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International environmental policy and governance issues

Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an update on progress made in the implementation of resolution 5/7 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the sound management of chemicals and waste.
2. In paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Environment Assembly expressed concern that increasing levels of illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other waste, as reported by developing countries, had a disproportionately negative impact, and it invited the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal to consider the matter further.
3. In paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNEP to continue and strengthen support for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in preparing for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and to provide continuity of effective secretariat services and administrative support for the implementation of any decision made by the Conference.
4. In paragraph 10 of the resolution, the Environment Assembly encouraged the Executive Board of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management 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. In paragraph 15 it encouraged Governments in a position to do so, and invited the private sector, including industry, foundations, other non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to mobilize and continue to mobilize financial and other resources to contribute to the Special Programme. In paragraph 16, it decided to extend the duration of the Special Programme for a period of five years and to include the

* UNEP/EA.6/1.

Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in the Special Programme.

5. In paragraph 19 of the resolution, the Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to seek views from Member States and other stakeholders, while ensuring sufficient time for their consideration, on priorities for further work, building on existing measures and initiatives, and on potential further international action on the issues discussed in *An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment*,¹ and in particular on those issues identified in the report entitled *Global Chemicals Outlook II – From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and to prepare a summary analysis, taking into account the views received for consideration by the Environment Assembly and by other international bodies, including the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as appropriate.

6. In paragraph 21 of the resolution, the Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to work closely with the other members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and other relevant United Nations entities and instruments, and with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, to foster effective cooperation and collaboration in promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste.

7. In paragraph 22 of the resolution, the Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), to update the report entitled *State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012* prior to the sixth session of the Assembly.

8. In paragraph 24 of the resolution, the Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and in cooperation with WHO, to present a full range of options for addressing asbestos contaminants in products and the environment, for consideration by the Assembly at its sixth session.

9. In accordance with the request in paragraph 23 of the resolution, the present report provides an update on the progress made in implementing the resolution, highlighting activities carried out under the 2022–2023 programme of work.

II. Progress in the implementation of resolution 5/7

A. Illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other waste

10. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention considered the Environment Assembly's invitation in paragraph 3 of resolution 5/7 at its fifteenth meeting, held in June 2022. In its decision BC-15/25 on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations, the Conference of the Parties noted the invitation and drew attention to relevant decisions adopted at its past and current meetings.²

11. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, by decisions BC-14/15, BC-15/17 and BC-16/14, mandated the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance with the Basel Convention to prepare reports aimed at scoping the extent of illegal traffic cases reported by Parties under the Convention. Such reports draw on information provided in table 9 of the national reports transmitted by Parties. The reports³ and the findings therein⁴ were developed pursuant to the Committee's work programmes for the bienniums 2020–2021 and 2022–2023. A similar report is expected to be developed by the Committee as part of its work programme for the biennium 2024–2025, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting, in 2025.

¹ United Nations Environment Programme, *An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment* (2020).

² Decisions BC-15/20 and BC-14/17 on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic, BC-14/19 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme and BC-14/24 on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes.

³ UNEP/CHW/CC.14/4/Add.1 and UNEP/CHW/CC.15/4/Add.1.

⁴ For the Committee's findings during its fourteenth meeting, see annex I to document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/14; for the Committee's findings during its fifteenth meeting, see annex I to document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/21.

B. Fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and the establishment of a new global framework on chemicals

12. The fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management took place from 25 to 29 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany. The session was organized by UNEP and hosted by the Government of Germany, which also presided over the session. A high-level segment was held on 28 and 29 September 2023. The Conference adopted the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, along with a set of resolutions to support its implementation and a high-level declaration.⁵ The scope of the Framework, which supersedes the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, covers the entire life cycle of chemicals, including in products and waste. The Framework reflects an integrated approach to financing and establishes a UNEP-administered fund for the Framework, with contributions already announced by Germany (€20 million) and France (€400,000) and the remaining funds from the Quick Start Programme trust fund. Among other things, the Conference invited relevant IOMC organizations to update the existing report on the costs of inaction on the sound management of chemicals, taking into account quality-assured new research and the latest information on the economic and social costs of unsound management of chemicals and waste at the national, regional and international levels.

