] https://partnership.who.int/iomc/newsroom/events/item/2023/01/18/default-calendar/iomc-workshop-on-advancing-global-chemicals-and-waste-management-in-chemical-intensive-economic-sectors-and-value-chains

[6] https://www.unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/planet/our-portfolio/international-policy-development

[7] https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/planet/our-portfolio/strategic-approach-international-chemicals-management/stakeholder-workshop-strengthening-governance-sound-management-chemicals-and-waste-beyond-2020

[8] https://www.unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/planet/our-portfolio/strategic-approach-international-chemicals-management/Stakeholder%20workshop%20on%20Governance

[9] https://www.unitar.org/stakeholder-workshop-strengthening-governance-sound-management-chemicals-and-waste-beyond-2020

- organized a briefing on 10 February 2020 at WHO on the "Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020: Why it matters to health, labour and the environment", an ILO, UNEP, WHO and SAICM secretariat event
- participated at the February 2020 "Technical Expert Workshop on Criteria for Substances of International Concern Beyond 2020" (supported by the Government of Sweden and UNITAR).[10]

III. Activities of the IOMC Participating Organizations in support of the SAICM Objectives

17. The following section provides summary information on specific activities since ICCM4 and OEWG3 (April 2019), organized by SAICM objectives, received from FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank, and OECD.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

In the context of SAICM, FAO has continued to support countries, especially the Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), to build capacity for pesticide lifecycle management. Capacity building has mainly consisted of guidance and technical assistance to parties during the implementation of projects, such that countries comply with the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management as well as international legal obligations such as those defined in the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and with best international practices in the regulation, management and use of pesticides in agriculture.

In line with its Strategic Framework 2022-31, FAO is committed to achieving the UN 2030 Agenda through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one left behind. Pesticide management in this context focuses on risk reduction through reduced reliance on and sound use of pesticides in agriculture, addressing highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), ensuring sustainable agrochemical waste management, promoting non-chemical alternatives and other good agricultural/agroecological practices, as well as mainstreaming biodiversity.
With a substantial portfolio of projects that are funded by a diverse range of donors financing institutions, as well as FAO member states, FAO helps more than 65 countries to develop capacity for risk reduction and to promote the sound management of pesticides throughout their lifecycle. For example, FAO collaborates with GEF and UNEP on the implementation of projects under the ISLANDS programme[11], particularly in the area of sustainable agriculture, by assisting Caribbean and Pacific countries in the sound management of pesticides and their waste. FAO also links its work on pesticide risk reduction with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through the EU-funded project "Building capacity related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries - Phase III (ACP MEAs 3)"[12] . Through the project, national, regional and global capacities are strengthened to adopt ecosystem-based practices and improve the management of pesticides and thereby support a transition to sustainable and resilient agrifood systems and a pollution-free planet.

FAO, UNEP and WHO have prioritized addressing HHPs, an Emergency Policy Issue (EPI), in collaboration with key stakeholders. This work has focused on reducing the risks and impacts from HHPs by raising awareness, strengthening governance, supporting structural and technical capacities, and promoting viable alternatives to HHPs. In this context, the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) has published a range of guidance to specifically address HHPs and reduce their impacts on human and environmental health. These include guidelines for managers on HHPs and guidelines for regulators on preventing pesticide-related suicides. Furthermore, an e-learning module on HHPs has been included in the FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit. FAO has supported the East African Community and Southern African Development Community to draft their strategies to address HHPs, and has worked with several countries in Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America to promote alternatives to HHPs as a principal of IPM. Currently, with the support of FAO, several LMIC have identified HHPs among their registered pesticides, have developed strategies to reduce associated risks, and/or are actively working to build supportive legal and structural environments to develop alternatives to HHPs and other pesticides.

[10] https://www.unitar.org/technical-expert-workshop-criteria-substances-international-concern-beyond-2020

[11] GEF ISLANDS programme. https://www.gefislands.org/Caribbean

[12] ACP MEAs 3. https://www.fao.org/in-action/building-capacity-environmental-agreements/en/

Through the JMPM,[13] FAO's work on agrochemicals management and risk reduction is backed by an extensive programme of setting international standards, preparation of technical guidance and development of tools to assist countries. FAO and WHO together recommend Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticide residues in food, develop technical specifications for pesticide formulations to ensure product quality, and produce guidelines, training materials and tools to assist countries. The entire FAO pesticide management programme is framed by the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, a voluntary agreement that outlines effective life cycle management of pesticides.

SAICM objective: Risk Reduction

A priority area of activities is the reduction of risks from Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) that pose the greatest hazards and cause most serious poisonings worldwide. HHPs are now an Emerging Policy Issue. Pesticide regulators are guided in identifying HHPs under their conditions of use and finding alternative pest management strategies that can replace the use of or reduce the risks from HHPs. Countries taking action on HHPs have been guided by the 8 HHP criteria setout in the FAO/WHO Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides as well as by the FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit that highlights HHP as a special topic (http://www.fao.org/pesticide-registration-toolkit/special-topics/highly-hazardous-pesticides-hhp/introduction/en/). FAO is facilitating a fruitful, hands-on collaboration between national and international organizations, academia and civil society with the aim to build capacity and dialogue among countries, and to move from local to global action on HHPs. It has facilitated the elaboration of a number of HHP regional and national strategies especially in the African, Caribbean, Asia and Pacific (ACP) countries. Scaling up addressing HHPs globally is currently high on FAO's agenda: in collaboration with IOMC POs including WHO, UNEP, UNDP, and UNIDO as well as national partners, FAO is developing a Global Strategy and Action Plan on HHPs that will be introduced at ICCM5.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) remains a key pesticide risk reduction strategy and is at the core of FAO's crop production and protection approach. In IPM, farmers are informed about ecological approaches to crop protection such that their reliance upon chemical pesticides is minimized and the selection of pest management tools is compatible with the ecosystem in which they are operating. As part of the activities on Fall Army Worm (FAW), FAO Global Action for FAW will reinforce efforts to discourage the widespread use of chemical pesticides and put emphasis on prevention. It will advocate a combination of robust monitoring and early warning systems along with IPM as the basis for supporting farmers in managing FAW. FAO has developed a Guide on IPM of FAW through Farmer Field Schools in Africa (http://www.fao.org/fall-armyworm/faw-management/pesticide-guidance/en/). Last, FAO is working to further scale up IPM and agro-ecological approaches, including development and use of non-chemical alternatives and other good agricultural practices.

SAICM objective: Knowledge and Information

Currently more than 40 technical guidelines in support of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management are published and available on-line. Many are translated into UN languages. Recent publications include the "Guidelines on Personal Protection when Handling and Applying Pesticides", including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) issues. All technical standards for pesticide specifications and Maximum Residue Limits are published on-line as they are produced. http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/code/list-guide-new/en/ A brochure on all FAO and WHO guidelines and resources on pesticides is now available at: http://www.fao.org/3/ca5201en/ca5201en.pdf
The FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit (http://www.fao.org/pesticide-registration-toolkit), fully redesigned in 2019, has been helping pesticide registrars in improving their decisions and in accessing relevant information. As of the end of 2019, more than 410 registration staff members in over 70 countries have been trained on the Toolkit.

[13] JMPM. https://www.fao.org/pest-and-pesticide-management/guidelines-standards/faowho-joint-meeting-on-pesticide-management-jmpm/meetings/en/

Finally, the report (http://www.fao.org/3/ca7032en/ca7032en.pdf) of a joint FAO/WHO global survey on pesticide management conducted in 2018 was published. 56 countries completed the FAO parts on pesticide registration, regulation and application. The report draws a number of conclusions and recommendations to countries, to funding agencies and to WHO/FAO.

Between 2020 and 2022, the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat continued to substantially update its Resource Kit (http://www.pic.int/Implementation/ResourceKit/tabid/1064/language/en-US/Default.aspx), which is a comprehensive source of information on the Convention intended to assist countries in the ratification process and in the implementation of the Convention. It has been designed to be flexible, simple to use and to meet the needs of a broad range of end users. The IOMC Toolbox has been integrated on the website.

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat produced various publications such as "*Pesticides and environmental incidents*"[14], "*Pesticides use, pesticides trade and pesticides indicators: Global, regional and country trends, 1990–2020*"[15] and "*Rotterdam Convention: Results of technical assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020-2021*"[16].

Together with other FAO teams, the Secretariat also worked on gender and pesticide exposure and on child labor, producing several publications. These include "*Eliminating hazardous child labor through safe and sustainable farming practices*"[17] and "*Addressing hazardous child labor and reducing risks posed by hazardous pesticides*"[18]. The objective of these brochures is to provide different stakeholders with an array of information pertaining to hazardous pesticides and child labor, the role they can play and the tools and resources to address the issue. "*Addressing gender issues in pesticide management*"[19] highlights the gender-related implications of pesticide use and management, focusing on women's handling of hazardous pesticides through their roles in agriculture, the reasons why they are at higher risk and the health-related implications they face. It is available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

SAICM objective: Governance

The FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management provides a voluntary framework for effective life cycle management of pesticides for all stakeholders, public or private, dealing with pesticides. Legislation and regulations are the foundation of sound chemical management and this applies to pesticides too. Noting that pesticides are largely governed by Ministries of Agriculture or Health, it is vital to support inter-sectorial approaches to sound chemicals management. FAO, jointly with UNEP, hosts the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention which helps governments to control trade in certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides. In 2021 (part i: virtual) and 2022 (part II: face-to-face), the10th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Rotterdam Convention took place, giving a voice to 163 parties and providing an environment to exchange experience and information among governments and all stakeholders.

SAICM objective: Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation

FAO has been running programmes and technical cooperation projects on capacity building for pesticide management since the 1960s. It has become a unique body with offices and project support staff in every geographical region, and with strong expertise and broad knowledge of pesticide management that is

[14] FAO. 2022. *Pesticides and environmental incidents: Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade*. https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6761en

[15] FAO. 2022. *Pesticides use, pesticides trade and pesticides indicators – Global, regional and country trends, 1990–2020. FAOSTAT Analytical Briefs, no. 46.* Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0918en

[16] FAO. 2022. *Rotterdam Convention: Results of technical assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020-2021.* https://www.basel.int/Portals/5/download.aspx?d=UNEP-FAO-RC-PUB-ResourceKit-CaseStudy-GRULAC_TA-2022.Sp.pdf

[17] FAO. 2021. *Eliminating hazardous child labor through safe and sustainable farming practices.* Rome. https://www.fao.org/3/cb3587en/cb3587en.pdf

[18] FAO. 2021. *Addressing hazardous child labor and reducing risks posed by hazardous pesticides.* Rome. https://www.fao.org/3/cb3586en/cb3586en.pdf

[19] FAO. 2022. *Addressing gender issues in pesticide management.* Rome. https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CC0356EN/

applicable to chemical management in other sectors as well as in agriculture and health. Operational projects in January 2020 span more than 65 countries, and more are in development as others conclude their activities continuously. As one of the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), FAO is supporting countries in implementing projects to address pesticide management, including POPs pesticides. Training is offered on an ongoing basis on every aspect of FAO's work on pesticide management - more recently on pesticide registration and on HHPs - and on standard setting (e.g. MRLs), and in collaboration with other agencies through IOMC expands opportunities for capacity development. FAO is also supporting a post-graduate diploma programme on pesticide management at the University of Cape Town.
The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat provided substantial technical assistance upon request to around 147 parties between 2020 and 2022. This technical assistance focusses on support in monitoring of pesticides poisonings, identification of alternatives to HHPs, identification of severely hazardous pesticide formulations under conditions of use, national and regional cooperation, strengthening of legal frameworks and implementation of the main obligations of the Convention. This technical assistance was mainly financed by FAO through its regular budget, which provides 1.5 million USD/biennium to the Rotterdam Convention.

