Written Consultation Submission: HejSupport and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)

,

UNEP's Call for Written Inputs on Issues of Concern: Priorities for further work and potential further international action

Introduction

UNEP is undertaking a consultation on priorities for further work and potential further international on action on 19 Issues of concern. This call for written inputs is being conducted to gather relevant information from stakeholders and views about the next steps that should be taken on issues of concern.

The call for inputs will address 19 issues of concern and you may wish to only provide answers for issues of concern that are of relevance to your organization/ country. At the start of each section, you will be asked whether you would like to provide responses on each specific issue. If you choose "No" on the introduction page of each issue you may proceed to the next issue of concern.

Please be aware that the submitted responses will be made available on the UNEP website indicating the stakeholder affiliation/ government. The names and contact details of the respondents will not be published on the UNEP website. Further information on UNEPs consultation process can be found here.

We highly recommend coordinating responses within your stakeholder affiliation/ government. Please complete this form for collecting written inputs by **15/08/2023** COB Central European time (CET).

For those using this MS word version, kindly return the completed word version of the call for written inputs. Please remember to save your work often, due to the addition of ActiveX controls below (such as option buttons and checkboxes), the autosave feature is not available on this form.

Please enter your email details.

Email:

Background

In 2020, UNEP developed an Assessment Report on Issues of Concern, to inform the international community about the current situation of specific chemicals and waste issues. It was based on a review of published evidence. It was intended to support discussion at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5) and other international forums working towards sound management of chemicals and waste. The Assessment Report assessed the ability of existing actions to address current environmental and human exposure to individual chemicals and groups of chemicals. It looked at 11 issues with emerging evidence of risks identified by the Global Chemicals Outlook-II and the 6 Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs) and two other Issues of Concern identified under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The report concluded that concerted international action by all stakeholders at all levels is urgently required.

GCO-II issues	SAICM Issues
1) *Arsenic* 2) *Bisphenol A (BPA)* 3) *Cadmium* 4) *Glyphosate* 5) *Lead* 6) *Microplastics* 7) *Neonicotinoids* 8) *Organotins* 9) *Phthalates* 10) *Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)* 11) *Triclosan*	1) *Chemicals in products (CiP)* 2) *Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)* 3) *Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)* 4) *Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)* 5) *Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)* 6) *Lead in paint* 7) *Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials* 8) *Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and the transition to safer alternatives*

In March 2022, at UNEA 5.2, UNEP was requested through resolution 5/7 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 issues discussed in the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern. The resolution also requests the preparation of a summary analysis, taking into account the views received.

Through this call for inputs, UNEP intends to respond to UNEA's request by gathering information from stakeholders about the priorities for future work and potential further international action. The findings from this call for written inputs will inform the writing of the Summary Analysis. The Summary Analysis is expected to build upon the SAICM Survey which considered the 8 EPIs and other issues of concern.

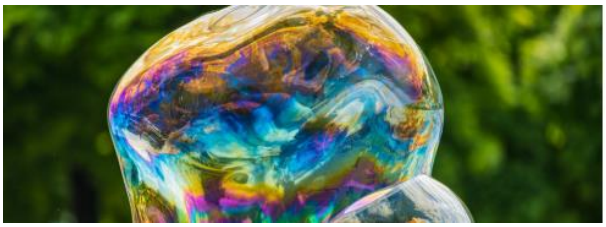
Available resources to support your responses:

All 19 issues of concern will be covered in this call for written inputs. A recording from an information webinar held on 27 April 2023, on the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern is available here for your reference. Further background information can be found below:

- Assessment report here>>
- Annexes here>>
- Factsheets on Issues of concern here>>
- Catalogue of International Actions on Chemicals and Waste here>>
- Survey from SAICM Sec on EPIs here>>

The form for submitting written inputs will remain open until **15/08/2023** COB Central European time (CET).

Thank you for your kind support with this consultation.



Personal Information:

Institution/Organization:

Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)

Type of Institution:

x *Civil Society Organization*

If relevant, please describe the membership coverage, geographical coverage and area of interest of your institution:

International

Questions

1. Arsenic

Screening Question - Arsenic

Arsenic is a naturally occurring metalloid that is ubiquitous in the Earth's crust. It is present in various inorganic and organic forms. Arsenic and arsenic compounds are used intentionally in wood preservatives, pesticides, animal feed additives, pharmaceuticals, glass production, alloy manufacturing, electronics, and semiconductor manufacturing.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Arsenic for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, e.g. Bisphenol A (BPA))*

x *Yes*

- ○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*
- ○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*
- ○ *No, other*

a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Arsenic

Arsenic is a naturally occurring metalloid that is ubiquitous in the Earth's crust. It is present in various inorganic and organic forms. Arsenic and arsenic compounds are used intentionally in wood preservatives, pesticides, animal feed additives, pharmaceuticals, glass production, alloy manufacturing, electronics, and semiconductor manufacturing.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Arsenic for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   - X ○ *Yes*
   - ○ *No*
   - ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*.

   Arsenic is classified as carcinogenic to humans and is identified by WHO as one of the 10 chemicals of major concern to public health. Contamination caused by arscenic is a serious global issue that affects the quality of drinking water and poses significant health risks to human health. Further international actions are needed to address issues of arsenic effectively.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   - ✓ *Legally binding*
   - ☐ *Soft law*
   - ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   - ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   - ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*.

Arsenic is still broadly used in various products around the world, e.g. in semi-conductors, wood preservatives and pesticides. International legally binding actions will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument to ensure better control of this hazardous substance and its applications.

_____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

✓ *Regulatory control measures*
☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict this hazardous substance and its applications. The Minamata Convention on Mercury and the POPs Convention already proved the effectiveness of legally binding measures to minimize risks caused by hazardous chemicals, including toxic metals.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible:

Similar to POPs and mercury, only coordinated international action can address the issue of arsenic. Arsenic is traded internationally with the exemplified products above.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

Minamata Convention on Mercury, Global Lead Paint Alliance, Water and Sanitation Program, Partnership for Clean Indoor Air

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Arsenic for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
- ✓ *Construction*
- ✓ *Electronics*
- ✓ *Energy*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Labour*
- ✓ *Pharmaceuticals*
- ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
- ✓ *Retail*
- ✓ *Textiles*
- ✓ *Transportation*
- ✓ *Waste*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

- ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
- ✓ *Biodiversity*
- ✓ *Climate Change*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Human Rights*
- ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*

✓ *World of Work*
☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of arsenic as well as other chemicals and waste is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss, climate change, resource depletion. For example, arsenic contamination of water sources often occurs in regions already experiencing water scarcity. Climate change exacerbates this issue by increasing the frequency of droughts and floods. To add to this, toxic substances in already manufactured materials and products are an obstacle to toxic-free circularity needed minimize waste, reduce resource extraction and the associated environmental impact.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

X

- ○ *Very high*
- ○ *High*
- ○ *Medium*
- ○ *Low*
- ○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing national regulatory basis on Arsenic considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing regional cooperative actions on arsenic considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

2. Bisphenol A (BPA)

Screening Question - Bisphenol A (BPA)

Bisphenols are a group of dozens of organic compounds that have been used as building blocks in the production of polycarbonate plastics, epoxy resins and other products since the 1960s. The variety of products include water bottles, sports equipment, medical devices, household electronics, thermal paper receipts, and food and beverage cans.

Among the bisphenols, bisphenol A (BPA) has attracted the most attention. The consumption of BPA and related products is widespread and estimated to continue to grow in the foreseeable future, driven mainly by increasing demand for polycarbonates and other plastics.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Bisphenol-A for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Cadmium)*

   X

   ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

   ○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

   ○ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Bisphenols are a group of dozens of organic compounds that have been used as building blocks in the production of polycarbonate plastics, epoxy resins and other products since the 1960s. The variety of products include water bottles, sports equipment, medical devices, household electronics, thermal paper receipts, and food and beverage cans.