13. The fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was preceded by the third segment of the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The fourth meeting of the intersessional process spanned three sessions, from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Bucharest; from 27 February to 3 March 2023 in Nairobi; and from 23 to 24 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany. As called for by the Conference in its resolution IV/4, the intersessional process prepared recommendations for consideration by the Conference at its fifth session.

C. Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

14. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 5/7, the Executive Board of the Special Programme, at its eighth meeting, held from 15 to 17 February 2023, revisited the question of eligibility for funding and agreed to revise the wording on eligibility in the guidance on the scope of the Special Programme⁶ in the documentation for the seventh round of funding.

15. To date, the Executive Board of the Special Programme has approved 75 country projects in six rounds of applications, with combined project budgets of \$20 million. The seventh round of applications was launched on 6 April 2023 with a closing date of 11 August 2023. Applications are under review for consideration by the Executive Board at its eighth meeting, in March 2024. The Special Programme continues to benefit from donor support, with pledges and contributions to date amounting to \$35 million as at June 2023, up from \$32.8 million as at February 2022.

16. At its fifth session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management, through its resolution V/3, on financial considerations, welcomed with appreciation the Environment Assembly's decision, in paragraph 16 of resolution 5/7, to extend the duration of the Special Programme and to include in it the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The Conference encouraged Member States of the Environment Assembly to consider reviewing the Special Programme terms of reference at its next session, taking into consideration the need to implement the new Global Framework on Chemicals.

D. Issues discussed in the *Assessment Report on Issues of Concern*

17. In response to the request in paragraph 19 of the resolution regarding issues of concern, UNEP conducted a consultative process consisting of a call for written submissions and a global consultation meeting held in July 2023 in Geneva and online. UNEP held information-sharing webinars⁷ and prepared fact sheets⁸ on each of the 19 issues of concern identified in the *Assessment Report on Issues*

⁵ Fifth session of the International Conference for Chemicals Management.

⁶ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/42155;jsessionid=07C1C13AA5827A38351377530DC93041>.

⁷ The webinars, held in April and June 2023, aimed to provide an overview of the main findings of the assessment report and examine how to prioritize and address issues of concern. Recordings of the webinars are available at <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/issues-concern>.

⁸ <https://www.unep.org/resources/factsheet/assessment-report-issues-concern-factsheets>.

of Concern, as well as overviews of three high-level groups of issues of concern (metals and metalloids; chemicals in products; and bioactive substances).

18. A summary analysis of views has been prepared, drawing on the submissions received in response to the call for written input and the outcome of the global consultation meeting, and will be made available on the relevant page of the UNEP website for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its sixth session.⁹ Among its key conclusions, the summary analysis indicates that the majority of stakeholders who provided input to the process agreed with the overall conclusion of the assessment report on issues of concern, which was that further international action was needed to address the potential risks associated with each of the 19 issues identified. Stakeholders highlighted a number of approaches for doing so, including legally binding instruments, voluntary action and awareness-raising.

19. At its fifth session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management decided that all existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern recognized before its fifth session should transition on an interim basis to “issues of concern” as part of the Global Framework on Chemicals until the next session of the Conference, at which time it would determine their path under the new Framework.