SAICM objective: Illegal International Traffic

Illegal trade in pesticides remains a serious, growing threat in the agricultural sector (risk problem with phytotoxicity, production crop losses, human health poisoning, environmental contamination, trade problem etc.), and is directly targeted by Articles 6 and 9 of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. It is critical to address this problem as it undermines the on-going efforts made to improve registration and to reduce HHPs. FAO works with countries to build capacity in every stage of the pesticide life cycle and will increase its focus on compliance and enforcement aspects. This includes effective inspections and import controls which are the most effective points to prevent illegal imports and trade in chemicals. Similarly, FAO, together with WHO, determine pesticide specifications which allow countries to test the quality of pesticides that are imported and traded in their territory. Effective and quality control measures identify counterfeit and substandard pesticides and allow countries to remove them from the market and prosecute offenders. The Rotterdam Convention secretariat supports parties in reducing risks in particular from pesticides through effective implementation of the Convention. Parties are enabled to take informed decisions on import of hazardous pesticides into their territory.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

The ILO Governing Body endorsed SAICM at its 297th Session (November 2006) and approved the follow-up activities proposed by the Office to implement SAICM objectives. This included active involvement by the ILO in the operations of the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee, as well as supporting ILO-related activities in the SAICM's Global Plan of Action. ILO actively participates in Inter-agency meetings and is supportive of the dialogue and information sharing on the way forward towards the beyond 2020 instrument, in the context of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Recognizing that the protection of workers from the harmful effects of chemicals also enhances the protection of the general public and the environment, the ILO (through its Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health Branch - LABADMIN/OSH), focuses on assisting its 187 member States to implement the main ILO chemicals-related Conventions, namely the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) and the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174). These two Conventions provide the basis for the sound management of chemicals at the workplace, as recognised by ICCM and SAICM.

In June 2022, the International Labour Conference amended the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) to include "a safe and healthy working environment" as a fundamental principle and right at work. With this decision, the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187) were designated as fundamental Conventions, meaning that all ILO member States, even if they have not ratified these two conventions, now have an

obligation arising from the very fact of membership in the ILO to respect, promote and realize, the principles concerning the fundamental right to a safe and healthy working environment. These two fundamental Conventions provide for a systems approach to managing of occupational safety and health (OSH), including addressing risks such as chemicals. Following this historic decision, the ILO Governing Body approved a road map for the review of the Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health (https://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB347/ins/WCMS_872016/lang--en/index.htm).

Furthermore, implementation by member States of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) remains a priority, as well as an important SAICM objective. The ILO, together with UNITAR and OECD, is a member of the Global Partnership to Implement the GHS, which works alongside stakeholders such as governments, trade unions, the private sector, NGOS and other actors to encourage commitment towards implementing the GHS.

SAICM objective: Risk Reduction

In collaboration with WHO and the European Commission, ILO has developed a comprehensive database of International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) intended to provide essential safety and health information on chemicals in a clear and concise way. To date, approximately 1700 cards are available and hosted in the ICSC database. The database is available in over 10 languages including English, French, Spanish, Finnish, Hungarian, Japanese, Polish, Italian, Chinese and Russian. The ILO is dedicated to chemical risk reduction efforts through the promotion and regular updating of the ICSC database.

Under the auspices of IOMC, the ILO has assisted in the development and maintenance of the IOMC toolbox. Within the toolbox, the Occupational Safety and Health Management Scheme for chemicals has been developed and is periodically updated, in collaboration with the OECD. The ILO updated the organization of the scheme during Phase III of the IOMC Toolbox project, with dedicated sections and tailored resources for Governments, employers and workers, the ILO's tripartite constituents. In addition, the ILO will continue to review the Occupational Safety and Health Scheme and will provide technical expertise to national and regional workshops on chemical safety management in the workplace when needed.

The ILO has developed and pilot tested several risk assessment tools for improving health and safety at the workplace, which includes safety in the use of chemicals. The Training package on workplace risk assessment and management for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the 5 step guide for employers, workers and their representatives on conducting workplace risk assessments provide practical strategies towards the improvement of health and safety and the management of hazardous risks at the workplace. The ILO promotes these tools through various risk assessment training courses.

The ILO has various projects and initiatives that seek to foster the creation of a global culture of safety and health prevention, with the objective of achieving real reductions in the incidence of work-related death, injury and disease across global supply chains (GSCs). In particular, these projects aim to reduce and prevent OSH risks, including those related to hazardous chemical exposures, for workers in key sectors across GSCs – including agriculture (exposure to pesticides), textile and garment production (exposure to dyes), and manufacturing (exposure to paints, solvents and glues).

SAICM objective: Knowledge and Information

The ILO maintains a webpage dedicated to the topic of chemicals and the environment: The ILO Toolkit on Chemicals and Wastes (www.ilo.org/chemicals). This webpage is regularly updated with key resources for ILO constituents and the public, including publications, promotional material, training materials, resources lists, information on normative instruments, and relevant news or upcoming events. It furthermore contains links to information about SAICM and IOMC, as well as the IOMC Toolbox.

The ILO has produced training materials on managing chemicals and occupational safety and health on a variety of topics such as on chemicals and occupational safety and health including on ILO OSH Conventions relating to chemical safety, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs), chemical hazards in the mining sector, chemical hazards in the agricultural sector, mercury in the world of work, plastics, major industrial accidents and climate change and chemicals. These training materials, as well as a guide to the training modules for trainers, are available at www.ilo.org/chemicals. In collaboration with its International Training Centre (ITC-ILO), the ILO hosts a free, online course on major industrial accidents and their prevention, available in English (https://www.itcilo.org/courses/major-industrial-accidents-and-their-prevention).

The ILO, in collaboration with its International Training Centre (ITC-ILO), provides training on Chemical Safety in the framework of a Master's Program in Occupational Safety and Health.

The ILO recently developed an informational brochure on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian) (https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-administration-inspection/resources-library/publications/WCMS_841720/lang--en/index.htm).

SAICM objective: Governance

As an indication of support for the outcomes of ICCM, the Governing Body of the ILO endorsed the SAICM at its 297th Session and approved the follow-up activities proposed by the Office to implement the SAICM objectives. ILO actively participates in Inter-agency meetings and is supportive of the dialogue and information sharing on the way forward towards the 2020 goal and beyond, in the context of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The ILO promotes its numerous international labour standards and disseminates its codes of practice and guidelines on this topic. Focus is placed on assisting ILO's 187 member States to ratify and implement the fundamental OSH Conventions the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187) as well as the main ILO chemicals-related Conventions, namely the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) and its recommendation and the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174) and its recommendation. These two chemicals conventions provide the basis for the sound management of chemicals at the workplace, as recognised by ICCM and SAICM. Other pertinent standards include: Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162); Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977 (No. 148); Radiation Protection Convention, 1960 (No. 115); Benzene Recommendation, 1971 (No. 144); Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 (No. 139); Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129); Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988 (No. 167); Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176); and the ILO List of Occupational Diseases, Recommendation (No. 194).

ILO activities have been implemented in line with paragraph 2b) of article 16, Article 7 and Annex C of the Minamata Convention. The ILO has promoted the ratification and implementation of ILO instruments relevant to mercury, including the Convention on Chemicals, 1990 (No.170) and the Convention on Safety and Health in Mines, 1995 (No. 176). This is in addition to the ILO List of Occupational Diseases which includes occupational diseases caused by mercury or its toxic compounds. There have been a number of ILO projects related to mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), and also in the automobile dismantling sector. Various ILO projects have participated in NAPs to eliminate mercury and have produced guidance and research materials in collaboration with other stakeholders. The ILO published a report on exposure to mercury in the world of work: A review of the evidence and key priority actions (https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/resources-library/WCMS_834578/lang--en/index.htm).

The ILO adopted a new code of practice on safety and health in textiles, clothing, leather and footwear, which provides information on how governments, employers, workers and their representatives should act to eliminate and mitigate risks, including those related to chemicals and hazardous substances in these

industries.

The ILO plans to develop new technical guidelines on chemical hazards, and to consolidate a number of chemical instruments including: Convention No.13 on white lead; Convention No.136 and Recommendation No.144 on benzene; Recommendation No.4 on lead poisoning; and Recommendation No.6 on white phosphorous; in the context of Convention No.170 and Recommendation No.177 on chemicals, as to be determined by the International labour Conference (ILC).

SAICM objective: Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation

The ILO, together with OECD and UNITAR, collaborates on the Global Partnership to Implement the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), which aims to increase commitment and scale up implementation of the GHS.

The ILO is a member of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, in which it leverages its unique tripartite structure to promote social dialogue towards the phase out of the manufacture and sale of lead paint.

ILO's Green Jobs programme promotes the "greening" of enterprises, workplace practices and the labour market as a whole. These efforts create decent employment opportunities, enhance resource efficiency and build low-carbon sustainable societies. Green jobs are defined as "decent jobs that contribute to preserve or restore the environment", be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction, or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency. Such jobs help to: improve energy and raw materials efficiency; limit greenhouse gas emissions; minimize waste and pollution; protect and restore ecosystems; and support adaptation to the effects of climate change.

The ILO provides technical assistance toward developing and implementing chemical safety policies, regulations and practices, as well as establishing the role of the labour sector in international chemicals discussions, through development cooperation projects on chemicals. The global project "**Sustained engagement of the world of work actors in international chemicals management: Phase II**" aims to further enhance and establish the role and engagement of the labour sector and world of work actors in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). This project was designed to continue the momentum from the first phase of the project "**Enhancing the role and engagement of the world of work actors, including ministries of labour, employer and worker organisations in SAICM beyond 2020**".

In response to the 2020 port explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, the ILO and UNITAR undertook a joint project in 2021 and 2022 on "**Implementation of the GHS, preventing chemical accidents, and strengthening occupational safety and health**". The project worked at the global level, as well as the national level in Lebanon where it supported a legislative gap analysis on occupational safety and health and the drafting of a national OSH policy and profile.

The ILO has produced a comprehensive brochure on the sound management chemicals in the world of work (https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/resources-library/promotion/WCMS_731974/lang--en/index.htm), in addition to a pamphlet on the main provisions of the ILO Convention 170 (https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/resources-library/promotion/WCMS_731982/lang--en/index.htm). The ILO has also developed a global analysis of all of its chemical related instruments and their implementation, including synergies with other global conventions and frameworks (https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/resources-library/publications/WCMS_735655/lang--en/index.htm). The ILO published a global review on chemical exposures in the world of work: Exposure to hazardous chemicals at work and resulting health impacts: A global review (https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/resources-library/publications/WCMS_790104/lang--en/index.htm) as well as a report on the GHS in the world of work: Mapping synergies between ILO instruments and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/news/WCMS_818523/lang--en/index.htm).

In 2023, the ILO produced a report on Chemicals and climate change in the world of work: Impacts for occupational safety and health (https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/areasofwork/chemical-safety-and-the-environment/WCMS_887111/lang--en/index.htm)

The ILO has engaged world of work actors and labour constituents in the SAICM IP4 meetings and

organized a thematic labour sector meeting during the IP4.2 meeting in Nairobi, Kenya (February/March 2023) bringing together representatives from ministries of labour, worker, and employer organizations.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Within the framework of SAICM, UNDP advocates for the integration of sound chemicals management priorities into national environmental and poverty reduction planning frameworks. UNDP supports international chemicals conventions objectives and assists Parties to comply with agreed measures. In addition, UNDP helps countries to identify and access technical and financial resources to improve their chemicals and waste regimes. UNDP assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement national and sector strategies that preserve the ozone layer while adopting low carbon emission technologies and safeguarding the global climate; supports partner countries in reducing POPs and mercury releases through the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste in industry, health, energy and agriculture; and assists countries to develop capacity to access, combine and sequence various sources of environmental finance.

UNDP's Strategic Plan for 2018-21 to help accelerate progress towards Agenda 2030 had three integrated objectives: to eradicate all forms of poverty, accelerate structural transformations, and build resilience to shocks and crises. UNDP supported activities on chemicals and waste management contribute towards the acceleration of structural transformations under its current Strategic Plan through nature-based solutions, such as shift to green economic pathways. Building on its previous work, UNDP's Strategic Plan for 2022-25 supports change in three directions: structural transformation, particularly green, inclusive, and digital transitions; leaving no one behind, a rights-based approach centered on human agency and human development; and building resilience to respond to systemic uncertainty and risk. UNDP supported activities on chemicals and waste management contributed towards the acceleration of structural transformations through shifting to green economic pathways and actively promoting the best available techniques, environmental practices, and green chemical chemistry principles to support developing countries in transitioning to a circular economy through chemical and waste management.

As one of the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as of June 2023, UNDP is supporting 27 countries in implementing thirty-six projects to address persistent organic pollutants, lead, and mercury with a portfolio of projects amounting to US$ 167 million of grants provided by the GEF with co-financing of US$ 1 billion. UNDP supported activities have cumulatively reduced 159,898 metric tonnes of toxic chemicals and reduced or avoided the release of 201 grams of toxic equivalent of hazardous chemicals into the air.[20]

In the framework of the Montreal Protocol, UNDP helps countries undertake investment activities in refrigeration, air conditioning, foams, and solvents sectors to phase out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances thus reducing risks to human health and environment. Such activities also include the validation and demonstration of low carbon alternative technologies with zero ozone-depleting potential. As one of the implementing agencies of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (MLF), UNDP is assisting 54 countries to implement 188 activities to phase out ozone-depleting and climate-warming substances with a portfolio of projects amounting to US $124 million. UNDP supported activities cumulatively eliminated 69,937 ODP tonnes of ozone-depleting substances.