Among the bisphenols, bisphenol A (BPA) has attracted the most attention. The consumption of BPA and related products is widespread and estimated to continue to grow in the foreseeable future, driven mainly by increasing demand for polycarbonates and other plastics.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Bisphenol-A for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No*

   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

   BPA is a Substance of Very High Concern under REACH and is an endocrine disrupting chemical causing multiple adverse effects on human health, particularly on the health of babies and children, including on their future reproductive health. . Further international actions are needed to address issues of BPA and other bisphenols effectively.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*

   ☐ *Soft law*

   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*

   ☐ *No international actions are needed*

   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

While BPA is restricted under REACH, many countries outside the EU do not have national regulations to ban or restrict BPA and other bisphenols in products, even in products for children. International legally binding actions will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument to ensure better control of bisphenols and their applications.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

✓ *Regulatory control measures*
☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict this hazardous substance and its applications. While REACH proved effective, it is limited to the EU and does not suggest similar protection in other countries. The POPs Convention already demonstrated the effectiveness of legally binding measures to minimize risks caused by hazardous chemicals.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Similar to POPs, only coordinated international action can address the issue of bisphenols.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

The EU recognized BPA as a Substance of Very High Concern under REACH. This initiative demonstrated the effectiveness of controlling and limiting the use of BPA in products, particularly for children. This initiative can be scaled up at the international level.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Bisphenol A for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
- ✓ *Construction*
- ✓ *Electronics*
- ✓ *Energy*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Labour*
- ✓ *Pharmaceuticals*
- ✓ *Public, private, blended finance*
- ✓ *Retail*
- ✓ *Textiles*
- ✓ *Transportation*
- ✓ *Waste*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

- ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
- ✓ *Biodiversity*
- ✓ *Climate Change*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Human Rights*
- ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- ✓ *World of Work*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of BPA and other bisphenols is a cross-cutting issue and should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss, climate change and resource depletion. BPA and other bisphenols are endocrine-disrupting chemicals that can negatively affect the health of people and wildlife. Bisphenols are industrial chemicals used in the production of plastics and resins. E.g., the automotive industry promotes polycarbonate plastics, based on BPA, as a solution for reducing the weight of vehicles, and thus their fuel consumption and climate impact. Here is a conflict of interest with respect to toxicity. BPA free alternatives for leight-weight materials must be developed. Toxicity considerations now limit the efficient use of already manufactured materials and products, including plastic. For example, Bisphenol's presence in products and waste impedes toxic-free circularity and resource extraction reduction.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ◯ *Very high*

◯ *High*

◯ *Medium*

◯ *Low*

◯ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing national regulatory basis on BPA and other bisphenols considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing regional cooperative actions on BPA and other bisphenols considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle

3. Cadmium

Screening Question - Cadmium

Cadmium is a toxic metal that is naturally found in the Earth's crust, generally at low levels. Cadmium and cadmium compounds are mainly used in nickel-cadmium batteries, alloys, coatings and plating, pigments in plastics, glasses, ceramics and paints, solar cells, PVC stabilisers and others. It has been produced, used and released in large quantities, and thus intentional human uses have caused widespread, persistent contamination and exposure.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Cadmium for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Glyphosate)*

x ◯ *Yes*

◯ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

◯ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

◯ *No, other*

a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Cadmium is a toxic metal that is naturally found in the Earth's crust, generally at low levels. Cadmium and cadmium compounds are mainly used in nickel-cadmium batteries, alloys, coatings and plating, pigments in plastics, glasses, ceramics and paints, solar cells, PVC stabilisers and others. It has been produced, used and released in large quantities, and thus intentional human uses have caused widespread, persistent contamination and exposure.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Cadmium for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*
   ○ *No*
   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

Cadmium is a toxic heavy metal used in many products, including batteries, coatings, pigments and plastics. It can be released into the environment through various industrial processes, agricultural activities, and improper waste disposal. Similar to mercury, further international action is necessary to address issues of Cadmium.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

Cadmium is broadly used in various products around the world. International legally binding measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument to ensure better control of this hazardous substance and its applications.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Regulatory control measures*
   ☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
   ☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
   ☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
   ☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict this hazardous substance and its applications. The Minamata Convention on Mercury already proved the effectiveness of legally binding measures to minimize risks caused by toxic metals (mercury).

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

   ✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
   ☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
   ✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
   ✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
   ☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
   ✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
   ☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Similar to mercury, only coordinated international action can address the issue of cadmium.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

The Minamata Convention on mercury could be replicated to address cadmium. Cadmium-related wastes are recognized as hazardous wastes under the Basel Convention and Parties to the Convention are obliged to address such waste to stay in compliance with the Convention

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Cadmium for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
- ✓ *Construction*
- ✓ *Electronics*
- ✓ *Energy*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Labour*
- ☐ *Pharmaceuticals*
- ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
- ☐ *Retail*
- ✓ *Textiles*
- ✓ *Transportation*
- ✓ *Waste*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

- ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
- ✓ *Biodiversity*
- ✓ *Climate Change*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Human Rights*
- ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- ✓ *World of Work*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of cadmium as well as other chemicals and waste is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss and climate change. Toxic metal pollution disrupt ecosystems, leading to biodiversity loss, impaired ecosystem functions, and reduced resilience to climate change. In addition, cadmium pollution also contributes to resource depletion because toxicity considerations now limit the efficient use of already manufactured materials and products and is an obstacle to circularity.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*

○ *High*

○ *Medium*

○ *Low*

○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing and strengthening national regulatory basis on cadmium considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing regional cooperative actions on cadmium considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout out lifecyle.

4. Glyphosate

Screening Question - Glyphosate

Glyphosate is an organophosphorus herbicide for agricultural, forestry and residential weed control that kills or suppresses all plant types, with the exception of those genetically modified to be tolerant to it. Since its introduction in 1974, glyphosate has become the most widely used herbicide worldwide. The largest use of glyphosate has been in agriculture, however glyphosate use in urban settings can also be a significant source of contamination.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Glyphosate for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Lead)*

x ○ *Yes*

○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

○ *No, other*

a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Glyphosate is an organophosphorus herbicide for agricultural, forestry and residential weed control that kills or suppresses all plant types, with the exception of those genetically modified to be tolerant to it. Since its introduction in 1974, glyphosate has become the most widely used herbicide worldwide. The largest use of glyphosate has been in agriculture, however glyphosate use in urban settings can also be a significant source of contamination.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Glyphosate for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*
   ○ *No*
   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

   In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans”. However, it is still broadly applied worldwide causing health problems to people and damaging the environment. Glyphosate damages the ecosystems, including pollinators and beneficial insects, earthworms, soil biota, and causes direct harm to agriculture that it is intended to support. Many countries have already banned Glyphosate but international actions are needed to ensure its ban globally.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

International legally binding measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws to ensure better control of this highly hazardous substance and its applications.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Regulatory control measures*
   ☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
   ☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
   ☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
   ☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict this hazardous substance and its applications. The Rotterdam convention already proved the effectiveness of legally binding measures to minimize risks caused by hazardous chemicals, including pesticides.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

   ✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
   ☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
   ✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
   ✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
   ☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
   ✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
   ☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Only coordinated global action can help countries address the issue, including better access to information on glyphosate health effects and the availability of safer alternatives.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

   Some countries have taken steps to legally ban or restrict glyphosate. These initiates should be scaled up at the international level.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Glyphosate for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
- ☐ *Construction*
- ☐ *Electronics*
- ☐ *Energy*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Labour*
- ☐ *Pharmaceuticals*
- ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
- ☐ *Retail*
- ☐ *Textiles*
- ☐ *Transportation*
- ✓ *Waste*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

- ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
- ✓ *Biodiversity*
- ✓ *Climate Change*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Human Rights*
- ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- ✓ *World of Work*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of glyphosate as well as other chemicals and waste is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution. Soils negatively impacted by pollution, including from glyphosate, can have poor carbon sequestring capacities.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*

○ *High*

○ *Medium*

○ *Low*

○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

   Start developing national regulatory basis on *Glyphosate* considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing regional cooperative actions on Glyphosate considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

5. Lead

Screening Question - Lead

Lead is a toxic metal that occurs naturally in the Earth's crust. It may exist in both inorganic and organic forms. The current global uses of lead are in batteries, rolled and extruded products, pigments and other product additives (e.g. for paints, cathode ray tubes, enamels and ceramics, PVC stabilisers), ammunition, alloys, cable sheathing and other uses

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Lead for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Microplastics)*

   x ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

   ○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

   ○ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Lead

Lead is a toxic metal that occurs naturally in the Earth's crust. It may exist in both inorganic and organic forms. The current global uses of lead are in batteries, rolled and extruded products, pigments and other product additives (e.g. for paints, cathode ray tubes, enamels and ceramics, PVC stabilisers), ammunition, alloys, cable sheathing and other uses

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Lead for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*
   ○ *No*
   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

WHO identified lead as one of the 10 chemicals of major public health concern. IARC classifies it as probably carcinogenic to humans. It is a toxic metal with no safe limit of exposure. Lead poisoning affects nearly every system in the body, including chronic health impacts with children particularly vulnerable to its effects. International action on lead is needed, taking experience of the Minamata Convention on mercury as a good practice example.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

Legally binding action will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument to ensure better control of lead and its applications. The Minamata Convention already proved to be an effective global instrument aimed to control the use of toxic metals (mercury).