E. Cooperation and collaboration with other members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and other relevant United Nations entities and instruments, and with relevant multilateral environmental agreements

20. In accordance with the request in paragraph 21 of resolution 5/7, UNEP has continued its active engagement with IOMC members and other relevant entities. This included cooperation through regular IOMC meetings (biannual face-to-face meetings and other meetings, such as preparatory meetings for conferences and meetings of the IOMC Mercury Group). UNEP is also an active partner and a host of coalitions aiming at coordinating actions in specific domains. In the framework of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, UNEP and WHO collaborate with partners, including the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United States Environment Protection Agency, to prevent exposure to lead by promoting efforts to phase out paints containing lead. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNEP and WHO, together with relevant partners, are developing a global action plan on highly hazardous pesticides. UNEP also participated in the sessions of the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management to ensure the mainstreaming of an environment perspective in the guidance documents prepared to support the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. In March 2023, UNEP accepted an invitation from FAO and WHO to be part of a joint programme for the sound management of pesticides.¹⁰

21. UNEP, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, is implementing projects to assist countries in meeting their obligations under those instruments. The planetGOLD programme, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by UNEP in partnership with UNIDO, UNDP, Conservation International, Governments, the private sector and artisanal and small-scale gold mining communities, supports countries in meeting their commitments under the Minamata Convention related to artisanal and small-scale gold mining. The programme is aimed at eliminating mercury from the supply chain of gold produced by artisanal and small-scale miners. UNEP also works on a regular basis with IOMC organizations through the Global Mercury Partnership, which it coordinates, to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention, provide state-of-the-art knowledge and science and raise awareness towards global action on mercury.

22. IOMC organizations cooperated and coordinated closely in support of the beyond-2020 framework instrument negotiations, as illustrated in an information document on strengthening integrated chemicals and waste management¹¹ presented at the second segment of the fourth meeting of the intersessional process. UNEP continued chairing the IOMC working group on indicators, which, following a request from the intersessional process at the second segment of its fourth meeting, updated the information document on indicators for chemicals and waste management.¹² To further support the intersessional process, UNEP, as part of IOMC, contributed to the organization of a

⁹ <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/issues-concern>.

¹⁰ https://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsb-subject-matter/statutory-bodies-details/en/c/396/?no_cache=1.

¹¹ SAICM/IP.4/INF/18.

¹² SAICM/IP.4/INF/39.

multi-stakeholder workshop on advancing global chemicals and waste management in chemical-intensive economic sectors and value chains,¹³ hosted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in January 2023 in Paris, and contributed to the hosting of a workshop on opportunities for economic sectors and industries to engage in international chemicals and waste management, organized in June 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland.

23. UNEP is addressing environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance as a member of the Quadripartite alliance on One Health, which also includes FAO, WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health. The joint 2022-2023 workplan includes provision of secretariat and support services to the global governance structures (the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-stakeholder Partnership Platform and the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund); development of the economic and investment case on antimicrobial resistance; integrated surveillance; monitoring and evaluation; a priority research agenda; and awareness-raising. In addition, an antimicrobial resistance workstream was included in the One Health Joint Plan of Action for 2022-2026. World AMR Awareness Week is held annually in November, and joint events were organized at the global, regional and country levels. Publications launched included *A One Health Priority Research Agenda for Antimicrobial Resistance*¹⁴ and the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund annual report 2022.

F. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals

24. In accordance with the request in paragraph 22 of resolution 5/7, UNEP is collaborating with WHO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to update the report entitled in *State of the Science of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals 2012*. With financial support expected to be secured in early 2024 from the European Union, the updating of the report, including holding of expert consultations, is expected to take place in 2024, with an expected release in the first half of 2025. An update on the status and the way forward will be made available to the Environment Assembly at its sixth meeting in document UNEP/EA.6/INF/13.¹⁵

25. Other work led by UNEP contributed to the further development of knowledge on the issue of endocrine-disrupting chemicals. In 2023, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and with financial support from the Governments of Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, UNEP released *Chemicals in Plastics: A Technical Report*. The report provides the state of knowledge on chemical-related issues of plastic pollution and their adverse impacts and includes an overview of chemicals of concern based on their hazardous properties, which also include endocrine disruption. In cooperation with WHO, UNEP will also execute a project on pharmaceuticals funded by GEF. Among other things, the project will address the scientific and policy barriers preventing robust action on environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants and endocrine-disrupting chemicals by promoting coordinated action by UNEP and WHO to develop global best-practice protocols and policy guidance to facilitate early action at key life cycle “hotspots”, including manufacturing facilities.