SAICM objective: Risk Reduction

UNDP activities on chemicals, such as Persistent Organic Pollutants, Ozone Depleting Substances, and Mercury help reducing risks to environment and health.

UNDP supports the sound management, reduction, sound disposal, and elimination of all types of POPs contaminants (POPs pesticides, PCBs, unintentional POPs, etc.) included under the Stockholm Convention.

In the framework of the Montreal Protocol, UNDP helps countries to undertake investment activities in refrigeration, air conditioning, foams and solvents sectors to phase out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances thus reducing risks to human health and environment. Such activities also include the validation and demonstration of low carbon alternative technologies with zero ozone-depleting potential.

To protect public health and the global environment from the impacts of heavy metals, such as mercury and lead,

[20] https://www.sparkblue.org/content/2022-highlights-montreal-protocol-chemicals-and-waste-unit

UNDP is supporting countries through i) introduction of management schemes that support the waste aspects of obsolete equipment (including mercury waste stream), which arise when more environmentally friendly and energy efficient appliances are being introduced (e.g. as a result of refrigerator replacement programmes); and ii) introduction of Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and Best Available Technologies (BAT) to e-waste processing to avoid harmful releases of heavy metals and other hazardous substances.

SAICM objective: Knowledge and Information

UNDP maintains a website at Chemicals and Waste Hub | United Nations Development Programme (undp.org) where it provides information on its activities on chemicals management and about linkages between chemicals development and development. UNDP publications on chemicals, waste and ozone-depleting substances are also available through this website and by following the link at: Publications and Reports | United Nations Development Programme (undp.org).

SAICM objective: Governance

UNDP has been supporting the SAICM development process through participation and contributions to preparatory meetings as well as the ICCM. Furthermore, with SAICM adoption, UNDP realigned its chemicals' programming to enhance its support to countries with SAICM implementation in order to adequately reflect SAICM priorities in its technical assistance strategy.

UNDP supports countries in the implementation of chemicals-related international agreements and Conventions on chemicals such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

SAICM objective: Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation

UNDP's capacity building and mainstreaming approach follows guidance provided by UNDP Guide for Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals into Development Planning Processes which provides an explanation of the synergies that exist between SMC and development goals and suggests steps in determining national SMC capacity building needs/priorities and "points of entry" to facilitate the integration of SMC into national development plans and sector-based strategies.

Within its programmes under the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and the Montreal Protocol, UNDP endeavors to incorporate issues related to POPs and ODS management into national development planning processes, and its projects aim to improve policy and regulatory frameworks through targeted institutional capacity development.

Within the framework of Montreal Protocol and funded by the MLF, UNDP supports 22 countries with institutional strengthening projects, with the focus on national ozone units.

SAICM objective: Illegal International Traffic

Within the framework of institutional strengthening projects funded by MLF, UNDP assists national ozone units to establish licensing systems for import and export of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and undertake trainings for customs officials to prevent illegal trade in ODS.

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

In close collaboration with stakeholders, to help further address the issue of chemicals in products on a global scale by developing and disseminating knowledge, tools and guidance and providing platforms for continued exchange. This work aims at helping to advance the sound management of chemicals and to increase transparency within supply chains in order to support the controlling and eventual phasing out of chemicals of concern in products. Key targets already achieved on chemicals in products:

- Tools for governments and value chain actors to manage chemicals of concern in products
- 40+ value chain and government actors involved

The work focuses on chemicals of concern in three sectors (building products, electronics and toys) and how to minimize the adverse effects of chemicals of concern.

Buildings: Report on chemicals of concern and potential alternatives in the building sector; USEtox-based model to assess chemicals in building products in the context of life cycle assessment (LCA); Global guidance for sustainable public procurement and for eco-innovation in the building products sector; Guide for banks on setting up green mortgages; Information Hub on Building Materials.

Electronics: Global guidance for sustainable public procurement and for eco-innovation in the electronics sector; Report on regulatory approaches addressing CoC in electronics and policy recommendations; Regional studies (Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern European regions) on life cycle management of electronics; Analysis on how ecolabels address the issue of CoC and recommendations for further harmonization and integration.

Toys: Toolkit to support regulation and compliance in the toy sector; Report on regulations for chemicals in toys in China; Report reviewing toy safety policies and regulations in selected Low- and Medium-Income Countries (LMIC).

In addition, training and support has been delivered to government and value chain actors to trial and adopt new guidance and tools. This includes Training on how to use the USEtox model for companies in the building products and toy sectors in Sri Lanka and China; Eco-innovation and/or Sustainable Public Procurement training and/or pilot projects in Colombia and Sri Lanka; Sustainable finance pilot project in Sri Lanka; and Training and consultations on regulatory and compliance approaches for toys and electronics sectors.

More information on tools developed, by sector, and implementation can be found : Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM | SAICM Knowledge

More information on Chemicals in Products global developments, can be found in the UNEP Assessment report of issues of concern and its annexes and its related fact sheet on Chemicals in Products.

Complementary, upon request from UNEA-4 in 2019, UNEP has developed Green and Sustainable Chemistry Manuals, to support chemistry innovation compatible with sustainability agenda : Green and Sustainable Chemistry | UNEP - UN Environment Programme. UNEP's Green and Sustainable Chemistry Framework Manual was welcomed at UNEA-5, and its use was encouraged. Work has been carried out to apply the Manual and advance green and sustainable chemistry innovation in the buildings and construction sector, including an expert workshop held in Paris in January 2023.

UNEP is the authority on the environment and is mandated to keep the environment under review. Chemicals and waste are part of the environment and their sound management is a core mandate of UNEP. As such, UNEP activities contribute to the SAICM goal of sound management of chemicals and waste to protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of chemicals and waste and catalyzes the links among chemicals and waste agenda with others such as the sustainable consumption and production agenda, circular economy, biodiversity, sustainable approaches and innovation. In addition, UNEP hosts the SAICM secretariat and is providing support to the SAICM secretariat during intersessional meetings and sessions of the International Conference of Chemicals Management. The following paragraphs provide some examples of relevant UNEP activities since ICCM4 that contribute to the SAICM objectives.

SAICM objective: Risk Reduction
Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded projects: UNEP has been working on projects that reduce risk from the harmful effects of hazardous chemicals and waste in countries with support from the GEF. These GEF

projects include a) Elimination of lead in paint with support on the development of laws and work with the paint industry to comply with the law. Paint reformulation guidelines were pilot tested in 25 selected paint SMEs in 7 countries and to date 93 countries have adopted lead paint laws b) Inventory and elimination of PCB containing equipment in 12 Southern Africa countries. c) Destruction of DDT obsolete stocks d) Management of mercury risks e) Management of chemicals in the textile industry f) Management of electronic waste g) Reduction of mercury use and emissions from the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector. UNEP is also the lead agency of the GEF-funded planetGOLD programme, a 135-million USD collaborative effort in the context of which it is working with Conservation International, UNDP and UNIDO, and with the support of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership to develop innovative models to support artisanal and small-scale gold miners improve their livelihoods while reducing mercury use. h) Chemicals in products using life cycle thinking and approaches, as well as eco-innovation methodology and tools such as sustainable public and private procurement, to manage risks and reduce impacts in three value chains: buildings, electronics and toys. Key chemicals of concern are identified in these three sectors, and life cycle tools applied to get a better understanding of toxicity and other impacts from potential alternatives to harmful chemicals, using and improving USETox (the UNEP-SETAC Life Cycle Initiative toxicity model).

Eco-innovation: By implementing its Eco-innovation approach, UNEP supports companies in developing a new business strategy and model which incorporates sustainability throughout all business operations based on life cycle thinking and in cooperation with partners across the value chain, while also boosting a company's performance and competitiveness. Eco-innovation thus guides SMEs in adopting more sustainable and circular practices, which contribute to implementing sound management of chemicals and pay attention to chemicals of concern. It has been applied with a focus on chemicals by SMEs in the chemicals, construction, electronics and textile sector, including through the GEF SAICM project in Colombia and Sri Lanka.

UNEP also supports countries in reviewing government policies to enable circularity and eco-innovation approaches, contributing to the innovative solutions, and enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), while at the same time contributing to SDG targets.

In Jordan (2017-2018), through a project funded by **SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund**, in partnership with the Royal Scientific Society, Jordan, UNEP supported finding alternatives for the replacement of identified hazardous chemicals in SMEs of the paint, fertilizers, drilling, and detergent sectors. The project helped reduce health risks for employees and consumers, and the environmental impacts associated with the handling and use of hazardous chemicals. These sustainability benefits are gained while supporting companies in identifying new market opportunities for their newly developed products, ensuring their competitiveness in the local and international markets, and complying with national and international regulations on the sound management of chemicals.

In 2019, the Green Technology Bank (China), SUS Environment (China) and Sunpower Corp. (Japan) signed a pledge to promote environmentally sound waste management in their operation with the support of the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre. It also partnered with Coca-Cola Southeast Asia Services Co Ltd: Sprite to implement a change from Green to Clear PET bottles in Southeast Asia, a major shift that will boost PET bottle collection and recycling in the region.

SAICM objective: Knowledge and Information

The Global Chemicals Outlook II (GCO II): The GCO-II is a key publication orchestrated by UNEP and seeks to alert policymakers and other stakeholders to the critical role of the sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of sustainable development. The GCO-II features 10 key findings and 10 areas for action, identified based on the analysis in the five Parts. Part I: The evolving chemicals economy: status and trends relevant for sustainability; Part II: Where do we stand in achieving the 2020 goal – assessing overall progress and gaps; Part III: Advancing and sharing chemicals management tools and approaches; Part IV: Enabling policies and action to support innovative solutions; Part V: Scaling up collaborative action under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. GCO-II Documentations include a) Summary for Policymakers b) Synthesis Report c) Full GCO-II.

Manuals on Green and Sustainable Chemistry were developed in response to UNEA Resolution 4/8. The Manuals were welcomed in UNEA Resolution 5/7 in March 2022, and its use was encouraged: The Green and Sustainable Chemistry: Framework Manual (UNEP 2020) (available in English, Spanish and French), and its accompanying executive summary (available in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese). Furthermore, work has been carried out to apply the Manual and advance green and sustainable chemistry innovation in the buildings and construction sector, including:

- Practical guidance for implementation
- Application to the Buildings and Construction Sector : an expert workshop held in Paris in January 2023
- An E-course and a Specialized Manual on Education to Green and Sustainable Chemistry are under development.

UNEP assessment report on relevant issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment was developed at the request of UNEA Resolution 4/8. An **Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment** (UNEP 2020) is available on the UNEP webpage on chemical and waste reports for UNEA-5. The report is accompanied by annexes and an executive summary (also available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish). It covers issues of concern, including the Emerging Policy issues identified under SAICM, and issues identified by the Global Chemicals Outlook II. Resolution 5/7, in March 2022, urged Member States and invited other stakeholders to take further action to reduce or eliminate risks associated with the issues discussed in the report. Furthermore, Resolution 5/7 requests the Executive Director to **seek views on priorities for further work**, building on existing measures and initiatives, and on potential further international action on the issues, and to prepare a summary analysis. The consultation process is underway and an update is detailed in another INF document.

UNEA resolution 5/8 decided that a **science policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution** should be established, and a process is underway.

As a follow up to UNEA Resolution 3/4, in close collaboration and consultation with FAO and WHO, UNEP developed a synthesis report on Environmental and Health impacts of Pesticides and Fertilisers, and ways of minimizing them. The report presents an assessment of technical and policy information, with the overall goal to provide the information base to enable actions from other stakeholders to minimize the adverse impacts of pesticides and fertilizers.

Related to **antimicrobial resistance (AMR),** in February 2023, UNEP launched its first spotlight report 'Bracing for Superbugs: Strengthening environmental action in the One Health response to antimicrobial resistance', which offers a comprehensive overview of scientific findings on the subject. The report also analyzes the three economic sectors and their value chains that are key drivers of AMR development and spread in the environment: pharmaceuticals and other chemicals, agriculture and food, and healthcare, together with pollutants from poor sanitation, sewage and waste effluent in municipal systems. UNEP is part of the Quadripartite Alliance for One Health, with FAO, WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) as leaders in the multilateral system on human, animal, plant and environmental health. The Quadripartite has developed a number of publications such as 'the One Health Legislative Assessment Tool', the 'Guidance to facilitate monitoring and evaluation for antimicrobial resistance national action plans', the 'Implementing the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance' report, the 'One Health Priority Research Agenda for antimicrobial resistance', and annual report of the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

An *"***Integrated Stockholm Convention Electronic Toolkit"** was developed by UNEP with GEF funding aiming to facilitate the development, transmission, access and use of data contained in national implementation plans and national reports.