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

✓ *Regulatory control measures*
☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict this hazardous substance and its applications. The Minamata Convention on Mercury proved the effectiveness of legally binding measures to minimize risks caused by mercury which is also a heavy metal.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Like POPs and mercury, only coordinated international action can address the issue of Lead.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

Global Lead Paint Alliance.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Lead for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
- ✓ *Construction*
- ✓ *Electronics*
- ✓ *Energy*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Labour*
- ☐ *Pharmaceuticals*
- ✓ *Public, private, blended finance*
- ✓ *Retail*
- ✓ *Textiles*
- ✓ *Transportation*
- ✓ *Waste*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

- ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
- ✓ *Biodiversity*
- ✓ *Climate Change*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Human Rights*
- ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- ✓ *World of Work*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of lead as well as other chemicals and waste is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss and climate change. Toxic metal pollution disrupt ecosystems, leading to biodiversity loss, impaired ecosystem functions, and reduced resilience to climate change. In addition, lead pollution also contributes to

resource depletion because toxicity considerations now limit the efficient use of already manufactured materials and products and is an obstacle to circularity.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*

○ *High*

○ *Medium*

○ *Low*

○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Strengthen national regulatory basis on lead and other toxic metals considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Strengthen regional cooperative actions on lead and other toxic metals considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

6. Microplastics

Screening Question - Microplastics

Microplastics are solid particles made of synthetic polymers, typically defined as smaller than 5 mm. Microplastics have been intentionally added to a wide range of products and application areas for diverse technical functions. For example, they are added in cosmetics and personal care products, detergents and maintenance products, agriculture and horticulture, medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices, medicinal products for human and veterinary use, food supplements, paints, coatings and inks, oil and gas drilling and production, plastics, technical ceramics, media for abrasive blasting, adhesives, 3D printing materials and printing inks.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Microplastics for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Neonicotinoids)*

   x ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

   ○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

   ○ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Microplastics

Microplastics are solid particles made of synthetic polymers, typically defined as smaller than 5 mm. Microplastics have been intentionally added to a wide range of products and application areas for diverse technical functions. For example, they are added in cosmetics and personal care products, detergents and maintenance products, agriculture and horticulture, medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices, medicinal products for human and veterinary use, food supplements, paints, coatings and inks, oil and gas drilling and production, plastics, technical ceramics, media for abrasive blasting, adhesives, 3D printing materials and printing inks.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Microplastics for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No*

   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*.

   Microplastics can travel across borders with air, water currents and as part of biota. The transboundary nature of microplastic justifies the need for coordinated global efforts to effectively address their sources, distribution, and impacts. Moreover, microplastics accumulate in various ecosystems and enter the food chain having cumulative impacts on the environment over time. Further international action will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument on plastic (currently under development) to ensure better control of microplastic and its sources._____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*

   ☐ *Soft law*

   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*

   ☐ *No international actions are needed*

   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

Further legally binding action will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument on plastic pollution to ensure better control of microplastic and its sources. Global legally binding instruments on POPs already proved to be effective in controlling the use of toxic plastic additives and will also potentially include microplastic.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

✓ *Regulatory control measures*
☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries better control and restrict microplastic and its sources. The POPs Convention already demonstrated the effectiveness of legally binding measures to minimize risks caused by toxic plastic additives that microplastics contain. Microplastics should be considered as part of the scope of the Global Plastic Treaty currently under development.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Similar to POPs, only coordinated international action can address the issue of microplastic.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

Negotiations of the global legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Microplastics for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
- ✓ *Construction*
- ✓ *Electronics*
- ✓ *Energy*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Labour*
- ✓ *Pharmaceuticals*
- ✓ *Public, private, blended finance*
- ✓ *Retail*
- ✓ *Textiles*
- ✓ *Transportation*
- ✓ *Waste*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

- ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
- ✓ *Biodiversity*
- ✓ *Climate Change*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Human Rights*
- ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- ✓ *World of Work*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of microplastic is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution (including chemical pollution), resource depletion. The production of plastic materials, including microplastics, requires the extraction or production of raw materials, having impacts on biodiversity, water, pollution and climate There are growing concerns about the health impacts of mircoplastics, as they are now found in tissue of organisms, and upon degradation in the environemnt may become so small that they can cross highly selective biological barriers, such as the blood-brain-barrier, supposed to protect the brain from foreign agents. Microplastics increasingly contaminate agricultural soils, through application of sewage treatment plant sludges. Toxicity considerations limit the efficient use of already manufactured materials and products. They are an obstacle to toxic-free circularity, contributing to unsound management of plastic, including landfills and dumping plastic waste, which then requires resources for cleanup and remediation efforts.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*

○ *High*

○ *Medium*

○ *Low*

○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

It is important to develop a national regulatory basis for plastic, including microplastic, considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing regional cooperative actions on plastic, including microplastic, considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

7. Neonicotinoids

Screening Question - Neonicotinoids

Neonicotinoids are a class of neuroactive insecticides chemically related to nicotine. Since the first neonicotinoid (imidacloprid) was commercialized in the 1990s, seven main compounds (acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, thiamethoxam and thiacloprid) are now available on the global market. Today, neonicotinoids are used in protecting plants, livestock and pets from pest insects, as well as for malaria vector control, i.e., mosquitos, to protect humans, in more than 100 countries. Neonicotinoids are also used as biocides.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Neonicotinoids for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Organotins)*

x ◯ *Yes*

◯ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

◯ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

◯ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Neonicotinoids are a class of neuroactive insecticides chemically related to nicotine. Since the first neonicotinoid (imidacloprid) was commercialized in the 1990s, seven main compounds (acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, thiamethoxam and thiacloprid) are now available on the global market. Today, neonicotinoids are used in protecting plants, livestock and pets from pest insects, as well as for malaria vector control, i.e., mosquitos, to protect humans, in more than 100 countries. Neonicotinoids are also used as biocides.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Neonicotinoids for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*
   ○ *No*
   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

Neonicotinoids are toxic to bees and other pollinators. The European Union has classified thiacloprid as potentially carcinogenic and toxic for reproduction. It is also identified as an endocrine disrupting chemical toxic to human health.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

Neonicotinoids are broadly used around the world and are known as a class of neuroactive insecticides. Many persist in the environment, and negatively impact non-target organisms, and in the longer run potentially ecosystem. With respect to human health, the precautionary principle should be applied, as the number of studies so far are insufficient, but some indicate direct negative impacts. Further international action will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument to ensure better control of these hazardous substance and their applications.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

✓ *Regulatory control measures*
☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict these hazardous substances and their applications.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
✓ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Similar to persistent organic pollutants, only coordinated international action can address the issue of neonicotinoids. The Rotterdam convention proved the effectiveness of legally binding measures to minimize risks caused by hazardous chemicals, including pesticides.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

   UNEP.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Neonicotinoids for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

   - ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
   - ☐ *Construction*
   - ☐ *Electronics*
   - ☐ *Energy*
   - ✓ *Health*
   - ✓ *Labour*
   - ☐ *Pharmaceuticals*
   - ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
   - ☐ *Retail*
   - ☐ *Textiles*
   - ☐ *Transportation*
   - ☐ *Waste*
   - ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

The Rotterdam Convention.

   a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

      - ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
      - ✓ *Biodiversity*
      - ✓ *Climate Change*
      - ✓ *Health*
      - ✓ *Human Rights*
      - ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
      - ✓ *World of Work*
      - ☐ *Other: _____*

   b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*

○ *High*

○ *Medium*

○ *Low*

○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing a national regulatory basis for neonicotinoids considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing regional cooperative actions for neonicotinoids considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

8. Organotins

Screening Question - Organotins

Organotins are organic compounds that contain at least one tin-carbon bond. There are four main groups of organotin compounds, which are used in various applications. Mono- and di-organotins are mainly used as heat stabilisers in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in a wide range of applications, including window frames and house siding, PVC pipes, food contact blister packs and water bottles. Tri-organotins are mainly used as biocides (e.g. in wood preservatives, in anti-fouling paints for boats and in textiles) and as pesticides. Tetra-organotins have been used as intermediates in the preparation of other organotins and as oil stabilisers.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Organotins for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Phthalates)*

x ○ *Yes*

○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

○ *No, other*

a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Organotins

Organotins are organic compounds that contain at least one tin-carbon bond. There are four main groups of organotin compounds, which are used in various applications. Mono- and di-organotins are mainly used as heat stabilisers in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in a wide range of applications, including window frames and house siding, PVC pipes, food contact blister packs and water bottles. Tri-organotins are mainly used as biocides (e.g. in wood preservatives, in anti-fouling paints for boats and in textiles) and as pesticides. Tetra-organotins have been used as intermediates in the preparation of other organotins and as oil stabilisers.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Organotins for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No*

