

## Catalogue of International Actions on Chemicals and Waste

In 2020, in response to resolution 4/8 for the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), UNEP developed an [Assessment Report on Issues of Concern](#). The report concluded that concerted international action by all stakeholders at all levels is urgently required. This catalogue is adapted from the UNEP report's assessments on instruments and actions under regulatory and policy frameworks and aims at supporting respondents with illustrative examples of potential actions and approaches. For a more detailed compilation information on the various instruments and actions, please refer to the [Annexes to the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern](#).

The catalogue presents international actions addressing chemicals and waste issues, organised by type of action: legally binding, soft law and information sharing/awareness or voluntary initiatives. Each type of action comes with illustrative examples to show some of the types of tools and approaches that can be used. The illustrative examples are not exhaustive. They may be further organized as:

- **regulatory control measures,**
- **economic instruments and tools** (e.g. environmental taxes, fees and user charges; certificate or permit trading schemes; environmental financing; subsidies; extended producer responsibility) or
- **voluntary measures and approaches** (e.g. target setting, political commitments, technical and scientific guidelines, principles and strategies, sectoral voluntary agreements, voluntary governance or self-regulation, collaborative or advisory governance, public private partnerships).
- **Information based and enforcement tools** (e.g. ecolabelling; sustainability reporting; consumer advice centres and portals),

The Catalogue of International Actions has been developed to support the UNEP consultation process on priorities for further work and potential further international action on Issues of concern ([more information here>>](#)). It complements UNEP's call for inputs on Issues of Concern by providing a reference point on the types of actions that have been taken in the past to address different issues of concern. It seeks to encourage further thinking on which actions may be needed for further work.

TYPE OF ACTION: Legally binding

Examples of legally binding approaches and tools	Illustration
<p><b>Legally binding international treaty</b></p>	<p>The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal is an international treaty that aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.</p> <p>Among others, wastes having cadmium or cadmium compounds as constituents, are listed as “hazardous wastes” which need to be managed in accordance with the provisions set out in the Convention. This includes by reducing to a minimum their generation; restricting the transboundary movements of such wastes, except where it is perceived to be in accordance with the principles of environmentally sound management; taking appropriate measures to ensure their environmentally sound management.</p>
<p><b>Regulatory control measures</b></p>	<p>The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade regulates the exchange of information in international trade on certain hazardous pesticides (active ingredients and formulations). The Convention obliges its Parties to notify on final regulatory actions that have been taken to prohibit or severely restrict pesticides as a result of their adverse impacts.</p>

TYPE OF ACTION: Soft law instruments

Examples of soft law approaches and tools	Illustration
<b>Economic instruments</b>	<p>In 1998, the World Bank issued a safeguard policy on pest management that is binding for all projects it finances. It stipulates that assistance related to crop protection should follow integrated pest management approaches. It does not permit the financing of formulations of products that fall in the WHO hazard classes Ia or Ib if i) the country lacks restrictions on their distribution and use or ii) they are likely to be used by, or be accessible to, lay personnel, farmers or others without training, equipment, and facilities to handle, store, and apply these products properly. Compliance with this policy is actively monitored.</p>
<b>Political commitments</b>	<p>The UN General Assembly in 2016 adopted the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Antimicrobial Resistance including, inter alia, a commitment to work at national, regional and global levels on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- multisectoral national action plans, programmes and policy initiatives,</li> <li>- national action plans</li> <li>- awareness and knowledge-raising activities on antimicrobial resistance and</li> <li>- calling upon the WHO, together with FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health, to finalize a global development and stewardship framework</li> </ul>
<b>Guidelines, principles and strategies</b>	<p>The fourth version of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management was approved by the FAO Conference in June 2013. The WHO adopted the Code in 2014 as its reference framework for international guidance on pesticide management. It is the pesticide management framework for all public and private entities engaged in (or associated with) the production, regulation, and management of pesticides. It sets out voluntary standards and is supported by additional technical guidelines.</p>

TYPE OF ACTION: Information sharing and awareness / Voluntary initiative

<b>Examples of voluntary initiatives</b>	<b>Illustration</b>
<b>Guidelines, principles and strategies</b>	<p>In 2017, UNEP published the Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information. The Guidelines offer value chain and public sector professionals' clear guidance on making effective, trustworthy claims to consumers, on product-related sustainability information. They are applicable to all regions and companies of all sizes.</p>
<b>Technical and scientific guidelines</b>	<p>The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) forms part of the World Health Organization (WHO) and it evaluates evidence of carcinogenicity and to publish them in monographs. This began in 1972 and the IARC has listed some chemicals as 'carcinogenic to humans' or 'probably carcinogenic to humans'. The IARC also evaluates pesticide active ingredients.</p>
<b>Information tools</b>	<p>The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has developed a series of studies, guidelines and specific recommendations to help governments establish effective environmental frameworks in the areas of telecommunications/ ICT generated e-waste.</p> <p>The ITU also maintains the Global Portal on e-Waste, featuring external resources on e-waste, including municipal waste, directed towards empowering institutional and governmental capabilities</p>