UNEP also developed a number of tools to provide technical information on mercury, amongst which the **Global Mercury Assessment (2018**), the **Global Mercury Supply, Trade and Demand Report (2017)** as well as the **Mercury Inventory Toolkit (2019 updated version)**. With the support of the GEF, UNEP is supporting **68 countries in their Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)** where the UNEP mercury toolkit (updated in 2023) is used to provide an overview of the mercury emissions nationally and established priorities for action. In addition**, 33 countries** are supported by UNEP in the development of their **National Action Plan (NAP) for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining sector**. UNEP supported the countries by developing a methodology for initial assessment of the use of mercury in the sector as well as a number of other guides and methodology. UNEP is also analyzing the contents of the submitted NAPs to build a better global understanding of ASGM. The UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre has also been investigating the issue of open burning of mercury waste since 2018. UNEP, with the support from the Government of Japan, is implementing a regional project to help countries in the areas of information exchange (Article 17), awareness and education (Article 18), and research, development and monitoring (Article 19) of the Convention.

The Chemicals and Health Branch contributed to the Pollution and Health report that provided evidence of chemicals and waste as pollutants and key policy recommendations.

UNEP, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, developed the Synthesis Report on Environmental and Health Impacts of Pesticides and Fertilizers and Ways of Minimizing Them[21] which presents an assessment of both technical and policy related information at broader global context. Its overall goal is to provide the information base to enable other advocacy actions to be taken by stakeholders to minimize the adverse impacts of pesticides and fertilizers.

Platform for SMC in SMEs. In collaboration with UNITAR, UNEP developed the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) - Platform of tools and methodologies for SMC implementation (http://smctools-sme.unitar.org/). The Platform is an online system resulting from the feedback of an expert group formed by RECPnet members, SAICM representatives, ICCA, and UNIDO. The Platform has tools and methodologies to assist service providers working with SMEs in developing countries, to achieve the sound management of chemicals.

Assessing toxicity impacts along the life cycle of chemicals. The Life Cycle Initiative (https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/ hosted by UNEP) fosters the development of the USEtox scientific consensus model (www.usetox.org) for the assessment of human and eco-toxicity in the context of Life Cycle Assessment. This model continues to be developed to enhance the assessment of alternatives to chemicals of concern with a holistic life cycle perspective, including all types of environmental impacts.

To advance work on **endocrine-disrupting chemicals**, UNEP organized two meetings back-to-back with the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. They included a consultative meeting on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, held on 20 and 21 April 2017, followed by the fourth meeting of the UNEP Advisory Group on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals, held on 21 April 2017. Three reports have been launched, to share recent advances in science. (i)Worldwide initiatives to identify endocrine-disrupting chemicals and potential endocrine-disrupting chemicals; (ii) Review of existing national, regional and global regulatory frameworks that address endocrine-disrupting chemicals; (iii) Overview of the current knowledge on chemicals identified as endocrine-disrupting chemicals and selected potential endocrine-disrupting chemicals. The reports are posted on the UNEP website. As a follow up to UNEA 5/7 resolution request, UNEP, in collaboration with WHO, will update the 2012 State of Science report on EDCs.

The International Environmental Technology Centre provided knowledge and technical support for development of **national- and municipal-level waste policies, strategies and action plans**. In partnership with Global Partnership on Waste Management, the Centre completed three assessments in 2017: (i) Global Mercury Waste assessment, (ii) Waste management in ASEAN Countries, (iii) Regional study on mercury waste management in the ASEAN countries. The Global Waste Management Outlook published in 2015 provided targeted regional and thematic reports. A thematic outlook for mountain region was published in December 2016, and one for Small Island Developing States was published in 2019. Regional waste management outlooks for Asia, Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean were published in September 2017, and the Waste management outlook for Africa was published in June 2018 during the World Environment Day. The Global Waste Management Outlook 2 is under development. Three thematic publications on waste were produced in 2019: the Waste to Energy: Considerations for Informed Decision-making and Future E-Waste Scenarios target two specific waste streams while the Gender and waste nexus: Experiences from Bhutan, Mongolia and Nepal highlights the interlinkages between gender and waste management. The Centre also promoted 3R approach for waste management through development of waste management strategies and action plans at national and city levels. In 2019, the Maldives, Cambodia, Honduras, Tanzania and Bhutan develop and adopted National waste management strategies with support from UNEP.

Factsheets on lead, mercury, environment and health have been developed and are available online. The Toolkit for establishing laws to eliminate lead paint, Lead Paint Reformulation Technical Guidelines and Lead Paint Law Compliance and Enforcement Guidance are also available to assist countries adopt and implement a lead paint law.

SAICM objective: Governance

UNEP is supporting countries with establishing policies to adequately manage chemicals and wastes by establishing standard for total lead in paint, undertaking legislative reviews for the implementation of the

[21] https://www.unep.org/resources/report/environmental-and-health-impacts-pesticides-and-fertilizers-and-ways-minimizing

Minamata Convention, establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility schemes for the management of end of life of electronic products. Under the GEF GOLD programme, UNEP will support countries in their formalization efforts of the sector.

UNEP provides the secretariat for chemicals and waste MEAs, including the Montreal Protocol, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and since 2018 the Minamata Convention on Mercury. It coordinates the **UNEP Global Mercury Partnership** which gathers to date over 250 stakeholders representing governments, IGOs, NGOs, industry and academia, and works on supporting the implementation of the Minamata Convention, providing knowledge and science on mercury and delivering outreach and awareness raising.

The High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste was established in July 2018 with the aim to promote and ensure commitment to an ambitious new global deal to the sound management of chemicals and waste for beyond 2020. It is co-chaired by the Minister for the Environment, Sweden, and Minister for Housing, Land Planning and Environment, Uruguay. It is formed to raise the political profile of the benefits of tackling hazardous chemicals and waste and make it a more ambitious programme than it currently is. Furthermore, the Alliance recognizes the vast costs of inaction that, unchecked, will have direct impact on human health, the environment and economic development. UNEP is part of the Alliance.

UNEP, together with the partners of the Quadripartite Alliance, established in November 2020 the AMR Global Leaders Group (GLG) and supports them providing the secretariat. The mission of this AMR global structure is to advise and advocate for sustained political action against AMR. The GLG is comprised of world leaders and experts from across sectors working together to accelerate political action on AMR based on the One Health approach.

SAICM objective: Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation

The Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (Special Programme): Established in September 2015, and extended in 2022 at UNEA 5/7 to receive contributions and applications for funding until September 2027 and to disburse funds until 2030, the Special Programme supports country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of the integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, taking into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, to increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle. The Special Programme is one of two complementary elements of dedicated external financing under the integrated approach, with the GEF being the further element. Currently, seventy-five (75) country projects have been approved by the Executive Board in six rounds of applications, with combined project budgets amounting to approximately US$ 20 million. Funding decisions were made on the basis of the project's merits, regional balance and priority to countries with least capacity, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries and small islands developing States. The seventh round of applications was launched on 6 April 2023 with a closing date of 11 August 2023 and will be considered by the Executive Board at its eighth meeting in March 2024.

The project **Chemicals and Waste in the 2030 Agenda – Building capacity in SDG follow-up and review in developing countries to minimize chemicals and waste risks across sectors***",* funded by UN Development Account enhanced capacities in developing countries to collect data, monitor trends and identified related needs and action in support of evidence-based national decision-making and reporting under relevant international chemicals and waste agreements and the SDG global indicator framework. A global review of reporting requirements on chemicals and wastes, including reviewing the current status of MEAs and SAICM reporting, related gaps and identifying methodological issues, has been conducted.

UNEP in collaboration with the BRS secretariat is partnering with the private sector for pilot demonstration projects on **the environmentally sound management of waste lead acid batteries**.

A full-size Global Environment Facility project entitled "Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)" (GEF ID 10785) was launched in 2021 by the Chemicals and Health Branch of UNEP to reduce the dependency of external expertise and resources to develop NIP and NIP updates through strengthening the political environment and technical capacities of Parties. It is meant to provide necessary guidance, instruments and tools for building a sustainable NIP review and update process and mechanism at the national

level, including sustainable national reporting mechanism.

Four GEF funded projects are being implemented in 42 countries in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and in Latin America to strengthen the capacity for implementation of the **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Global Monitoring Plan of the Stockholm Convention** and to create the conditions for sustainable monitoring of POPs. These projects entitled "Continuing Regional Support for the POPS Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention" in the Africa, Pacific Islands and Latin America and the Caribbean Regions and "Implementation of the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention" in the Asia Region measured the levels of POPs in air, water, human milk, matrices of national interests and generated quality and comparable data in human and environmental concentrations of POPs . The projects also contributed to capacity-building through conducting POPs analysis in national laboratories; organizing interlaboratory assessment; providing training and guidance for sampling and analysis; and creating conditions to establish long term monitoring programs and networks in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The projects aim to provide scientifically sound evidence to support informed decision making at the national level and the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention.

A project on the **global monitoring of mercury,** conducted in cooperation with partners and with support from the GEF, has also recently been completed and resulted in a global inter-laboratory assessment as well as the development of standard operating procedures for the media to be monitored under the Minamata Convention.

Under the **Chemicals in Products** component of the SAICM GEF 9771 project on "Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM", UNEP helped to advance the sound management of chemicals and to increase transparency within supply chains in order to support the controlling and eventual phasing out of chemicals of concern in products. Key targets already achieved on chemicals in products:

- Tools for governments and value chain actors to manage chemicals of concern in products
- 40+ value chain and government actors involved

The work focuses on chemicals of concern in three sectors (building products, electronics and toys) and how to minimize the adverse effects of chemicals of concern.

Eco-innovation and Responsible Production trainings and implementation are supported by the **Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production network (RECP*net*)**, originally established by UNIDO and UNEP**.** The capacity of the network of partners in more than 60 countries is being built through trainings and joint implementation using tools such as the UNEPeco-innovation manual (including a supplement on chemicals) and the Responsible Production handbook. This model of national institution building has proven effective for a longer-term engagement with companies for improving their management of chemical hazards.

Integrated Health and Environment Observatories and Legal and Institutional Strengthening for the Sound Management of Chemicals in Africa (African ChemObs): This GEF funded project is part of the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa. It provides a prototype of national integrated health and environment chemicals observatory, including a core set of indicators that will enable data aggregation at national, regional and global levels, to provide timely and evidence-based information to better predict, prevent and reduce chemicals risks to human health and the environment. The project (2018-2022), developed an integrated health and environment Observatory (ChemObs) for sound management of chemicals in nine African countries (Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe).

Guidance documents to support countries to establish or improve their legal framework for chemicals control and its enforcement

As a follow up to the LIRA guidance and to further support countries in taking actions in strengthening national legislation and institutional structures in establishing chemicals control, UNEP in collaboration with the Swedish Government launched four complementary documents to the LIRA guidance in 2019. They are primarily intended for government officials working to implement the safe management of chemicals. The four draft documents are: a) An information document to provide to the reader with information about the role of chemicals control in the life cycle of chemicals and to provide the arguments for taking actions to establish chemicals control legislation with defined responsibilities; and b) Three guidance documents, namely:

i) National Authority for Chemicals Control: Guidance on the institutional capacity and structure and its funding
ii) Risk reduction elements in Chemicals Control: Guidance on tools and on data that can be used
iii) Enforcement of Chemicals Control Legislation: Description of inspection methodology linked to chemicals control.

UNEP is partnering with the Basel Convention secretariat, NGO (Pure Earth), and the private sector (International Lead Association) for capacity building projects on the **environmentally sound management of used lead acid batteries** in Bangladesh, Honduras, and Ecuador.

UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre is collaborating with universities to build knowledge and programmes focused on waste management. The Suez Canal University pilot tested in 2019 a Holistic waste management curriculum in English and French, while the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV), Chile, within the framework of the UNEP-led consortium of universities for Latin America and the Caribbean, consolidated its international programme on sustainable waste management through a second edition of the training. Partnerships with these universities contributes to building and strengthening capacity for holistic waste management in developing regions.