   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

Organotins are a class of chemicals that contain known EDCs and compounds with neurotoxic actions. They still have wide range of applications in manufactured products and preservatives and pesticides.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*

   ☐ *Soft law*

   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*

   ☐ *No international actions are needed*

   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

Several organotins are recognized as sustances of very high concern under the EU REACH regulation. There is no motivation why human health and the environment should not have the same level of safety in other jurisdictions. Furthermore, transpboundary movement of organontin compounds with international trade in manufactured goods is also a challenge for jurisdictions that already have restrictions in place for organotin compounds, and restrictions in some jurisdictions also comlicates

trade. Legally binding international action will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument to ensure better control of these hazardous substance and their applications.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on options).*

✓ *Regulatory control measures*
☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

In the EU, several organotin compounds are already classified as substances of very high concern under the REACH regulation for all member states and this classification should be replicated also outside the EU jurisdiction.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible:

Several of the factors that are now impeding action would be addressed through coordinated international action.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

The EU REACH Regulation in which several organotin compounds are already classified as substances of very high concern.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Organotins for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

   - ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
   - ✓ *Construction*
   - ✓ *Electronics*
   - ✓ *Energy*
   - ✓ *Health*
   - ✓ *Labour*
   - ✓ *Pharmaceuticals*
   - ✓ *Public, private, blended finance*
   - ✓ *Retail*
   - ✓ *Textiles*
   - ✓ *Transportation*
   - ✓ *Waste*
   - ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

   a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

      - ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
      - ✓ *Biodiversity*
      - ✓ *Climate Change*
      - ✓ *Health*
      - ✓ *Human Rights*
      - ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
      - ✓ *World of Work*
      - ☐ *Other: _____*

   b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of organotin compounds is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution (including chemical pollution), resource depletion. Ecosystems negatively impacted by organotin compounds may be more sensitive to climate change. Human health considerations must be mad. Toxicity considerations limit the efficient use of already manufactured materials and products. They are an obstacle to toxic-free circularity, contributing to resource depleation and unsound management of waste then requires resources for cleanup and remediation efforts.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*

○ *High*

○ *Medium*

○ *Low*

○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing a national regulatory basis for organotines considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing regional cooperative actions for organotins considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

9. Phthalates

Screening Question - Phthalates

Phthalates are a large family of semi-volatile organic compounds. They are a group of plasticizers with softening and elastic effects, and they are produced in high volumes to be used in products such as vinyl flooring, adhesives, detergents, lubricating oils, automotive plastics, plastic clothing and personal care products. Phthalates accounted for 65 per cent of global consumption of plasticizers in 2017.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Phthalates for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs))*

x ○ *Yes*

○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

○ *No, other*

a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Phthalates

Phthalates are a large family of semi-volatile organic compounds. They are a group of plasticizers with softening and elastic effects, and they are produced in high volumes to be used in products such as vinyl flooring, adhesives, detergents, lubricating oils, automotive plastics, plastic clothing and personal care products. Phthalates accounted for 65 per cent of global consumption of plasticizers in 2017.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Phthalates for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No*

   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

Phthalates are known endocrine disrupting chemicals. The European Union has identified 17 phthalates or phthalate mixtures as Substances of Very High Concern. Some phthalates are regulated in some countries, however, the majority of developing countries and countries in transition do not have national regulatory measures to control and restrict the use of phthalates in various products, including products for children.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*

   ☐ *Soft law*

   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*

   ☐ *No international actions are needed*

   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

Phthalates are used in various products worldwide, including plastics and cosmetics. Further legally binding international action will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument to ensure better control of these hazardous substance and their applications.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Regulatory control measures*
   ☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
   ☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
   ☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
   ☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict these hazardous substance and their applications, including in products for children. While REACH proved effective in restricting certain phthalates, it is limited to the EU and does not suggest similar protection in other countries. The POPs Convention already proved the effectiveness of legally binding measures to minimize risks caused by hazardous chemicals.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

   ✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
   ☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
   ✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
   ✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
   ☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
   ✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
   ☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Similar to POPs, only coordinated international action can address the issue of phthalates

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

EU REACH, EU RoHS, EU Cosmetic Regulation, EU Toys Directive and EU Food Contact Materials Regulation.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Phthalates for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
- ✓ *Construction*
- ✓ *Electronics*
- ☐ *Energy*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Labour*
- ✓ *Pharmaceuticals*
- ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
- ✓ *Retail*
- ✓ *Textiles*
- ✓ *Transportation*
- ✓ *Waste*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

- ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
- ✓ *Biodiversity*
- ✓ *Climate Change*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Human Rights*
- ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- ✓ *World of Work*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of phthalates as well as other chemicals and waste is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss, climate change and resource depletion. Phthalates are commonly used in plastics, including single-use plastic. These plastics release phthalates into the environment, contributing to chemical pollution, potentially causing biodiversity loss and lowering the climate impact resilience of ecosystems. Moreover, toxicity considerations now limit the efficient use of manufactured materials and products to minimize resource extraction. Lack of sound management and restrictions of phthalates and other toxic chemicals at the global and national levels is an obstacle to toxic-free circularity.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ◯ *Very high*

◯ *High*

◯ *Medium*

◯ *Low*

◯ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing and strengthening national regulatory measures on phthalates considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing regional cooperative actions on phthalates considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

10. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

Screening Question - Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a class of more than 100 organic compounds. They occur naturally in coal and crude oil, but are also formed as a by-product during the incomplete combustion from both natural (e.g. volcanic eruptions, burning of coal, oil and gas) or anthropogenic (e.g. vehicle emissions, industrial processes, food preparation) sources. PAHs may also be present in consumer products (e.g. plastic components, footwear); however, they are never intentionally added during manufacturing. Plant-based foods may contain PAHs as a result of pollutant deposition before harvest.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Triclosan)*

   ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

   x ○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

   ○ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a class of more than 100 organic compounds. They occur naturally in coal and crude oil, but are also formed as a by-product during the incomplete combustion from both natural (e.g. volcanic eruptions, burning of coal, oil and gas) or anthropogenic (e.g. vehicle emissions, industrial processes, food preparation) sources. PAHs may also be present in consumer products (e.g. plastic components, footwear); however, they are never intentionally added during manufacturing. Plant-based foods may contain PAHs as a result of pollutant deposition before harvest.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   ○ *Yes*
   ○ *No*
   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ☐ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to*

the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).

- ☐ *Regulatory control measures*
- ☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
- ☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- ☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- ☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

- ☐ *Lack of technical capacity*
- ☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
- ☐ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- ☐ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- ☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- ☐ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- ☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- ☐ *Agriculture and food production*
- ☐ *Construction*
- ☐ *Electronics*
- ☐ *Energy*
- ☐ *Health*

- ☐ *Labour*
- ☐ *Pharmaceuticals*
- ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
- ☐ *Retail*
- ☐ *Textiles*
- ☐ *Transportation*
- ☐ *Waste*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

   a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

      - ☐ *Agriculture and Food*
      - ☐ *Biodiversity*
      - ☐ *Climate Change*
      - ☐ *Health*
      - ☐ *Human Rights*
      - ☐ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
      - ☐ *World of Work*
      - ☐ *Other: _____*

   b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

   - ○ *Very high*
   - ○ *High*
   - ○ *Medium*
   - ○ *Low*
   - ○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

11. Triclosan

Screening Question - Triclosan

Triclosan is a synthetic, broad-spectrum antibacterial chemical used as an additive in thousands of consumer and medical antibacterial products and plastics. It has been used commercially across the globe since the 1970s. Major global use is in cosmetics and personal care products (68%, particularly deodorants) followed by disinfection and medical use (16%) and lower amounts in paints (8%), and in plastic materials, toys and appliances (8%).

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Triclosan for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Chemicals in Products (CiP))*

   x ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

   ○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

   ○ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Triclosan is a synthetic, broad-spectrum antibacterial chemical used as an additive in thousands of consumer and medical antibacterial products and plastics. It has been used commercially across the globe since the 1970s. Major global use is in cosmetics and personal care products (68%, particularly deodorants) followed by disinfection and medical use (16%) and lower amounts in paints (8%), and in plastic materials, toys and appliances (8%).

