



Distr.: General

7 March 2022

Original: English



**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme**

Fifth session

Nairobi (hybrid), 22 and 23 February 2021
and 28 February–2 March 2022

**Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment
Assembly on 2 March 2022**

5/7. Sound management of chemicals and waste

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is threatened by an array of escalating and mutually reinforcing environmental risks, and that, given the linkages between climate change, loss of biodiversity, land degradation, and air, water and soil pollution, it is essential to address these problems in an integrated manner consistent with the mandates and priorities of existing multilateral environmental agreements,

Emphasizing the cross-cutting relevance of the sound management of chemicals and waste to many of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for human health, sustainable consumption and production patterns, climate change and biodiversity,

Recognizing that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is important for the enjoyment of human rights, taking note of Human Rights Council resolution 48/13, entitled “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”, and noting that the General Assembly has been invited to consider the matter,

Welcoming the progress that has been made, through the work of the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations entities, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and relevant multilateral environmental agreements,

Aware that the use of chemicals and the amount of waste generated will grow substantially over the coming years, and expressing great concern with regard to the unsound management of chemicals and waste and its negative impacts on human health and the environment,

Recalling Environment Assembly resolution 4/8 on the sound management of chemicals and waste, as well as the evaluation of the implementation of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste, and noting the discussion on the integrated approach to financing under the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,

Recognizing the need to take further action to reduce or eliminate the risks associated with the chemicals and waste issues discussed in the report by the United Nations Environment Programme entitled *An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment*,¹

Taking into account the medium-term strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme, which includes action on chemicals and pollution, on climate and on nature as the three interconnected thematic, foundational and enabling programmes for the United Nations Environment Programme,

The sound management of chemicals and waste and the International Conference on Chemicals Management

1. *Notes with concern* that the target set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve, by 2020, the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and to significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impact on human health and the environment, has not been met, and commits itself to strengthening efforts to achieve this target;

2. *Welcomes* the *Green and Sustainable Chemistry: Framework Manual* of the United Nations Environment Programme and its executive summary, which highlight the crucial importance of environmentally sound innovation, and encourages their use, as appropriate;

3. *Expresses concern* that increasing levels of illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other waste, as reported by developing countries, have a disproportionately negative impact, and invites the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal to consider this matter further;

4. *Invites* Governments and all stakeholders involved in the “Beyond 2020” process to put in place an ambitious, improved enabling framework to address the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, reflecting a life-cycle approach and the need to achieve sustainable consumption and production, and addressing the means of implementation of the framework at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and calls on all stakeholders to bring the ongoing intersessional process to a successful conclusion;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme 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;

The integrated approach to financing and the one-time extension of the duration of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (hereafter “the Special Programme”)

6. *Reaffirms* the relevance and importance of the integrated approach to financing of 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 important for the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels;

7. *Welcomes* the significant role played by the Global Environment Facility, while underlining the need to continue improving its access modalities in line with Stockholm Convention decision SC-10/3, in particular as it relates to its chemicals and waste focal area;

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).

8. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, and encourages the donors to its trust fund, to continue and enhance their support for the sound management of chemicals and waste, in particular through the role of the Facility as a funding mechanism for the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention;

9. *Recalls* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste, by which it adopted the terms of reference for 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 and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

10. *Encourages* 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;

11. *Welcomes* the mid-term evaluation conducted by the Evaluation Office of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2019, which, among other things, accorded the Special Programme an overall rating of “satisfactory” for its performance to date;

12. *Takes note* of the document prepared by the secretariat outlining the future added value of the Special Programme;

13. *Notes* the recommendation of the Executive Board of the Special Programme, adopted at its sixth resumed meeting in September 2021, to extend the duration of the Special Programme by five years and to include in the Programme the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

14. *Also notes* that the Special Programme plays an important role in supporting developing countries, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States, and of countries with economies in transition, with priority given to those with least capacity, in establishing and maintaining the sustainable national capacity for sound management of chemicals and waste;

15. *Encourages* Governments in a position to do so, and invites 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;

16. *Decides* 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;

Issues of concern

17. *Welcomes* the reports prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in response to requests made at the third and fourth sessions of the Environment Assembly, which provide an important contribution to the sound management of chemicals and waste;

18. *Urges* Member States and invites other stakeholders to take further action to reduce or eliminate the risks associated with the issues discussed in the report entitled *An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment*;

19. *Requests* 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 the *Assessment Report on Issues of Concern*, 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*,² 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;

² United Nations Environment Programme, *Global Chemicals Outlook II – From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2019).

20. *Invites* Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders to address the adverse impact of pesticides and fertilizers, and notes the joint initiative by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme to eliminate the harm posed by highly hazardous pesticides;

Requests to the Executive Director

21. *Requests* the Executive Director to work closely with the 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, to foster effective cooperation and collaboration in promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste;

22. *Also requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, and in cooperation with the World Health Organization, to update the report entitled *State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012* prior to the sixth session of the Environment Assembly;

23. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to the Environment Assembly at its sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the implementation of the programme of work with respect to chemicals and waste;

24. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and in cooperation with the World Health Organization, to present a full range of options for addressing asbestos contaminants in products and the environment for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its sixth session.