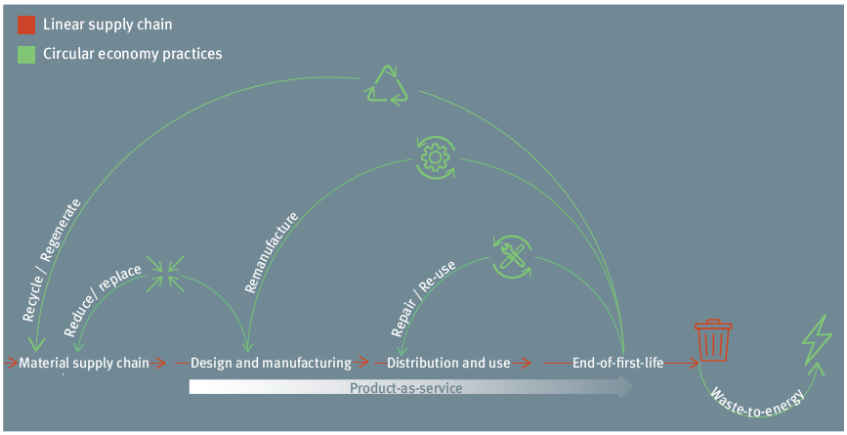
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

UNIDO's mandate is to promote and accelerate Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (SDG 9) in developing countries and economies in transition by contributing to poverty reduction, economic growth, and sustainable development. UNIDO is fully committed to contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) and therefore also to accomplishment of the SAICM objectives.

Life cycle approach

The engagement of UNIDO for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste should be seen in the overall context of advancing the circular economy or life cycle approach. This approach aims at creating value, and ultimately prosperity, through extending product lifespan, relocating waste from the end of the supply chain to the beginning and removing or preventing hazardous substances to enter the cycle. The building blocks of a circular economy underpin many of UNIDO's capacity building and technical cooperation projects, policy advice to improve the governance and innovation initiatives. UNIDO is dedicated to supporting Member States in introducing such life cycle practices into their economies and industrial value chains to help improve resource productivity, management or phase out of hazardous substances and minimize waste.

Graphic 1: Comparing circular economy and linear supply chain approaches



Working areas

Through a combination of capacity building, technology and knowledge transfer, risk reduction, waste management and trade control efforts, UNIDO seeks to contribute towards reducing and, where possible, eliminating the release of hazardous chemicals such as POPs, ODS and mercury into the environment from the industrial sector. Moreover, UNIDO promotes Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production, Chemical

Leasing and Green Chemistry, and a life cycle approach for the phase out of hazardous chemicals in products and process in different industrial sectors. Finally, UNIDO continues to complement and expand its working area addressing emerging issues such as micro plastics and marine litter.

Where we work

Currently UNIDO is implementing around 200 projects that contribute directly or indirectly to the sound management of chemicals in their life cycle in countries in Africa, Asia & Pacific, Latin-America and Central and Eastern Europe.

Below are some examples of UNIDO projects contributing to the achievement of the SAICM objectives risk reduction, knowledge and information, capacity building, technical cooperation and governance.

Global Green Chemistry Initiative

UNIDO's Global Green Chemistry Initiative is a GEF funded project that aims to increase global awareness, and technical capacities on deployable Green Chemistry approaches for the design of products and processes that advance global environmental benefits throughout their life cycles. Green Chemistry can be defined as the "design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use and generation of hazardous substances". As such, Green Chemistry focuses on the inherent nature/properties of chemicals, materials, products, processes, or systems. It is transdisciplinary in nature, encompassing elements of chemistry, engineering, biology, toxicology and environmental science. UNIDO, in close collaboration with the Centre for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale University, conducted different awareness raising and training workshops and drafted a guidance document and a technology compendium to promote the concept of green chemistry in economies in transition.

Chemical Leasing

UNIDO's Global Chemical Leasing Programme funded by the governments of Austria, Germany and Switzerland seeks to mainstream and upscale Chemical Leasing and other business models for sustainable chemicals management. Chemical Leasing is a circular economy, performance-based business model that shifts the focus from increasing sales volume of chemicals towards a value-added approach. Chemical Leasing is a response to chemical users who do not want to buy chemicals, but to buy solutions that can be achieved through the application or use of chemicals. With Chemical Leasing, chemicals suppliers mainly sell the functions performed by the chemical and functional units are the main basis for payment. Within the model, the responsibility of the supplier is extended and may include management of the entire life cycle. As a result, the model ensures a sustainable chemicals management with the efficient use of chemicals while reducing the risks of chemicals and protecting human health. It improves the economic and environmental performance of participating companies and enhances their access to new markets.

The programme is UNIDO's response to the "unsustainable management of chemicals in industries and lack of cooperation among chemicals producers and users". Under the framework of the program several activities for the promotion and awareness raising of the concept have been carried out. In this context, since 2009, UNIDO organizes the Global Chemical Leasing Award. This Award aims at acknowledging best practices and inspiring companies and individuals around the globe to apply the Chemical Leasing business concept. In addition, an online toolkit for Chemical Leasing was developed. The toolkit provides guidelines, materials, best practice case studies and lessons learnt from 10 years of work at UNIDO's Global Chemical Leasing Programme. The toolkit enables users to systematically kick-start the implementation of Chemical Leasing at the company level. It also supports policy-makers in understanding how best to approach Chemical Leasing in the policy arena.

Innovative Approaches to Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (IAMC)

The project on Innovative Approaches to Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (IAMC), provides practical solutions for industry to become more efficient and at the same time reduce unnecessary hazardous chemicals consumption and protect human health and the environment. The project was part of

the Joint UNIDO-UNEP Programme on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) in Developing and Transition Countries funded by the government of Switzerland. IAMC strives for decoupling resource use and pollution from industrial development and promoting the growth of productive sectors and entrepreneurship in developing and transition countries

The project provided technical assistance and support to companies to improve their chemicals management using innovative solutions. UNIDO conducted awareness raising events and provided training to companies and National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPC). Under the project, an online toolkit was developed. The Toolkit includes documentation and tools to perform innovation assessments to identify possible areas of improvements and to implement innovative options for chemicals management. The Toolkit mainly targets synthesis companies, formulators and industrial users of chemicals and will form part of the IOMC toolbox for SAICM implementation.

More information on ongoing and past project can be found on the UNIDO open data platform: https://open.unido.org/projects

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

UNITAR's Chemicals and Waste Management Programme supports capacity building in developing countries in a wide range of chemicals and waste related areas to protect human health and the environment, often in collaboration with other IOMC POs and key partners. This support includes: (i) infrastructure and capacity assessments (e.g. National Profiles, Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) situation analyses); (ii) implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, such as the development of enabling activities and socio-economic studies on POPs and mercury, and training and capacity building on waste management including PCBs and e-waste; (iii) specialized training and support (e.g. GHS, pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs), nanotechnology and e-wastes); and (iv) international chemicals management and the Beyond 2020 process, for example, organization of workshops in relation to governance for chemicals and waste management.

SAICM objective: Risk Reduction

UNITAR has supported more than 30 countries to prepare their Mercury Initial Assessments (MIAs) and the National Action Plans (NAPs) on Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM). As part of the MIAs, UNITAR provides training on the development of mercury emissions' inventories using UNEP's Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases. UNITAR also provides expertise in updating the Toolkit.

UNITAR also supports countries in implementing the GHS (addressing GHS situation and gap analyses, GHS implementation strategies, GHS legislation, and training and awareness-raising for all stakeholders), which contributes to minimizing risks to human health and the environment through improved management of hazards. Since 2019, UNITAR has supported two countries to develop national roadmaps, and supported three countries in including the GHS in their national legislation. Additionally, 16 sessions (English and Spanish) of the GHS e-Learning course have been completed.

UNITAR is a lead agency on the design and development of PRTRs worldwide. In 2019 UNITAR assisted 6 countries to design and implement national PRTR systems.

Additionally, UNITAR supports countries to manage PCBs, including the development of National PCB Management Plans, management actions (elimination, maintenance, storage and transportation). During 2020, UNITAR initiated support for new projects in 1 country.

UNITAR provides technical support and training for GEF-funded projects to promote BAT/BEP to reduce unintentionally produced POPs from open burning of waste in the SADC region.

SAICM objective: Knowledge and Information

The National Profile Homepage (http://cwm.unitar.org/national-profiles/nphomepage/np3_region.aspx) provides a global collection of National Profiles.

The UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme provides guidance and training materials on the GHS (https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/planet/our-portfolio/globally-harmonized-system-classification-and-labelling-chemicals), including an e-learning course.

UNITAR provides support to countries to design PRTRs at the national and regional levels. PRTRs provide information on pollution to governments, communities, and the public, thereby supporting the "right to know" principle. UNITAR provides technical assistance, guidance and reference materials, and support for country-based activities, including development of POPs release inventories. In addition, UNITAR's PRTR:Learn (http://prtr.unitar.org/site/home) provides an interactive platform for sharing insights, information, knowledge, training modules, and resources on PRTRs.

In collaboration with UNEP, UNITAR has also developed the Mercury Platform (http://mercury.unitar.org), which shares insights, information, knowledge, and resources on mercury management. The Platform includes Mercury:Learn, which provides online training modules on developing mercury releases inventories, based on UNEP's Toolkit.

In collaboration with UNIDO, UNITAR has developed a platform (http://stopopenburning.unitar.org/) to provide information on the SADC Waste Management project focusing on national efforts to implement BAT/BEP for waste management.

With Swiss support and in close cooperation with the Minamata and BRS Secretariats, UNITAR has developed the Chemicals and Waste Platform to share lessons-learned and learning modules that will assist stakeholders in understanding the different elements of chemicals and waste management, and how collaboration across agreements and topics may be beneficial (http://chemicalsandwaste.org/).

Additional learning platforms have been launched. The focus topics are: Training on Environmental Monitoring, PCB e-Learning, Alignment with OECD Standards for Chemicals Management, Sound Management of Chemicals in Nigeria, uPOP Côte d'Ivoire, The Global Partnership to Implement the GHS, Ratification of chemicals and waste agreements. All can be found at: https://cwplatforms.unitar.org/.

New e-Learning courses include: Legislation for Chemicals Placed on the Market, Sustainable Financing of Institutional Capacity for Chemicals Control, Enforcement of Chemicals Legislation, Risk Reduction of Chemicals, Waste Management and Circular Economy, Nanomaterials Safety (revised version). All can be found at https://cwcourses.unitar.org/ and all courses (apart from the GHS e-Learning course) are free.

SAICM objective: Governance

Over the past 12 years, UNITAR has developed and tested a wide range of guidance materials, in collaboration with a diverse range of countries, IOMC POs, and other partners.

UNITAR, in coordination with the IOMC, participates in relevant meetings and numerous regional SAICM workshops. In 2016, UNITAR, in close cooperation with UN Environment, organized a workshop on Chemicals and Waste and the SDGs. In 2018, in collaboration with UN Environment, UNITAR organized a lessons-learned workshop on the Biodiversity Aichi targets, which provided some suggestions and good practices to be considered during the Beyond 2020 process. Similarly, in February/March 2019, September 2019 and January 2020, UNITAR in cooperation with the German, Norwegian and Swiss Governments organized workshops to discuss options for institutional arrangements and overall governance of the new framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. In August 2022, and January and June 2023, UNITAR, on behalf of the IOMC, organised three workshops on integrated chemicals and waste management, with the 2023 workshops focusing on advancing chemicals and waste management in economic sectors and industries. These workshops have provided suggestions to be considered by the intersessional process.

UNITAR also supports countries to implement international chemicals and waste related initiatives by providing technical assistance to national or international executing agencies and local governments, as well as to key stakeholders.

SAICM objective: Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation

UNITAR has previously served as the international executing agency for more than 70 projects supported by the QSP Trust Fund.

UNITAR also embarked with IOMC partners such as OECD to raise awareness about nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, including the implications for developing countries as nano-based or nano-containing products are traded across borders. Furthermore, UNITAR has coordinated with other stakeholders to submit information to the Basel Convention in relation to waste containing nanomaterials, developing a new relationship with the University of Fribourg.

UNITAR, in close collaboration with UNEP, developed in 2018 key publications to support the development and implementation of NAPs on ASGM under the Minamata Convention: (i) The Handbook for Developing National ASGM Formalization Strategies within National Action Plans (http://mercury.unitar.org/site/document/1438); and (ii) the Mobile data collection tool for national ASGM overview (http://mercury.unitar.org/site/document/1401). UNITAR also developed the Socio-Economic ASGM Research Methodology (https://www.unitar.org/sites/default/files/uploads/cwm/final_socio-economic_methodology.pdf).