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Triclosan for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No*

   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

Triclosan is used in a broad spectrum of products. It is highly toxic to aquatic organisms. And there is evidence of its endocrine-disrupting effects. Some countries and regions have established legally binding obligations to ban the use of triclosan in different products, however, no global actions makes it harder for developing countries and countries in transition to have enough motivation for developing and strengthening their national regulatory measures to minimize risk of exposure.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*

   ☐ *Soft law*

   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*

   ☐ *No international actions are needed*

   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*.

Triclosan is broadly used in various products around the world. Further international legally binding action will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument to ensure better control of this hazardous substance and its applications.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

✓ *Regulatory control measures*
☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict Ticlosan and its applications. The Stockholm Convention on POPs already demonstrated the effectiveness of legally binding measures to minimize risks caused by hazardous chemicals.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Similar to POPs, only coordinated international action can address the issue of Triclosan

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

   The EU's Cosmetics Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009) restricts the use of triclosan in cosmetic products.
   Triclosan is subject to the EU's REACH Regulation.
   The EU's BPR (Regulation (EU) No 528/2012) regulates the placing on the market and use of biocidal products, which includes products containing triclosan as an active ingredient.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Triclosan for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

   - ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
   - ☐ *Construction*
   - ☐ *Electronics*
   - ☐ *Energy*
   - ✓ *Health*
   - ✓ *Labour*
   - ✓ *Pharmaceuticals*
   - ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
   - ☐ *Retail*
   - ☐ *Textiles*
   - ☐ *Transportation*
   - ☐ *Waste*
   - ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

   a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

      - ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
      - ✓ *Biodiversity*
      - ✓ *Climate Change*
      - ✓ *Health*
      - ✓ *Human Rights*
      - ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
      - ✓ *World of Work*
      - ☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of Triclosan is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss, climate change and resource depletion. Triclosan is used in various products, including plastics. These plastics release Triclosan into the environment, contributing to chemical pollution. Moreover, toxicity considerations now limit the efficient use of manufactured materials and products to minimize resource extraction. Lack of sound management and restrictions of Triclosan and other toxic chemicals at the global and national levels is an obstacle to toxic-free circularity.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*
○ *High*
○ *Medium*
○ *Low*
○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

   Start developing a national regulatory basis for triclosan considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

    Start developing regional cooperative actions on triclosan considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle

12. Chemicals in products (CiP)

Screening Question - Chemicals in products (CiP)

Chemicals may be released at any stage of a product's life cycle (including production, use, recycling or reuse, end-of-life disposal), resulting in potential exposures for humans and the environment. Information exchange in the value chain is fundamental for manufacturers, brands, retailers, end-consumers, waste managers and regulators in identifying and soundly managing any chemicals of technical, environmental or human health concerns in products.

CiP was identified as an issue of concern under SAICM at ICCM2 in 2009, “with a view of taking appropriate cooperative actions, to consider the need to improve the availability of and access to information on chemicals in products in the supply chain and throughout their life cycle”. SAICM stakeholders also identified four priority sectors: textiles, toys, building products and electronics.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Chemicals in Products for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs))*

   x ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

   ○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

   ○ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other” in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Chemicals in products (CiP)

Chemicals may be released at any stage of a product's life cycle (including production, use, recycling or reuse, end-of-life disposal), resulting in potential exposures for humans and the environment. Information exchange in the value chain is fundamental for manufacturers, brands, retailers, end-consumers, waste managers, recyclers and regulators in identifying and soundly managing any chemicals of technical, environmental or human health concerns in products.

CiP was identified as an issue of concern under SAICM at ICCM2 in 2009, "with a view of taking appropriate cooperative actions, to consider the need to improve the availability of and access to information on chemicals in products in the supply chain and throughout their life cycle". SAICM stakeholders also identified four priority sectors: textiles, toys, building products and electronics. However, progress with this IoC under the SAICM voluntary regime is mainly limited to a greater awareness of the problem of unknown material chemical composition among manufacturers, but has generally not increased information transfer about the chemical composition of materials to all stakeholders along the value chain. Thus, it can presently not be guaranteed that circular economy is safe to human health and the environment, and the potential for material resource efficiencies cannot be safely utilized

In fact, WHO has in at least two reports identified the uncontrolled recirculation of hazardous chemicals with recycled material as a serious threat to human health and the environment, and an obstacle to circular economy. WHO has also highlighted that international trade adds an additional layer of complexity and uncertainty to circular economy, as different jursidictions have different measures in place on chemicals of concern (lack of legislation, legislation, different views on what is a chemical of concern, and so on).Please visit the two-page factsheet on Chemicals in Products for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ◯ *Yes*

   ◯ *No*

   ◯ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

So far, the CiP work has mainly focused on identifying gaps and obstacles in obtaining information about the chemical composition of manufactured products. In 2015, the Chemicals in Products Programme was created in support of the CiP work. It outlines the scope for disclosure, within and outside supply chains, and the supplementary documents provide information on existing industry models for disclosure. Unfortunately, very few stakeholders joined the CiP Programme. Basically, the work with the Programme has not progressed as expected. Further international actions are needed,

starting with developing global legally binding requirenents for information transparency about the presence of chemicals in materials and products, prioritising chemicals of concern.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

In 2015, the Chemicals in Products Programme was established to support the work with the emerging policy issue Chemicals in Products within the frames of the UN chemicals strategy SAICM. It is a voluntary disclosure system, with the aspirational goal of full information disclosure for the chemical composition of manufactured products (excluding cleaning products and personal hygiene products) within and outside supply chains. The Programme prioritizes chemicals with the following hazard properties: persistent, bioaccummulative and toxic (PBT), very persistent, very bioaccummulative (vPvB) chemicals, carcinogens, mutagens, and chemicals toxic to reproduction (CMR), endocrine disrupters (EDC), chemicals toxic to the nervous system, and other chemicals of concern. These hazard properties correspond to those in the criteria underlying the EU SVHCs. Now is the time to build on the most progressive provisions of previous initiatives, building on lessons learnt and responding to identified challenges. An integrated legally binding approach to information disclosure on chemicals in products, and traceability for disclosed information linked to individual materials and products throughout value chains and life cycles, will help achieve effective risk reduction for chemicals of concern.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Regulatory control measures*
   ☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
   ☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
   ☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
   ☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Effective regulatory measures help prevent pollution by reducing the use of toxic chemicals in the production processes and in products, and the release of hazardous substances into the environment. They contribute to healthier ecosystems, worker and consumer safety, safeguard human rights to access information and to health and healthy environment, minimize potential risk associated with toxic chemicals, ensure that products meet global safety and regulatory standards, facilitating international trade, and lays the foundation for a circular economy in which the potential for material resource efficiencies can safelt utilized.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

   ✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
   ☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
   ✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
   ✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
   ☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
   ✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
   ☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

In the globalized economy, only coordinated efforts can address the issue of chemicals in products, starting with global requirements for information transparency about the presence of chemicals in materials and products, and tracebility requriements for disclosed information to all stakholders along value chains

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

   SAICM CiP Programme, EU REACH Regulation and the EU SCIP database.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Chemicals in Products for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

   ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
   ✓ *Construction*
   ✓ *Electronics*
   ✓ *Energy*
   ✓ *Health*
   ✓ *Labour*

☐ *Pharmaceuticals*
✓ *Public, private, blended finance*
✓ *Retail*
✓ *Textiles*
✓ *Transportation*
✓ *Waste*
☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

✓ *Agriculture and Food*
✓ *Biodiversity*
✓ *Climate Change*
✓ *Health*
✓ *Human Rights*
✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
✓ *World of Work*
☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of chemicals in products is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss, climate change, resource depletion because toxicity considerations now limit the efficient use of already manufactured materials and products and is an obstacle to toxic-free circularity.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*
○ *High*
○ *Medium*
○ *Low*

○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Support global legally binding requirements for chemical information transparency and traceability in materials and products and develop national regulatory basis to control chemicals in products, prioritising hazardouschemicals and considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Support global legally binding requirements for chemical information transparency and traceability in materials and products and develop regional regulatory basis to control chemicals in products, prioritising toxic chemicals and considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle

13. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)

Screening Question - Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)

An EDC is an exogenous substance or mixture that alters the function(s) of the endocrine system and consequently causes adverse health effects in an intact organism, or its progeny, or (sub)populations. Substantial efforts have been made over the past two decades to develop a better scientific understanding of EDCs and their characteristics, to test and identify EDCs, and to develop scientific approaches in order to support risk management measures.

