



**UNITED
NATIONS**

UNEP/EA.7/13



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General

6 August 2025

Original: English

**UNEDITED
ADVANCE
VERSION**

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

International environmental policy and governance issues

Progress in the implementation of resolution 6/9 on sound management of chemicals and waste to address lead, cadmium, arsenic and organotins.

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an update on progress made in the implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution 6/9 of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the sound management of chemicals and waste.
2. In paragraph 8 of the resolution, UNEA requested the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare a report, subject to the availability of resources, building on existing measures and initiatives to address lead, cadmium, arsenic and organotins, and to continue the work of UNEP in supporting Member States in their actions.

II. Progress in the implementation of resolution 6/9

A Development of a report to address lead, cadmium, arsenic and organotins

3. In accordance with the request in paragraph 8 of resolution 6/9, UNEP has developed a report on lead, cadmium, arsenic and organotins for consideration by UNEA at its seventh session¹, with financial support from the Government of Switzerland. The report builds on key findings on these substances from previous assessments and reports, including the *Assessment Report on Issues of*

¹. The report is available on the UNEP website at: **PLACEHOLDER: <https://www.unep.org/topics/chemicals-management/issues-concern>**

*Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment*², highlighting the relevance to approaching the four metalloids through their lifecycle across relevant sectors. It considers existing measures and initiatives at the global, regional, national and sectoral levels, and highlights the main gaps in the current approaches to adequately address the challenges posed by these substances. Finally, the report explores options of possible ways forward, considering the various measures, instruments and forum for action, and taking into account the views and input submitted by Member States and other stakeholders during the consultations on chemicals and waste issues of concern³. More specifically, the report considers enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments that could be pursued to advance international action. It also highlights some of the considerations relevant to using voluntary or legally binding instruments as well as criteria and factors used to examine options.

B Support to Member States in their actions

4. On lead in paint, UNEP continues to coordinate the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) jointly with WHO, as it strives for the creation of lead paint laws throughout the world, and the eventual elimination of lead paint.
5. UNEP's work through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project "Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM", executed by the SAICM Secretariat, facilitated awareness raising and legal assistance on lead paint laws⁴, as well as piloting lead paint reformulation at 43 small and medium enterprises. During the 12th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (20-26 October 2024), UNEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) organized an educational webinar on compliance and enforcement of lead paint laws, to build capacities of countries which have enacted their lead paint laws.
6. UNEP is providing technical support to Cambodia for the development of a national regulation on lead in paint using the UNEP Model Law and for the development of a baseline report on used-lead acid batteries management, thanks to the support provided by the Ministry of Environment of Japan.
7. UNEP's project titled "Addressing Lead and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)", funded by the European Commission, has been launched and is aimed to support global, regional, and national efforts to mitigate environmental and health risks from EDCs and lead.
8. UNEP, in collaboration with the US EPA, facilitated exchanges among African countries to identify effective strategies for reducing lead pollution via two consultations⁵ held in July and November 2024.
9. A high-level launching event of the new Partnership for Lead-free Future (PLF)⁶ was held on the sidelines of the 79th session of UNGA on 23 September 2024. UNEP is one of the founding partners of this Partnership, which is spearheaded by UNICEF. Under the PLF, UNEP is contributing to the development of the Toolkit to End Childhood Lead Poisoning⁷, hosted by UNICEF, which is to include a set of 12 tools that form a complete primer on identifying, assessing and mitigating paediatric exposure.

² United Nations Environment Programme, *An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment* (2020), available at: <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/assessment-report-issues-concern-chemicals-and-waste-issues-posing-risks-human>.

³ United Nations Environment Programme, *Chemicals and Waste Issues of Concern: A Summary Analysis of Stakeholders' Views on Priorities for Further Work and Potential Further International Action* (2024), available at <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/chemicals-and-waste-issues-concern-summary-analysis-stakeholders-views>

⁴ As of 16 January 2024 48% of countries (94 countries) have confirmed that they have legally binding controls on the production, import, sale and use of lead paints: <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/indicator-groups/legally-binding-controls-on-lead-paint>

⁵ Outcomes of the consultations are available here: <https://www.unep.org/events/webinar/towards-coordinated-multi-sectoral-lead-management-approach-low-and-middle-income>.

⁶ <https://www.leadfreefuture.org/about/about-partnership>

⁷ The Toolkit is available here: <https://www.leadfreefuture.org/toolkit/toolkit-end-childhood-lead-poisoning#:~:text=The%20toolkit%20will%20comprise%20of,12%20tools%20in%20the%20Toolkit.>

III. Recommendations and suggested actions

10. The Environment Assembly may wish to consider the report on lead, cadmium, arsenic and organotins and the options set out therein for ways forward to address the gaps and challenges of current approaches.