SAICM objective: Illegal International Traffic

UNITAR has completed an EU-funded project, in close cooperation with key partners, to reinforce operational activities and capacities of authorities involved in the fight against illegal trade and management of waste. Practical tools and methodologies were developed alongside implementation of capacity building activities for enforcement officers to prevent illegal traffic in Europe and Asia-Pacific.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The following paragraphs provide some examples of relevant WHO activities since OEWG3.

SAICM objectives: Risk Reduction and Knowledge and Information

Key data on the public health impacts of chemicals: knowns and unknowns was updated in 2021 https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-FWC-PHE-EPE-16-01. The 2021 data addendum estimates that 2 million lives and 53 million disability-adjusted life-years were lost in 2019 due to exposures to selected chemicals. This is higher than the estimate of the previous data addendum of 1.6 million lives and 45 million disability-adjusted life-years lost in 2016.

Examples of guidance materials, chemical risk assessments and risk assessment methodologies published by WHO:

- WHO Guidelines for the Clinical Management of Exposure to Lead (2021); available in six languages https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240037045
- WHO Guidelines for establishing a poison centre (2020) available in four languages https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240009523
- Compendium of WHO and other UN Guidance on health and environment (2022 update). https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-HEP-ECH-EHD-22.01
- Children and digital dumpsites: e-waste exposure and child health (2021) https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240024557
- Guidance document “Strategic planning for implementation of the health-related articles of the

Minamata Convention on Mercury", available in six languages. https://www.who.int/publications-detail/strategic-planning-for-implementation-of-the-health-related-articles-of-the-minamata-convention-on-mercury

- Guidance on "Addressing health when developing national action plans on artisanal and small-scale gold mining under the Minamata Convention on Mercury" to support Member States in ensuring that health aspects are appropriately taken into consideration as part of national action planning processes focused on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM); available in 6 languages; file:///C:/Users/frydrychm/Downloads/WHO-CED-PHE-EPE-19.9-eng.pdf

- Guidance for the health sector on chemical release triggered by natural hazard events (Natech events), including leaflets on chemical release resulting from earthquakes, floods and cyclones, was translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. All but the Arabic have been published on the WHO website https://www.who.int/publications-detail/chemical-releases-caused-by-natural-hazard-events-and-disasters

- Generic risk assessment models for insecticide-treated clothing, skin-applied repellents and household insecticides https://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/vector_ecology/resources/who-cds-ntd-vem-2019.01/en/

- Global situation of pesticide management in agriculture and public health, Report of a 2018 WHO–FAO survey https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/329971/9789241516884-eng.pdf?ua=1

- Managing pesticides in agriculture and public health -- An overview of FAO and WHO guidelines and other resources The International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management https://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/vector_ecology/resources/9789241516020/en/

- Framework for the use of systematic review in chemical risk assessment (2021) https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240034488

Each year since 2013 WHO has organized an international week of action the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW). Each year technical materials are updated and new communications materials including social media tiles, videos, infographics and others are created with the prime focus on eliminating lead paint and preventing lead poisoning particularly in children. WHO and partners also publish a report on lead week. https://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/en/.

WHO work on the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) continues to be a major point of collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO). ICSCs are available for approximately 1700 chemicals in disseminated via a web-based interface (https://www.ilo.org/dyn/icsc/showcard.listCards3).
There are currently 15 language versions of the ICSC available (English, Spanish, French, Finnish, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Persian, Korean, Portuguese and German). GHS classifications continue to be made for new and updated ICSCs. The corresponding hazard statements, signal words and symbols are included on the ICSCs. To date, GHS classifications have been included on 670 ICSCs. The number of pageviews of ICSC reached more than 3 million in 2022.

Recent evaluations of the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives https://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/jecfa/en/

Recent evaluations of the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues are available at https://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/jmpr/en/

Recent evaluations of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) can be accessed at: http://monographs.iarc.fr/

WHO continues to update guidelines in chemicals in drinking water and air quality guidelines.
A review of the evidence related to the occurrence of microplastics in drinking water, the potential health impacts from microplastic exposure and the removal of microplastics during waste- water and drinking water treatment was completed in August 2019. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241516198

A major update of the WHO Air Quality Guidelines (AQG) was published in September 2021 providing recommendations on air quality guideline levels as well as interim targets for six key air pollutants and good

practices for the management of certain types of particular matter for which there is insufficient evidence to derive AQG levels. https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/who-global-air-quality-guidelines.

SAICM objective: Governance

In 2023, the World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA 76.17 on the impacts of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health. This far-reaching resolution places these issues on the agenda for consideration by the World Health Assembly in 2024 and 2025. The resolution recognizes the significant opportunity to prevent a sizable burden of disease by addressing environmental determinants particularly the sound management of chemicals and waste and including preventing up to one fifth of all suicide-related deaths from highly hazardous pesticides. It calls to further enhance the linkages between the World Health Organization (WHO) and various intergovernmental agreements addressing chemicals and waste pollution and also connections with other health priorities such as maternal and child health, suicide prevention, health inequities and health of those in vulnerable situations. The need for strengthening training of the health workforce, dissemination of knowledge and strengthening surveillance and biomonitoring approaches were highlighted in the discussions.

Representatives of 74 Member States had joined the WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network established by the WHO Secretariat based on mandate given by one of the actions of the WHO Chemicals Road Map. A series of case studies from Member States documenting their experience in using the Roadmap have been published (Publications (who.int)).

In December 2019 an online workspace (SharePoint site) for the Global Chemicals and Health Network was launched. It serves as a platform for the Network members to cooperate, discuss, share information and experience, and to support in the implementation of the WHO Chemicals Road Map. It provides a common space to share national implementation plans and case studies on implementing the road map. Global Health Observatory information on the status of regulations and controls on lead paint is regularly updated. http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/lead_paint_regulations/en/

An annotated bibliography of WHO information relevant to the Minamata Convention was published in 2021 (https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022638). This publication aims to provide easy reference to resources published by WHO that are relevant to implementation of the Minamata Convention and World Health Assembly Resolution 67.11 on the public health impacts of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds: the role of WHO and ministries of public health in the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

In 2022, WHO published a Review of Minamata Convention Initial Assessment Reports: Key findings for health (https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240041011). This publication aims to raise awareness about the level of preparedness among ministries of health and their engagement in implementation of the Minamata Convention, highlighting some of the outstanding needs in this area.

SAICM objective: Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation

As at the end of 2022 there were 93 institutions in the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network from 52 countries. Details of Network membership and the ongoing activities are presented on the dedicated Network web pages http://www.who.int/ipcs/network/en/; http://www.who.int/ipcs/network/activities/en/ .

Activities have continued with the implementation of the 2018 Strategic Plan for enhancing chemical risk assessment capacity 2018-2020 in WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network participants. https://www.who.int/ipcs/network/Network_Capacity_Building_Strategy.pdf

A number of activities have been conducted and supported to strengthen risk assessment capacities in countries and to introduce and promote the use of the WHO Human Health Risk Assessment Toolkit.

During 2019 an update of the Toolkit was initiated, to add methodology resources published since the 2010 edition and to update links and references in this key publication. A Continuing Education Course on chemical risk assessment methods available from WHO/IPCS, including the new methods has been added to the Toolkit.

The third phase of the EC-supported project titled "IOMC Toolbox project on decision making in chemicals management: From design to action" has been completed and a new phase is at the initial stage of implementation.

A series of regional workshops for ministries of health were held to support health implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the outcomes published.
https://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/publication/en/

WHO continued to support Member States in prevention, preparedness, surveillance and response to (suspected) chemical incidents including technical support in relation to implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and response to specific outbreaks, including contaminated cough syrup, poisonings relating to methanol, pesticides and oil spills which have occurred in several regions and countries.

A workshop on identification of emerging risks to health from chemicals to develop collaborative activities on this issue under the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network, was held 20-21 February 2019,
https://www.who.int/ipcs/network/about/en/index2.html

WHO has actively participated in the execution of GEF projects, for example on ASGM, lead in paint and is leading the implementation of new projects on mercury in skin-lightening, medical devices and dental amalgam.

World Bank

The World Bank works with developing countries and countries with economies in transition to support the design and implementation of environmental policies and to finance the investments and build capacities for meeting their obligations under international environmental treaties, not least as an Implementing Agency of the GEF and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

The World Bank has a large project portfolio related to pollution management and environmental health that covers several activities with linkages to the SAICM, including POPs, pesticide management, and hazardous waste. In addition, the World Bank Group has a strong portfolio of active projects with chemicals and waste management components. Between 2003 and 2022, the World Bank Group implemented pollution management projects with a total commitment of US$ 52 billion. Out of these projects, the Bank financed chemicals and hazardous waste management interventions amounting to more than US$5 billion. These projects have contributed significantly, easing contamination on land and in rivers and reducing air pollution in numerous countries, including Argentina, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Morocco, Mexico, Mongolia, Peru, and Vietnam.

Over the last several years, stakeholders across low and middle-income countries have expressed an urgent need for increased support on pollution management to respond to the magnitude of the threat to human health and economies. Responding to pollution is a challenge solvable in the near term to save lives and unlock economic opportunity through action at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

Some specific World Bank activities related to the objectives of the Strategic Approach are highlighted in the table below.

SAICM objective: Risk Reduction

The World Bank Group has actively managed public and private sector pollution for several decades. World Bank-funded projects have improved the management of solid and hazardous waste and wastewater and helped control pollution related to transport, industry, energy, mining, and other sectors across many countries, for example:

- The Zambia Mining and Environmental Remediation and Improvement Project invests $65.5 million to reduce environmental health risks in critically polluted mining areas, including exposure to lead.
- The Africa Environmental Health and Pollution Management Program, a $37.9 million program, aims to reduce exposure to mercury and uPOPs and strengthen the institutional capacity to manage and regulate mercury use in artisanal small-scale gold mining.
- The Integrated watershed management of the Putumayo-Içá river basin project includes components to

manage mercury discharges from artisanal gold mining
- The Contaminated Site Management Project in China improves the country's capacity for managing toxic chemical contamination and environmentally sound identification and cleanup of sites contaminated with POPs and other hazardous chemicals.
- The Montenegro Industrial Waste Management and Cleanup Project helps to remediate industrial waste disposal sites and ensures that hazardous waste from industries is disposed of in compliance with applicable law.
- The China Hunan Integrated Management of Agricultural Land Pollution Project demonstrates a risk-based approach to managing heavy metal and chemical pollution in agricultural land and strengthens monitoring and management and including training.
- The Punjab Green Development Program in Pakistan includes chemicals and waste management interventions. The project has supported legal and regulatory reforms and has promoted investments in cleaner technologies in highly polluting sectors (brickmaking, leather tanning).
- In the Middle East, projects in Egypt, Lebanon, and Iraq address e-waste and unintended POPs emissions and remove PCB contamination.

Moreover, sound chemical management can be achieved through World Bank projects as a byproduct of a project's primary objectives. Though not quantified, these opportunities constitute a strong potential for synergies and mainstreaming chemicals management in Bank operations that can be explored and expanded based on client country priorities.

SAICM objective: Knowledge and Information

The World Bank Group provides information to the general public through its websites. The Bank's websites on Pollution Management and Environmental Health, Getting to Green - A Sourcebook of Pollution Management Policy Tools for Growth and Competitiveness, and Reducing Pollution include information about its strategy, portfolio, and pipeline on hazardous waste management. In addition, the Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines available on the website of the International Finance Corporation include industry sector-specific guidelines. Other products generated by the World Bank are available in hard and soft copies for all interested stakeholders.

The World Bank has recently completed an economic cost estimate of health effects from lead exposure and, in 2023, plans to release a comprehensive report on the global cost of lead pollution. Currently, the Bank is working on an assessment of conflict-related toxic chemical contamination in Ukraine. Recent examples of World Bank analytical work include the following (available on www.openknowledge.worldbank.org):

- The Global Health Cost of PM2.5 Air Pollution: A Case for Action Beyond 2021.
- Recycling of Used Lead-Acid Batteries: Guidelines for Appraisal of Environmental Health Impacts.
- Artisanal Scale Gold Mining: A Framework for Collecting Site-Specific Sampling and Survey Data to Support Health-Impact Analyses.
- Getting Down to Earth: Are Satellites Reliable for Measuring Pollutants that Cause Mortality in Low- And Middle-Income Countries?
- Are All Air Pollution Particles Equal? How Constituents and Sources of Fine Air Pollution Particles (PM2.5) Affect Health.
- Blue Skies, Blue Seas: Air Pollution in the Middle East and North Africa.