In 2012, at ICCM3, EDCs were identified as an issue of concern under SAICM, and SAICM stakeholders decided “to implement cooperative actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders” and invited IOMC organisations to lead and facilitate a series of cooperative actions on EDCs, which was renewed in a Resolution at ICCM4.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs))*

x ○ *Yes*

○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

○ *No, other*

b. If you selected "No, other” in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)

An EDC is an exogenous substance or mixture that alters the function(s) of the endocrine system and consequently causes adverse health effects in an intact organism, or its progeny, or (sub)populations. Substantial efforts have been made over the past two decades to develop a better scientific understanding of EDCs and their characteristics, to test and identify EDCs, and to develop scientific approaches in order to support risk management measures.

In 2012, at ICCM3, EDCs were identified as an issue of concern under SAICM, and SAICM stakeholders decided "to implement cooperative actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders" and invited IOMC organisations to lead and facilitate a series of cooperative actions on EDCs, which was renewed in a Resolution at ICCM4.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*
   ○ *No*
   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

EDCs are substances that can interfere with the endocrine system in both humans and animals, potentially leading to various health issues. These chemicals can be found in everyday products such as plastics, cosmetics, pesticides, and certain pharmaceuticals. Through international trade in chemicals and manufactured products, they are spread globally. Due to their widespread use and potential negative impacts on health and the environment, there has been growing concern about the need for international action to address EDCs.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

EDCs are present in various products around the world, with weak or no control. Further, legally binding international action will help countries, especially those with insufficient environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument to ensure better control of these toxic substance and their applications.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Regulatory control measures*
   ☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
   ☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
   ☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
   ☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Regulatory control measures are needed for endocrine-disrupting chemicals due to the potential risks they pose to human health and the environment. EDCs can interfere with the endocrine system, which controls various functions, including growth, metabolism, and reproduction. Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, restrict these hazardous substance and their applications.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

   ✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
   ☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
   ✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
   ✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
   ☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
   ✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
   ☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Similar to POPs, only coordinated international action can address the issues of EDCs.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

   Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
   European Union's REACH Regulation.
   U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

   - ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
   - ✓ *Construction*
   - ✓ *Electronics*
   - ✓ *Energy*
   - ✓ *Health*
   - ✓ *Labour*
   - ✓ *Pharmaceuticals*
   - ✓ *Public, private, blended finance*
   - ✓ *Retail*
   - ✓ *Textiles*
   - ✓ *Transportation*
   - ✓ *Waste*
   - ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

   a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

      - ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
      - ✓ *Biodiversity*
      - ✓ *Climate Change*
      - ✓ *Health*
      - ✓ *Human Rights*
      - ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
      - ✓ *World of Work*
      - ☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

The issue of endocrine-disrupting chemicals has important linkages with several international agendas that address environmental, health, and sustainable development concerns, including the Stockholm and Minamata Convetnions, SDGs, CBD, other. Similar to other chemicals in products, management of EDCs is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss, climate change, resource depletion, EDCs are released from materials and products and negatively affect people's health and wildlife, and thus may also reduce the climate resilience of ecosystems. Moreover, EDCs in products are an obstacle to toxic-free circularity and therefore contribute to continued resource depletion for virgin raw materials.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*

○ *High*

○ *Medium*

○ *Low*

○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing a national regulatory basis for EDCs considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle. Ensure monitoring and enforcement of the Stockholm Convention implementation at the national level.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Start developing regional cooperative actions for EDCs considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

14. Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)

Screening Question - Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)

Pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics, and their metabolites can enter the environment through a variety of pathways, including wastewater and solid waste from pharmaceutical manufacturing, consumption and excretion, improper disposal of unused or expired products, animal husbandry and aquafarming. Their presence in the environment may result in different adverse effects on wildlife and ecosystems; some well-known cases include endangerment of some vulture species, reproductive failures in fish, and the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Internationally, EPPPs were recognized as an issue of concern under SAICM at ICCM4 in 2015. The same resolution "considers that information dissemination and awareness-raising on EPPP are particularly relevant and that improving the availability of and access to information on such chemicals is a priority", "recognizes the current knowledge gaps on exposure to and the effects of EPPP", "decides to implement cooperative actions on EPPP with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders", and "requests all interested stakeholders and organizations to provide support, including expertise, financial and in-kind resources, on a voluntary basis, for such cooperative action, including by participating in developing and making available relevant information and guidance"

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP))*

   x ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

   ○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

   ○ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)

Pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics, and their metabolites can enter the environment through a variety of pathways, including wastewater and solid waste from pharmaceutical manufacturing, consumption and excretion, improper disposal of unused or expired products, animal husbandry and aquafarming. Their presence in the environment may result in different adverse effects on wildlife and ecosystems; some well-known cases include endangerment of some vulture species, reproductive failures in fish, and the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Internationally, EPPPs were recognized as an issue of concern under SAICM at ICCM4 in 2015. The same resolution "considers that information dissemination and awareness-raising on EPPP are particularly relevant and that improving the availability of and access to information on such chemicals is a priority", "recognizes the current knowledge gaps on exposure to and the effects of EPPP", "decides to implement cooperative actions on EPPP with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders", and "requests all interested stakeholders and organizations to provide support, including expertise, financial and in-kind resources, on a voluntary basis, for such cooperative action, including by participating in developing and making available relevant information and guidance"

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ◌ *Yes*

   ◌ *No*

   ◌ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

EPPPs can be found in water bodies, soil, and even remote environments, far from their original sources. Due to their widespread distribution, addressing EPPPs requires international cooperation to prevent cross-border pollution and mitigate their global impact.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*

   ☐ *Soft law*

   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*

   ☐ *No international actions are needed*

   ☐ *Other: _____.*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

Legally binding actions are needed to address issues related to EPPPs, due to the complex and far-reaching nature of these pollutants' impacts on the environment and human health. Legally binding actions, such as international treaties or agreements, provide a clear and enforceable framework for regulating the production, use, disposal, and management of EPPPs. They ensure that countries take concrete steps to address the issue rather than relying solely on voluntary measures. Global legally binding actions are especially important for countries with weak national environmental and health regulations.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Regulatory control measures*
   ☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
   ☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
   ☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
   ☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control EPPPs, their application and pollution caused by these substances.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

   ✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
   ✓ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
   ✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
   ✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
   ☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
   ✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
   ☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Similar to POPs, only coordinated international action can address the issues of EPPPs.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

The Stockholm Convention on POPs.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
- ☐ *Construction*
- ☐ *Electronics*
- ☐ *Energy*
- ✓ *Health*
- ☐ *Labour*
- ✓ *Pharmaceuticals*
- ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
- ☐ *Retail*
- ☐ *Textiles*
- ☐ *Transportation*
- ☐ *Waste*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

   a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

      - ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
      - ✓ *Biodiversity*
      - ☐ *Climate Change*
      - ✓ *Health*
      - ✓ *Human Rights*
      - ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
      - ✓ *World of Work*
      - ☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

EPPPs can have toxic effects on aquatic organisms, and beyond. This can lead to reduced populations, altered behaviors, reproductive abnormalities, population declines, ultimately impacting biodiversity. EPPPs can accumulate in organisms at different trophic levels within ecosystems, disrupting food chains and negatively impacting species at various levels, potentially leading to biodiversity loss, making ecosystems less resilient to climate change and pollution.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*
○ *High*
○ *Medium*
○ *Low*
○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

   Start developing a national regulatory basis for EPPPs considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

    Start developing regional cooperative actions on EPPPs considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle

15. Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)

Screening Question - Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)

Electrical and electronic products (EEP), also referred to as electronic and electrical equipment (EEE), include any device with a circuit, battery or plug. They can contain many chemical additives for certain properties such as flame retardancy. Some chemical additives may be hazardous, including heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and may be released during production, use, transport, and end-of-life treatment (disposal or recycling), leading to environmental and human exposures and possible adverse effects.

HSLEEP was adopted as an EPI at ICCM2 in 2009. Conscious that actions are needed up-, mid- and downstream, a life cycle approach was endorsed. Despite valuable efforts made at all levels, significant challenges remain in regard to identifying, disseminating and implementing best practices at all stages of the life cycle, including design, recycling and disposal.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Hazardous Substances within the Life cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs))*

   x ○ *Yes*
   ○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*
   ○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*
   ○ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)

Electrical and electronic products (EEP), also referred to as electronic and electrical equipment (EEE), include any device with a circuit, battery or plug. They can contain many chemical additives for certain properties such as flame retardancy. Some chemical additives may be hazardous, including heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and may be released during production, use, transport, and end-of-life treatment (disposal or recycling), leading to environmental and human exposures and possible adverse effects.