G. Options for addressing asbestos contaminants in products and the environment

26. In accordance with the request in paragraph 24 of resolution 5/7, UNEP and WHO, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, are preparing a document outlining options for addressing asbestos contaminants in products and the environment, with input from the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The document covers topics such as: the status and extension of asbestos value chain through production, consumption and disposal; asbestos contamination in products and the environment and adverse impacts on people and the planet; and options for addressing asbestos contaminants in products and the environment. The report includes a summary for policymakers and will be complemented by annexes in digital format with a set of figures and tables, historical trends, statistics on the asbestos value chain and references. The document will be made available to the Environment Assembly at its sixth meeting as document UNEP/EA.6/INF/14.¹⁶

¹³ <https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/planet/our-portfolio/international-policy-development>.

¹⁴ World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme and World Organisation for Animal Health, *A One Health Priority Research Agenda for Antimicrobial Resistance* (2023).

¹⁵ <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6/unea-6-documents>.

¹⁶ <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6/unea-6-documents>.

H. Green and sustainable chemistry

27. In paragraph 2 of resolution 5/7, the Environment Assembly welcomed the UNEP *Green and Sustainable Chemistry: Framework Manual* and its executive summary, which highlight the crucial importance of environmentally sound innovation, and encouraged their use, as appropriate. In response, UNEP supported the dissemination of those tools and their application in specific sectors.¹⁷ Practical guidance for planning and implementation of strategic action to advance green and sustainable chemistry¹⁸ was developed, drawing on the experiences of stakeholders with relevant strategic initiatives. A technical workshop for the buildings and construction sector was co-organized by UNEP and the secretariat of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction in January 2023 in Paris to discuss the potential of chemical innovations for a more sustainable value chain and key strategies for realizing that potential.¹⁹ An e-course and a specialized manual on green and sustainable chemistry are under development.

I. Technical advice, policy support and capacity-building for developing countries and countries with economies in transition

28. UNEP continued to provide technical advice, policy support and capacity-building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including in meeting their obligations under chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements.

29. UNEP is supporting the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, including the generation of critical information on levels of persistent organic pollutants. This includes work, through a GEF-funded global monitoring plan project in 42 countries, to build capacity and generate data on human exposure to and environmental existence of persistent organic pollutants, to support the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention, and on disposal of oil and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCPs) in 12 countries of the Southern African Development Community, one country in West Africa and two countries in the Mediterranean. UNEP also supported reporting on national implementation plans and national reports through the development of an integrated electronic toolkit to facilitate data development, transmission, access and use. An additional 33 countries were supported in updating their national implementation plans, also with financial support from GEF. Through a contribution from Biovision – Foundation for Ecological Development, a Switzerland-based foundation, UNEP is also supporting the development of national road maps on alternatives to DDT in two African countries.

30. Significant work is being conducted to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention and address mercury pollution. To date, UNEP has supported 68 countries in developing their Minamata Initial Assessments and 33 countries in developing their national action plans to reduce mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, with funding from GEF. The planetGOLD programme, funded by GEF and led by UNEP, further assists countries in reducing and eliminating mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, the largest source of global mercury pollution. New GEF-funded projects have also started in the areas of primary mercury mining phase-out, control of skin-lightening products containing mercury, phase-out of dental amalgam and mercury trade. The “Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States” (ISLANDS) programme, led by UNEP, is working with 33 small island developing State governments (29 directly with UNEP) and private sector partners to improve chemicals and waste management. UNEP has further supported countries and action on mercury through the Global Mercury Partnership. Finally, UNEP has organized inter-laboratory proficiency testing on mercury analysis to support countries in generating and using scientific information for science-based policy development. Training in mercury monitoring and mercury flow analysis was also organized in the context of a Japan-funded project to promote the Minamata Convention.