SAICM objective: Governance

As an Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the World Bank works with developing countries and countries with economies in transition to carry out investments and build capacities for meeting their obligations under international environmental treaties.

Moreover, the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) sets environmental and social standards, including pollution management requirements, working conditions, health, and safety, as well as environmental assessment used to examine environmental risks and benefits associated with all Bank investments. The ESF requires that national legislation be taken into account and a country's obligations under relevant international environmental treaties and agreements, including, for example, the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions and the Montreal Protocol. The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group's private sector arm, has equivalent Environmental and Social Performance Standards.

SAICM objective: Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation
The World Bank Group views capacity building and technical assistance as integral to its work, integrated into risk reduction investments highlighted above. Capacity building is an indispensable element of project interventions in all international development fields. In the chemicals-related field, all World Bank-implemented projects seek to ensure that regulation and enforcement capabilities are in place and that these efforts can be sustained over the long term. Of direct relevance to SAICM, the Bank promotes approaches where client countries can build the foundations for long-term capacity for chemicals management while working to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and other pollution-related international agreements; and the Bank will help to implement the provisions of a new SAICM Beyond 2020 instrument.
SAICM objective: Illegal International Traffic
The bulk of trade-related activities carried out by the Bank relate to the control of illegal trade of Ozone Depleting Substances under the Montreal Protocol. The Bank has also initiated work on the international trafficking of wildlife by creating the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime in collaboration with CITES and others. It has a growing series of investments with client countries on customs modernization and trade. The World Bank Group's Environment and International Law Unit provides advisory support and expertise on environmental compliance and enforcement issues.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

In order to facilitate its global reach, the OECD aligns its work closely with other international efforts especially the IOMC. The Chemicals Programme at the OECD supports the realization of several objectives of SAICM and progress reports are aligned with SAICM objectives: www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety.

SAICM objective: Risk Reduction
OECD has continued to develop resources regarding substitution of hazardous chemicals. This includes guidance on selection of safer chemicals, comparative studies on substitution and alternatives assessment, economic approaches to incentivize substitution, and third-party tools to support substitution (2021-2023). The OECD has also continued to populate its Substitution and Alternatives Assessment Toolbox with tools to support substitution (see https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/substitution-of-hazardous-chemicals/). On sustainable chemistry, the OECD released a report on the economic features of chemicals leasing, which received a silver award at the at the 2018 Global Chemical Leasing Awards. In 2021-2023 reports on a chemicals perspective on designing with sustainable plastics, along with case studies highlighting the goals, considerations and trade-offs were published (https:/www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/sustainable-chemistry/). The OECD/UNEP Global Perfluorinated Chemicals (PFC) Group has developed numerous reports to support risk management of PFAS and a transition to safer alternatives. This includes reports on terminology of PFAS, alternatives in particular sectors, a list of PFAS, fact cards of major groups of PFAS, and information on polymeric PFAS (2018-2023). In addition webinars are organized and the OECD PFAS Portal links to country information regarding risk management (see http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/). The OECD has also compiled in 2022 *Government Risk Management Approaches Used for Chemicals Management* (www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/government-risk-management-approaches-used-for-chemicals-management.pdf) and developed economic values to use in cost-benefit assessment for chemicals management for a number of health related endpoints (see https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-management/costs-benefits-chemicals-regulation.htm). The conceptualization of Safe(r) and Sustainable Innovation Approach (SSIA) for Nano-enabled and other Emerging Materials and associated working terminology have been developed (see https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/safer-and-sustainable-innovation-approach/).
SAICM objective: Knowledge and Information
The OECD continually updates and improves its QSAR Toolbox, a free software application intended to be used

by member countries, the chemical industry and other stakeholders in filling gaps in (eco)toxicity data needed for assessing the hazards of chemicals. The latest version (4.6) was released at the beginning of 2023 (http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/oecd-qsar-toolbox.htm).

To support Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment of Chemicals the OECD has elaborated more than 30 case studies of the assessment approaches (2015-2022) and numerous supporting lessons learned and guidance documents (see https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/iata/). This approach advances the regulatory use of novel methods and use of methods in combination to assess chemicals.

In 2018, the OECD also released considerations for assessing the risks from the combined exposure to multiple chemicals. The report outlines the technical aspects of the various approaches and methodologies available with respect to the assessment of risks from combined exposures to multiple chemicals. The document draws from approaches applied and experience gained in the regulatory context (see http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/).

The objective of OECD's work on exposure assessment is to develop harmonised tools for assessing the exposure of chemicals to humans and the environment. More than 40 Emission Scenario Documents (ESDs) have been published to describe the sources, production processes, pathways and use patterns for particular exposure scenarios (see https://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/risk-assessment/introductiontoemissionscenariodocuments.htm). In 2019, the OECD published two reports with methodologies for estimating the exposure of chemicals to children and in 2023 the results of a survey on assessing the risk of chemicals to children's health, following up previous surveys (see www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/childrens-health.htm). A guidance document on occupational biomonitoring was published in 2022 to present examples and experiences of national approaches used to derive biomonitoring values and provide recommendations for deriving occupational biomonitoring assessment values and their practical use (see https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/occupational-biomonitoring-guidance-document.pdf).

Since ICCM4, the OECD released a number of guidance documents on core elements for setting up and implementing Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (see http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/pollutant-release-transfer-register/).

The OECD work on the safety of manufactured nanomaterials aims to promote international co-operation in human health and environmental safety related issues around manufactured nanomaterials, within the context of the industrial chemicals sector, in order to assist countries in the development of rigorous safety evaluation of nanomaterials. The work is implemented through several projects to further develop appropriate methods and strategies to help ensure human health and environmental safety. More than 100 documents have been published in the Series on the Safety of Manufactured Nanomaterials A key focus has also been to ensure OECD Test Guidelines are applicable to nanomaterials. (see http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/nanosafety/).

Several documents and dedicated websites related to pesticides and biocides management have been published since ICCM-4 (see http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/pesticides-biocides/).

SAICM objective: Governance

The system of Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) is based on OECD Test Guidelines and OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice (http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/testing/) and allows participating countries to share the results of various non-clinical safety tests done on chemicals and chemical products. By avoiding duplication of testing, the MAD system saves a considerable number of test animals, and around 300 EUR million per year to governments and industry according to the report Saving Costs in Chemicals Management published in 2019 http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/saving-costs-in-chemicals-management-9789264311718-en.htm .

Since ICCM4, more than ~80 new or updated Guidelines for testing chemicals for health effects, environmental effects, and pesticide residue chemistry have been published, and more than 50 documents supporting Test Guidelines have been published in the Series on Testing and Assessment. This includes updated guidance for evaluating chemicals for endocrine disruption and Defined Approaches on Skin Sensitisation that integrates individual methods (see https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/testing/oecdguidelinesforthetestingofchemicals.htm).

In 2021, the OECD Council revised its legal instrument on proprietary rights of chemical safety data (see https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0203#backgroundInformation), extending its scope to cover all types of chemicals. A Best-Practice-Guide (BPG) was developed to support its implementation by describing effective approaches used by both governments and industry for disclosing health, safety, and environmental data while protecting the proprietary rights of data and information (see

https://one.oecd.org/document/env/cbc/mono(2022)18/en/pdf).

A new Decision-Recommendation of the Council concerning Chemical Accidents Prevention, Preparedness and Response was adopted on 8 June 2023. The instrument sets out key elements to support the development of a chemical accidents programme covering the fields of prevention, preparedness, and response. It aims at helping Adherents to respond to the continued occurrence of chemical accidents with loss of life, injuries and damage to property and the environment. To support implementation, the "OECD Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response" have been updated in a Third Edition in June 2023. This publication serves as technical guidance for public authorities, industry and other stakeholders for developing and implementing a strong chemical programme, as it addresses the wide range of measures necessary to ensure effective chemical process safety (see https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/oecd-guiding-principles-for-chemical-accident-prevention-preparedness-and-response-third-edition-162756bf-en.htm).

SAICM objective: Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation

eChemPortal (www.echemportal.org) is continuously updated and now links to 36 individual databases. Recent focus of the expansion of eChemPortal focused on facilitating access to information on how chemicals are classified in different countries according to the GHS. Version 3.10 of eChemPortal was released in October 2023 and builds upon an improved interface launched in 2020.

SAICM objective: Illegal International Traffic

In the area of the illegal international trade of pesticides, the **OECD Network on Illegal trade of Pesticides (ONIP)** developed a Best Practice Guide (BPG) to address issues related to fighting illegal trade, and to strengthen a "Global Alliance" against illegal trade of pesticides. Furthermore, on 20 February 2019 the OECD Council adopted the Recommendation on Countering the Illegal Trade of Pesticides. This Recommendation calls for, among other things, establishing or strengthening national procedures aimed at countering the illegal trade of agricultural pesticides in line with the BPG. The Recommendation and BPG are available on the Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments.

UNITED NATIONS

UNEP

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UNEP Interim Progress Report, to ICCM5, on UNEA's request to seek Stakeholders' Views on Priorities for Further Work and Potential Further International Action on 19 Issues of Concern

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, for the information of participants, a document submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme on "*UNEP Interim Progress Report, to ICCM5, on UNEA's request to seek Stakeholders' Views on Priorities for Further Work and Potential Further International Action on 19 Issues of Concern*" (see annex).

2. It is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Annex

UNEP Interim Progress Report, to ICCM5, on UNEA's request to seek Stakeholders' Views on Priorities for Further Work and Potential Further International Action on 19 Issues of Concern

The fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), in resolution 5/7, requested the Executive Director to seek views from Member States and other stakeholders on priorities for further work, building on existing measures and initiatives, and on potential further international action on the 19 issues discussed in the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern (United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP] 2020). The Assessment Report addressed eleven issues for which emerging evidence of risks had been identified by the Global Chemicals Outlook II (GCO II) (UNEP 2019), and eight that are emerging policy issues or other issues of concern to the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM).

As part of the process to seek views and prepare a summary analysis, as requested by resolution 5/7, UNEP launched a call for written inputs in June 2023 and hosted a hybrid meeting on 11-12 July 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland, during which participants exchanged views on the 19 issues of concern discussed in the Report. This interim report reflects the inputs received during this meeting, drawing on comments shared by representatives of governments, intergovernmental organisations, civil society, academia and industry. The aim of this report is to provide information to participants in the Fifth Session of ICCM. The final summary of views will be presented to UNEA-6 in February 2024.

Background

UNEA resolution 4/8[1] requested UNEP to develop a report on matters in which emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment, identified by the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and by the GCO II (UNEP 2019). In 2020 UNEP prepared an Assessment Report on Issues of Concern with the support of an international team of scientists. The objective of the report was to inform the international community about specific chemicals and waste issues of concern, based on a review of published evidence. The assessment report draws upon a comprehensive review of existing published evidence and assesses 19 issues of concern (Table 1).

Table 1: List of 19 issues of concern covered by the assessment report on issues of concern.

Eight emerging policy issues and other issues of concern identified under SAICM.	Eleven issues with emerging evidence of risks identified by GCO-II.
1. Chemicals in products (CiP) 2. Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) 3. Environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPPs) 4. Hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)	1. Arsenic 2. Bisphenol A (BPA) 3. Cadmium 4. Glyphosate 5. Lead 6. Microplastics 7. Neonicotinoids 8. Organotins

[1] Resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.8, paragraph 14(g)

5. Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) 6. Lead in paint 7. Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (Nanomaterials) 8. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)	9. Phthalates 10. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) 11. Triclosan

The Report concluded that concerted international action by all stakeholders at all levels is urgently required. UNEA-5 urged Member States and invited other stakeholders to take further action to reduce or eliminate the risks associated with the issues of concern discussed in the report.

Overview of the consultation process

UNEP took the following steps to seek views from stakeholders:

- Two webinars were held in April and June 2023. The first webinar in April was an information sharing session which provided a summary of the main findings of the assessment report and highlighted the report's conclusions. The second webinar in June was organized together with the Geneva Environment Network to hold two panel discussions. The first was on prioritizing issues of concern, looking at which issues are critical to address now and the second was on tackling issues of concern, discussing which issues are most actionable. Both webinars further elaborated on the process by which stakeholders could contribute their views to the consultation (Geneva Environment Network 2023; UNEP 2023a;).
- A call for written inputs was launched in June to gather views from stakeholders on the priorities for future work and potential further international action. This is a key vehicle for seeking views of stakeholders on each of the 19 issues. The inputs received by 15 August will be published on the UNEP website before ICCM 5.
- The Global Consultation meeting took place in Geneva on 11 and 12 July 2023, in a hybrid format. Approximately 164 stakeholders registered to attend in person, and 41 joined online. The meeting was informal, and the views expressed are not attributed to individual participants in this report. The meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholders to engage in an open exchange of views on the issues, and to discuss cross-cutting issues and linkages with other agendas in more detail. The Global Consultation facilitated exchanges between stakeholders and allowed them to expand on their views.