HSLEEP was adopted as an EPI at ICCM2 in 2009. Conscious that actions are needed up-, mid- and downstream, a life cycle approach was endorsed. Despite valuable efforts made at all levels, significant challenges remain in regard to identifying, disseminating and implementing best practices at all stages of the life cycle, including design, recycling and disposal.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Hazardous Substances within the Life cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ◯ *Yes*
   ◯ *No*
   ◯ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

Hazardous substances within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products, including toxic metals, POPs, and flame retardants, pose significant environmental and health risks, and international collaboration is essential to effectively manage and mitigate these risks.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   ☐ *Other: _____.*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

Hazardous substances, including toxic metals and persistent organic pollutants, within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products may be released during production, use, transport, disposal and recycling, leading to environmental contamination and human exposures. Further, legally binding international action will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop and strengthen their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument to ensure better control of this hazardous substances and their applications.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

✓ *Regulatory control measures*
☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict hazardous substance within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products. The Minamata Convention on Mercury and the POPs Convention already proved the effectiveness of legally binding measures to minimize risks caused by hazardous chemicals.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
☐ *Other:*

Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Similar to POPs and mercury, only coordinated international action can address the issue of hazardous substance within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

   Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive.
   StEP Initiative.
   EPEAT Certification.
   Basel Convention.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Hazardous Substances within the Life cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

   - ☐ *Agriculture and food production*
   - ☐ *Construction*
   - ✓ *Electronics*
   - ✓ *Energy*
   - ✓ *Health*
   - ✓ *Labour*
   - ☐ *Pharmaceuticals*
   - ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
   - ☐ *Retail*
   - ☐ *Textiles*
   - ☐ *Transportation*
   - ✓ *Waste*
   - ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

   a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

      - ☐ *Agriculture and Food*
      - ☐ *Biodiversity*
      - ✓ *Climate Change*
      - ✓ *Health*
      - ✓ *Human Rights*
      - ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*

✓ *World of Work*
☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of hazardous substance within the lifecycle of electrical and electronic products, as well as other chemicals and waste is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss and resource depletion because toxicity considerations now limit the efficient use of already manufactured materials and products and is an obstacle to toxic-free circularity.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*
○ *High*
○ *Medium*
○ *Low*
○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Set up national laws to restrict certain hazardous substances in EEP and define roles and responsibilities and targets in managing e-waste.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Set up regional cooperative actions on hazardous substances in EEP considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle

16. Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)

Screening Question - Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)

The FAO and WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management defines HHPs as: "Pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment according to internationally accepted classification systems such as the WHO or the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (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 to be and treated as highly hazardous".

At ICCM4 in 2015, HHPs were identified as an issue of concern. In addition, among other actions, governments and other stakeholders supported "concerted action to address HHPs in the context of SAICM" and encouraged "relevant stakeholders to undertake concerted efforts to implement the strategy at the local, national, regional and international levels, with emphasis on promoting agroecologically-based alternatives and strengthening national regulatory capacity to conduct risk assessment and risk management, including the availability of necessary information, mindful of the responsibility of national and multinational enterprises", and welcomed "the offer of the FAO, UNEP and WHO to develop modalities for international coordination in the context of the IOMC"

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Highly Hazardous Pesticides for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Lead in Paint)*

   x ○ *Yes*

   ○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

   ○ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

   ○ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)

The FAO and WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management defines HHPs as: "Pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment according to internationally accepted classification systems such as the WHO or the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (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 to be and treated as highly hazardous".

At ICCM4 in 2015, HHPs were identified as an issue of concern. In addition, among other actions, governments and other stakeholders supported "concerted action to address HHPs in the context of SAICM" and encouraged "relevant stakeholders to undertake concerted efforts to implement the strategy at the local, national, regional and international levels, with emphasis on promoting agroecologically-based alternatives and strengthening national regulatory capacity to conduct risk assessment and risk management, including the availability of necessary information, mindful of the responsibility of national and multinational enterprises", and welcomed "the offer of the FAO, UNEP and WHO to develop modalities for international coordination in the context of the IOMC"

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Highly Hazardous Pesticides for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*
   ○ *No*
   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

Further international action on Highly Hazardous Pesticides is essential to protect human health, the environment, and the health and well-being of vulnerable populations. Collaborative international efforts can lead to the adoption of safer agricultural practices, reduced risks, and more sustainable pest management approaches worldwide.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*

☐ *Other: _____.*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

Global legally binding actions ensure that all participating countries adhere to the same set of regulations and standards. This consistency helps prevent disparities in pesticide management practices, protect human health and ecosystems, ensures a level playing field for trade.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

✓ *Regulatory control measures*
☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict the production and use of highly hazardous pesticides. Examples of existing legally binding agreements that could serve as models for international action on HHPs include the Rotterdam Convention, which addresses the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides, and the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Only the implementation of coordinated international actions on highly hazardous pesticides can help address the serious risks posed by these substances to human health, the environment, and sustainable agriculture.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

   The Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Highly Hazardous Pesticides for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

   - ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
   - ☐ *Construction*
   - ☐ *Electronics*
   - ☐ *Energy*
   - ✓ *Health*
   - ✓ *Labour*
   - ☐ *Pharmaceuticals*
   - ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
   - ☐ *Retail*
   - ✓ *Textiles*
   - ☐ *Transportation*
   - ✓ *Waste*
   - ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

   a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

      - ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
      - ✓ *Biodiversity*
      - ✓ *Climate Change*
      - ✓ *Health*
      - ✓ *Human Rights*

✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
☐ *World of Work*
☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of HHPs is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, resource depletion. They harm beneficial insects, birds, and aquatic life, disrupting ecosystems, making them more vulnerable and less resilient to climate change.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*
○ *High*
○ *Medium*
○ *Low*
○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Develop national regulatory basis on HHPs, considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle, as well as ratify and enforce the Rotterdam Convention.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Develop regional cooperative actions on HHPs considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

17. Lead in paint

Screening Question - Lead in paint

Lead is a multi-system toxicant for which no safe level of exposure has been identified. Exposure to lead can cause chronic and debilitating health impacts in all age groups, and children are particularly vulnerable to its neurotoxic effects. The widespread use of lead has caused extensive environmental and human exposure across the globe. One major source of exposure, particularly for children, is through “lead paint”, or paint to which lead compounds have been added as pigments, drying agents or anti-corrosives.

Among others, “Lead in Paint” was recognized as an issue of concern under the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) in 2009. The ICCM2 also endorsed the establishment of an international partnership, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP), to assist in phasing out lead paint worldwide. The GAELP aims to have all countries adopt “legally binding laws, regulations, standards and/or procedures to control the production, import, sale and use of lead paints with special attention to the elimination of lead decorative paints and lead paints for other applications most likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure” and to have all paint manufacturers eliminate “the use of added lead compounds in priority areas” by 2020.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Lead in Paint for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials)*

   x ◯ *Yes*

   ◯ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

   ◯ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

   ◯ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other” in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Lead is a multi-system toxicant for which no safe level of exposure has been identified. Exposure to lead can cause chronic and debilitating health impacts in all age groups, and children are particularly vulnerable to its neurotoxic effects. The widespread use of lead has caused extensive environmental and human exposure across the globe. One major source of exposure, particularly for children, is through "lead paint", or paint to which lead compounds have been added as pigments, drying agents or anti-corrosives.

Among others, "Lead in Paint" was recognized as an issue of concern under the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) in 2009. The ICCM2 also endorsed the establishment of an international partnership, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP), to assist in phasing out lead paint worldwide. The GAELP aims to have all countries adopt "legally binding laws, regulations, standards and/or procedures to control the production, import, sale and use of lead paints with special attention to the elimination of lead decorative paints and lead paints for other applications most likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure" and to have all paint manufacturers eliminate "the use of added lead compounds in priority areas" by 2020.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Lead in Paint for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ◯ *Yes*
   ◯ *No*
   ◯ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

Further international action is necessary to address lead in paint, because many countries import paints and products containing lead-based paints despite substantial progress in developing national regulatory measures to control lead paint. International action can ensure that products meet safety standards and prevent the import and use of hazardous paints to minimize lead exposure on human health and the environment.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   ☐ *Other: _____.*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

Lead paints are still broadly used around the world. Further international action will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, develop, strengthen and enforce their national laws in accordance with the global legally binding instrument to ensure better control of this hazardous substance and its applications.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

✓ *Regulatory control measures*
☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict lead in paints. The Minamata Convention on Mercury already proved the effectiveness of legally binding measures to minimize risks caused by toxic metal (mercury).