31. With respect to the issue of lead in paint, the UNEP project named “Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM”, financed by GEF and executed by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach, was successfully completed. Through the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint and with support from a GEF-funded project, the number of countries that have passed lead-paint laws reached 93 as of 31 March 2023.²⁰ Twenty-five small and medium-sized

¹⁷ <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/policy-and-governance/green-and-sustainable-chemistry>.

¹⁸ www.unep.org/practical-guidance-strategic-action-advance-green-and-sustainable-chemistry.

¹⁹ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/43064/GSC-Workshop-Jan2023-Report.pdf?sequence=1>.

²⁰ <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/indicator-groups/legally-binding-controls-on-lead-paint>.

enterprises have completed pilot projects on lead paint reformulation, demonstrating that lead paint reformulation is feasible. Guidance documents, factsheets, laboratory database and tools, as well as model legislation supporting the enactment of the lead paint laws, have been developed and are available on the web page of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint. Newsletters on the topic of lead paint are produced periodically and webinars are being organized. In March 2023, UNEP released *Lead Paint Law Compliance and Enforcement Guidance*, which provides countries with guidance for the development and implementation of strategies for compliance with and enforcement of lead paint laws. Global webinars were organized jointly by UNEP, WHO and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in the margins of the 2022 and 2023 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

32. With respect to waste or used lead acid batteries and other sources of contamination, UNEP, under a European Commission-supported project and in collaboration with Pure Earth, developed the *Guidance Manual for Policymakers and Regulators on the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste or Used Lead Acid Batteries in Africa* (in English and French). In addition, UNEP supported the development of national strategy documents for Burkina Faso and the United Republic of Tanzania and conducted a baseline assessment of waste lead-acid batteries collection, storage and transportation practices in Ghana. UNEP organized several webinars with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and other partners, including the United Nations Children's Fund and WHO, on the environmentally sound management of waste or used lead-acid batteries. Seed funding has been secured for more work to address lead across multiple sources, with demonstration planned in countries in the Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific regions.

33. UNEP has supported countries in their efforts to address antimicrobial resistance. At the regional level, UNEP is mapping interventions related to antimicrobial resistance and the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean and analysing the environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance in African national action plans. It is providing support to countries such as India, Kenya and Nigeria to continue strengthening the environmental angle of their national action plans and, together with its Quadripartite partners FAO, WHO and the World Organization for Animal Health, is implementing projects that provide policy support and technical assistance in Bangladesh, Madagascar and Tunisia. Moreover, the Quadripartite, led by UNEP, has carried out capacity development activities on the safe disposal of antimicrobials in Indonesia, Morocco, Peru, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe. The Quadripartite has also developed guidance documents, such as the *Guidance to Facilitate Monitoring and Evaluation for Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plans*²¹ and the *One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for Antimicrobial Resistance*.

III. Lessons learned

34. While some issues are being addressed, more ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders is urgently needed on a wide range of issues that require further international effort. This includes the issues highlighted in the *Assessment Report on Issues of Concern*.

35. Along with capacity-building, financial and technical support remains critical to addressing pollution and allowing the sound management of chemicals and waste around the world.

36. UNEP will continue working with IOMC members and other relevant entities to strengthen cooperation and avoid duplication of actions. UNEP will further support the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and waste. Collaboration with IOMC has been successful and is expected to continue in the context of the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

37. The UNEP activities that support countries in the sound management of chemicals and waste contribute to the achievement of the chemicals and pollution objectives of the UNEP medium-term strategy for 2022–2025. The unsound management of chemicals and waste and unsustainable consumption and production generate pollution and exacerbate climate change and biodiversity loss. The deep interlinkages between the three planetary crises call for urgent, coordinated action at all levels, including to avoid burden-shifting. The recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its target 7, which aims to reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, including pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals, are important

²¹ World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme and World Organisation for Animal Health, *Guidance to Facilitate Monitoring and Evaluation for Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plans* (2023).

signals for UNEP, FAO and WHO to expedite engagement and exchange on approaches to accelerate the transition to a nature- and climate-change-positive pollution-free planet.