Factsheets

UNEP prepared two-page factsheets in 2022 on each of the 19 issues of concern (UNEP 2023 b). These summarize the information contained in the assessment report on issues of concern, including the relevance of the issue, a summary of existing instruments and actions, and an outline of identified challenges and opportunities. In order to support the consultation process, in June 2023 UNEP also prepared overviews of the issues in three high level groups: metals and metalloids; chemical in products; and bioactive chemicals. These factsheets and overview documents are available on the UNEP website as meeting documents to the Global Consultation (UNEP 2023c).

Findings

This interim progress report summarizes the comments stakeholders shared during the global consultation. This meeting was convened to facilitate an exchange of views, not achieve an agreed outcome.

A. Overarching points for consideration in future work

The Global Consultation meeting generated a wide-ranging discussion. Throughout the meeting, stakeholders made many comments of that were relevant to most, if not all, of the 19 issues of concern covered in the Assessment Report, as well as to the impacts and management of hazardous chemicals in general. These cross-cutting points are summarized below.

1. Health impacts and impacts on the environment

Many stakeholders underscored the impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment. Participants stressed the harmful impact of hazardous chemicals on ecosystems and wildlife, and pointed to critical links between the health of ecosystems and human well-being. Many said the scale of the problem is often underestimated and called for urgent action to find appropriate solutions.

Several emphasized in particular the problem of occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals, noting that workers around the world continue to suffer ill health or early death resulting from on-the-job exposure to hazardous chemicals. Some underscored that this includes lead, saying that despite successful action to reduce lead exposure globally, it is an ongoing and significant problem.

Similarly, it was stressed that many people are exposed to chemical pollution in their communities, resulting from industrial processes in nearby plants and other facilities.

2. Principles and approaches to guide action

Stakeholders identified several principles they said should guide UNEA in considering further action, including the polluter pays principle, the precautionary principle, the environmental democracy principle, and the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). Many stakeholders emphasized the importance of centering Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Knowledge in future work. Others highlighted the need for intergenerational equity and called for deeper engagement with young people.

3. Action must be taken at all levels and across sectors

Many stakeholders highlighted the need for action at all levels – international, regional, national, and local – and said governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry, academia, and civil society – including consumers – all have a part to play.

4. Funding and capacity building

Stakeholders noted that many countries lack adequate national capacity to: assess risks and regulate chemicals appropriately; track the use of the chemicals (particularly in imported products); and enforce regulations. Many emphasized that this needs to be addressed through greater financial support, technical assistance and capacity building.

5. Learning from experience

Many stakeholders called for learning from past implementation efforts to inform future action, citing key lessons, including poor communication of information about chemicals and their associated risks. Others emphasized that instead of dealing with substances one-by-one, as has been done in the past, a more holistic approach is needed: one that allow faster action on groups of chemicals.

6. The role of existing and developing instruments and agendas

Many stakeholders suggested that existing international organisations and instruments could expand their remits to address many of the issues of concern. However, several noted that there are gaps – for some issues or component parts of an issue, such as in the case of BPA and triclosan, there is currently no international body with a mandate for action.

Relatedly, many stakeholders highlighted the importance of establishing links with other areas of work and agendas, such as climate change, biodiversity, human rights, health, labour protection, trade, and food security.

Many stakeholders noted that three instruments currently under negotiation could offer new opportunities to address some of the issues. These are:

- the new framework for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;
- the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment; and
- the Science Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution.

7. Transparency

Many stakeholders called for improved transparency. Several highlighted the need for more accessible information about chemicals and their effects, as well as chemicals (particularly in products) being used and traded across the value chain, saying this is necessary to enable regulatory authorities to manage risks effectively. Many others highlighted that transparency and information sharing is vital to companies purchasing products or components for manufacturing, especially for management of disposal of products. Several also underscored the importance of enabling consumers to make informed choices about the products they buy and use.

8. Education and awareness raising

Stakeholders repeatedly emphasized the importance of awareness raising and education, saying the risks posed by many chemicals are unclear or poorly communicated. Some called for better guidance to support improved and safer use of chemicals, as well as management of waste containing hazardous substances.

9. Transforming the ways we produce, use, and dispose of chemicals

Several participants said that work on these issues needs to be part of the move towards a circular economy and adoption of lifecycle approaches. Others noted it would be important to explore the

use of alternative technologies and chemicals (avoiding regrettable substitutions), guided by green and sustainable chemistry. Several highlighted the need to consider product design, with the aim of facilitating a shift to a circular economy. Some pointed to the work focused on the transformation of production and consumption practices.

10. Improving the global response to hazardous chemicals

Several stakeholders underscored that many of these issues are closely connected to biodiversity loss and climate change, and called for breaking down silos between issues and improving coordination across these agendas. Many also called for consideration of holistic approaches within existing instruments and organizations addressing issues related to chemicals, saying approaches must be coherent and integrated.

During the discussions, stakeholders highlighted a wide range of sectors of relevance to future action, including but not limited to: textiles, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, food and beverage, manufacturing, construction, and plastics. The use of corporate reporting mechanisms, of sustainable public procurement or labelling systems were mentioned as existing drivers that could be used to incorporate measures related to sound management of chemicals.

Many highlighted the need to find ways of dealing with emerging issues, saying there are too many individual issues of concern. Several cited the need to "get ahead of the game" as a key regulatory challenge, emphasizing that we need to address chemicals before they become problems.

B. Discussion of specific issues of concern

Discussion of the 19 issues of concern was divided into four sessions during the Global Consultation meeting. This structure was intended to facilitate focused consideration of the issues. The discussions from each of the sessions are summarized below.

1. Metals and Metalloids: Lead, Lead in Paint, Cadmium, Arsenic and Organotins

Stakeholders emphasized the significant negative impacts on human health associated with exposure to these metals. Many said further action is urgently needed for all of the elements in this group, while some called for prioritizing lead and cadmium for international work.

Many called for a legally-binding instrument similar to the Minamata Convention either focusing on lead and cadmium or covering all hazardous metals. Some pointed out that a new treaty could be dynamic, initially covering just one or two priority metals, but with provisions enabling parties to decide to add others in the future. Some said that dealing with metals as a group would help engage more partners, and suggested it would be difficult to set up an instrument for international action on a single chemical.

Other stakeholders, stressing the need to avoid duplication of work, suggested it would be possible to expand the remit or otherwise incorporate work into existing instruments. Several called for promoting synergies among current multilateral environmental agreements.

Stakeholders said partnerships, similar to the Global Mercury Partnership, could facilitate action during the time it would take for a legally binding instrument to be developed. Some highlighted the need to ensure transparent access to information, including for civil society.

Participants identified several sectors as particularly relevant, including the automotive industry, manning, health and energy sectors, fossil fuel industries and plastic producers.

2. *Chemicals in Products Group I: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), Phthalates, Bisphenol A (BPA), Microplastics, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)*

Participants identified EDCs as a priority, and some noted that BPA and phthalates are EDCs. Participants also emphasized that tackling microplastics, including in the context of the future plastics treaty, was a priority.

Stakeholders called for addressing some of the issues through existing instruments, and highlighted the need to identify gaps in their mandates. Some stakeholders suggested that for EDCs, action at the national level is sufficient and an exchange of information on national practices should be encouraged.

Others suggested that coordinated international action is required for EDCs, phthalates and BPA. Many pointed to the potential importance of instruments that are currently being negotiated, including the Science-Policy Panel, the plastics treaty, and the Beyond 2020 framework.

Some participants called for a case-by-case analysis of chemicals, saying that regulating all substances in the same way would negatively impact industry. Others called for differentiating among substances based on essential use but said this concept would be difficult to define at the international level.

Some stakeholders called for an international framework for determining what constitutes EDCs, as well as development of a prioritization mechanism. Several highlighted the need to bridge gaps in evidence through data generation and collection.

Many stakeholders highlighted the need to continue research efforts, particularly on the impacts of EDCs and microplastics, and underscored the importance of information sharing with developing countries.

Several highlighted the need to ensure reporting, monitoring and compliance mechanisms, as well as information sharing with developing countries.

Many participants highlighted the need to prioritize awareness raising and transparency along the value chain. Stakeholders shared ideas to support these goals, including:

- Procurement policy was identified as a driver, leading by example, and chemical labelling is also important.
- Development of standardized manner for identification, e.g., labeling of products, with emphasis on the importance of having scientific standards/limits/values for health protection and technical guidelines for these chemicals in the products. Many stakeholders said this will ease the process for taking actions on the national level.
- Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) implementation at global scale, sharing of information such as the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) dossier.

3. *Chemicals in Products Group II: Chemicals in Products, Hazardous Substances in the Lifecycle of Electrical and Electronic Products (HSLEEP), Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), and the transition to safer alternatives*

Stakeholders emphasized the need for transparency, saying a legally-binding instrument should focus on disclosing information about chemicals in products. Some called for adopting a prior informed consent procedure, and others underscored the need to require manufacturers to disclose which chemicals are used in a product, in part through clear labelling, along the supply chain. The plastics treaty was again mentioned as potentially relevant to controlling some chemicals in this group.

Several stakeholders highlighted the challenges individuals face in accessing information about chemicals in products, noting, for example, that databases are not useful to many communities which will not have the time or resources to use them. Relatedly, some stakeholders cautioned against placing too much responsibility on communities, and instead called for manufacturers to be responsible, including by disclosing information about chemicals in products and through extended producer responsibility policies. Some stakeholders highlighted the importance of sustainable innovation, phasing out chemicals of concern in products. This was mentioned as important for circularity, and allowing for reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling capacities.

With regard to HSLEEP, stakeholders noted that many are listed under the Stockholm and Basel Conventions, but said that parties' implementation of their obligations is hindered by lack of capacity. For example, while technology for disposal is available, some developing countries lack access to it and must rely on open burning or landfills for managing waste.

On nanotechnology and nanomaterials, several stakeholders called for implementing a lifecycle or circular approach. Others highlighted the value of a cross-regulatory approach, as these materials are found in a wide range of products (e.g., pesticides and medicines) and should be addressed by existing conventions and tools.

Stakeholders suggested that PFAS should be addressed as a class of chemicals, rather than individually.

Participants identified the following economic sectors as particularly relevant to these chemicals: textiles, toys, electronics and building materials. Participants highlighted links with agendas including health the SDGs, and said collaboration with the International Resources Panel could encourage the circular approach.

4. Bioactive Substances: Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), Glyphosate, Neonicotinoids, Triclosan, and Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)

Some participants identified HHPs are priorities for action, while others said all of these issues should be prioritized, and "there is no low-hanging fruit."

Stakeholders flagged the need for a clearer definition of HHPs, saying lack of clarity is a barrier to action. Some called for up-to-date toxicological information. Many called for non-toxic and non-chemical alternatives to HHPs. Some called for a shift in the way food is produced to avoid use of HHPs.

Many called for a ban on triclosan in consumer products.

On EPPPs, several stakeholders called for improved information through voluntary approaches. Others highlighted that a lifecycle approach should be adopted, and that disposal of regulated pharmaceuticals must take into consideration climate change and other issues to avoid burden shifting. Some also suggested the incorporation of EPPPs in the annexes of the Rotterdam Convention to improve their management.

Stakeholders highlighted the impacts of bioactive substances on labor, noting for example that undocumented workers suffer unwanted exposure to pesticides and often work without personal protective equipment.

Participants identified the following economic sectors as particularly relevant to these chemicals: textiles, food and beverage, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture.

Concluding Remarks

The views expressed during the Global Chemicals Consultation indicated that many of the 19 issues of concern are considered to be of critical importance to stakeholders. The desire for urgent action to protect human health and the environment from exposure to hazardous substances was clear, and the initial exchange of views reflected some variance in priorities and preferences for the tools and mechanisms that might achieve this goal. However, participants consistently identified the need to find "better approaches" to managing emerging issues, including through coherent strategies that can integrate work across instruments and, where appropriate, the biodiversity and climate agendas. It is expected that the written submissions will provide additional clarity on the priorities and preferences of the global community. The submissions and the findings from the Global Consultation will serve to draft a summary of views, for consideration by UNEA-6, with the aim of supporting Member States in their consideration of possible further work on the issues of concern.

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