38. UNEP has built credibility by providing strong science and exercising secretariat functions. UNEP was encouraged by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session to work closely with IOMC, other relevant United Nations organizations, instruments and frameworks, and the secretariats of relevant multilateral agreements to foster effective cooperation and collaboration in promoting and implementing the Global Framework on Chemicals.

39. In addition, UNEP was requested to administer a fund established by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session to support stakeholders in implementing the Global Framework on Chemicals.

40. UNEP has been involved in the development and design of the strategy for the eighth GEF replenishment, especially for integrated programmes for hazardous chemicals, and is expected to remain engaged when the strategy for the ninth replenishment is developed, to ensure that the sectoral approach is reflected.

IV. Recommendations and suggested actions

41. In relation to the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and the Global Framework on Chemicals, the Environment Assembly may wish:

(a) To welcome the outcomes of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and encourage all Member States and relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals, including by ensuring sufficient staff and resources for the secretariat, and to take note of the Conference's invitation to relevant IOMC organizations to update the existing report on the costs of inaction on the sound management of chemicals;

(b) To decide to review the terms of reference of the UNEP Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management at its next session, taking into consideration the need to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals;

(c) To note the urgent call by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session to all stakeholders across the life cycle of key economic and industrial sectors, including food and agriculture, textiles, electronics and building and construction, to commit themselves to the implementation of the Framework, and to further encourage stakeholders to embed the sound management of chemicals across their life cycles and value chains, ensuring that environmental, health and social considerations, including labour considerations, are addressed in a comprehensive manner alongside economic considerations.

42. In relation to chemicals and waste issues of concern, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, antimicrobial resistance and asbestos, the Environment Assembly may wish:

(a) To take note, along with the findings of the assessment report on issues of concern, of the summary analysis of views on priorities for further work and on potential further international action, and to determine the path forward;

(b) Noting the ongoing work on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, to encourage UNEP to continue its cooperation on the issue with WHO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and to make the updated report on the state of the science of endocrine-disrupting chemicals available prior to the Environment Assembly's seventh session;

(c) To welcome the work of UNEP on antimicrobial resistance, particularly its publication of the first spotlight report, *Bracing for Superbugs: Strengthening Environmental Action in the One Health Response to Antimicrobial Resistance*,²² and the leadership and consolidation of the joint work of the Quadripartite, coordinated by the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance, and to encourage UNEP to continue its work in that context and all Member States to support the work on the environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance, particularly in the lead-up to the 2024 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance;

²² United Nations Environment Programme, *Bracing for Superbugs: Strengthening Environmental Action in the One Health Response to Antimicrobial Resistance* (2023).

(d) To take note of the options for addressing asbestos contaminants in products and the environment and the need for further work on the issue, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the International Labour Organization and WHO.

43. In relation to support for the sound management of chemicals and waste, the Environment Assembly may wish:

(a) To draw attention to the role that the sound management of chemicals and waste can play in addressing legacy pollution and shaping the future, from the design of innovative environmentally sound products, processes and value chains to sustainable consumption and production systems, as reflected in the UNEP medium-term strategy for 2022–2025;

(b) To encourage Governments and regional economic integration organizations in a position to do so, and to invite the private sector, including industry, foundations, investors, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to mobilize and continue to mobilize financial and other resources to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through contributions to the Special Programme and the new fund for the Global Framework on Chemicals;

(c) Recognizing the need for effective and meaningful capacity-building, to further support developing countries in their efforts to achieve self-sustaining institutional and capacity strengthening and adopt comprehensive sectoral approaches.