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

☐ *Lack of technical capacity*
☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
☐ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
☐ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
✓ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
☐ *Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Similar to mercury, only coordinated international action can address the issue of Lead in Paint.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

   Minamata convention on mercury.
   GAELP.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Lead in Paint for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

   - ☐ *Agriculture and food production*
   - ✓ *Construction*
   - ☐ *Electronics*
   - ☐ *Energy*
   - ✓ *Health*
   - ✓ *Labour*
   - ☐ *Pharmaceuticals*
   - ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
   - ☐ *Retail*
   - ☐ *Textiles*
   - ☐ *Transportation*
   - ✓ *Waste*
   - ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

   a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

      - ☐ *Agriculture and Food*
      - ✓ *Biodiversity*
      - ✓ *Climate Change*
      - ✓ *Health*
      - ✓ *Human Rights*
      - ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
      - ✓ *World of Work*
      - ☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Lead paint has direct linkages with all international agendas listed above. For example, lead paints can have severe and lasting impacts on human health, especially for children, pregnant women, and workers who come into contact with paint dust containing lead. Children exposed to lead paint are at a higher risk of behavioral problems and other illnesses. Workers involved in the renovation, repair, and painting of buildings with lead-based paint are at risk of lead exposure.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*

○ *High*

○ *Medium*

○ *Low*

○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Develop, strengthen and enforce national legislation on lead paint considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Drevelop regional cooperative actions on lead paint considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

18. Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

Screening Question - Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

While no definition has been internationally agreed upon, nanomaterials are commonly defined as materials having at least one external or internal dimension between 1 and 100 nm. Nanotechnology, i.e. the manipulation of matter at the nanometre scale, has rapidly developed in the past few decades and led to the widespread presence of nanomaterials in consumer products and industrial applications.

Despite multiple benefits associated with the technology, concerns have emerged regarding potential risks posed by manufactured nanomaterials to human health and the environment. In light of these concerns “Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials” was designated an emerging policy issue at the second session of the ICCM in 2009. Stakeholders stressed the need to close knowledge gaps; to understand, avoid, reduce and manage risks; and to review the methods used for testing and assessing safety.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs))*

   - ○ *Yes*
   - ○ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*
   - ◉ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*
   - ○ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other” in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

While no definition has been internationally agreed upon, nanomaterials are commonly defined as materials having at least one external or internal dimension between 1 and 100 nm. Nanotechnology, i.e. the manipulation of matter at the nanometre scale, has rapidly developed in the past few decades and led to the widespread presence of nanomaterials in consumer products and industrial applications.

Despite multiple benefits associated with the technology, concerns have emerged regarding potential risks posed by manufactured nanomaterials to human health and the environment. In light of these concerns "Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials" was designated an emerging policy issue at the second session of the ICCM in 2009. Stakeholders stressed the need to close knowledge gaps; to understand, avoid, reduce and manage risks; and to review the methods used for testing and assessing safety.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   ○ *Yes*
   ○ *No*
   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ☐ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ☐ *Regulatory control measures*
   ☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
   ☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
   ☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
   ☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

   ☐ *Lack of technical capacity*
   ☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
   ☐ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
   ☐ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
   ☐ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
   ☐ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
   ☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- ☐ *Agriculture and food production*
- ☐ *Construction*
- ☐ *Electronics*
- ☐ *Energy*
- ☐ *Health*
- ☐ *Labour*
- ☐ *Pharmaceuticals*
- ☐ *Public, private, blended finance*
- ☐ *Retail*
- ☐ *Textiles*
- ☐ *Transportation*
- ☐ *Waste*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

   a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

      - ☐ *Agriculture and Food*
      - ☐ *Biodiversity*
      - ☐ *Climate Change*
      - ☐ *Health*
      - ☐ *Human Rights*
      - ☐ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
      - ☐ *World of Work*
      - ☐ *Other: _____*

   b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

   - ○ *Very high*
   - ○ *High*

- ○ *Medium*
- ○ *Low*
- ○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

19. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)

Screening Question - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)

The PFAS family is composed of thousands of synthetic organic chemicals that contain at least one perfluorocarbon moiety (e.g. –CF2–) in their molecular structures. These substances have been widely used in numerous commercial and consumer applications since the late 1940s.

Since the late 1990s and early 2000s, studies have been conducted to assess some “long-chain” PFASs. Their findings resulted in the listing of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and its precursors under the Stockholm Convention in 2009. That same year, at ICCM2, SAICM stakeholders identified “managing PFASs and the transition to safer alternatives” as an issue of concern. A resolution by ICCM2 further invited 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”

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and the transition to safer alternatives for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question**: Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the Conclusion page)*

   x ◯ *Yes*

   ◯ *No, I do not know enough about this issue*

   ◯ *No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution*

   ◯ *No, other*

   a. If you selected "No, other” in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)

The PFAS family is composed of thousands of synthetic organic chemicals that contain at least one perfluorocarbon moiety (e.g. –CF2–) in their molecular structures. These substances have been widely used in numerous commercial and consumer applications since the late 1940s.

Since the late 1990s and early 2000s, studies have been conducted to assess some "long-chain" PFASs. Their findings resulted in the listing of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and its precursors under the Stockholm Convention in 2009. That same year, at ICCM2, SAICM stakeholders identified "managing PFASs and the transition to safer alternatives" as an issue of concern. A resolution by ICCM2 further invited 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"

Please visit the two-page factsheet on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and the transition to safer alternatives for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

   x ○ *Yes*
   ○ *No*
   ○ *Do not know*

   a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

PFAS are a group of chemicals widely used in various industrial and consumer products. However, their extreme persistence in the environment and potential adverse health effects have raised significant concerns. Given the global nature of PFAS pollution and the potential health risks they pose, further international action is needed.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Legally binding*
   ☐ *Soft law*
   ☐ *Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
   ☐ *No international actions are needed*
   ☐ *Other: _____.*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

A legally binding international agreement will ensure that all countries work together to prevent and manage PFAS pollution, regardless of where it originates.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

   ✓ *Regulatory control measures*
   ☐ *Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
   ☐ *Options / guidance for economic instruments*
   ☐ *Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
   ☐ *Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Global regulatory control measures will help countries, especially those with weak environmental and health-related regulations, better control and restrict these hazardous substance and their applications.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

   ✓ *Lack of technical capacity*
   ☐ *Lack of scientific knowledge*
   ✓ *Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
   ✓ *Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
   ✓ *Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
   ☐ *Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
   ☐ *None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
   ☐ *Other: _____*

   a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

Similar to POPs and mercury, only coordinated international action can address the issues of PFAS.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- ✓ *Agriculture and food production*
- ✓ *Construction*
- ✓ *Electronics*
- ✓ *Energy*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Labour*
- ☐ *Pharmaceuticals*
- ✓ *Public, private, blended finance*
- ✓ *Retail*
- ✓ *Textiles*
- ✓ *Transportation*
- ✓ *Waste*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments…).*

UNEP.

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste)*:

- ✓ *Agriculture and Food*
- ✓ *Biodiversity*
- ✓ *Climate Change*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Human Rights*
- ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- ✓ *World of Work*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste):*

Management of PFAS is a cross-cutting issue. It should be viewed as key for solving several elements of the planetary crisis, e.g. biodiversity loss and resource depletion. Because of toxicity considerations, the efficient use of already manufactured materials and products is now limited and is an obstacle to circularity.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

x ○ *Very high*

○ *High*

○ *Medium*

○ *Low*

○ *Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Develop a national regulatory basis for PFAS, considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Develop regional cooperative actions on PFAS, considering all types of applications and sources of pollution throughout the lifecyle.

Conclusion:

Thank you for having reached this point in the form. You are now on the last page. Below are a final set of questions covering all 19 issues of concern.

GCO-II issues:

Arsenic | *Cadmium* | *Glyphosate* | *Lead* | *Microplastics* | *Neonicotinoids* | *Organotins* | *Phthalates* | *Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)* | *Triclosan* | *Bisphenol A (BPA)*

List of SAICM issues:

Chemicals in products (CiP) | *Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)* | *Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)* | *Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)* | *Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)* | *Lead in paint* | *Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials* | *Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and the transition to safer alternatives*

Please submit your completed form via email by **15/08/2023** COB Central European time (CET).

1. From the list of 19 issues, which issue(s) do you think is/are the most urgent? *(Multiple options from the list of 19 issues)*

   ✓ *Arsenic*
   ✓ *Bisphenol A (BPA)*
   ✓ *Cadmium*
   ✓ *Glyphosate*
   ✓ *Lead*
   ✓ *Microplastics*
   ✓ *Neonicotinoids*
   ✓ *Organotins*
   ✓ *Phthalates*
   ✓ *Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)*
   ✓ *Triclosan*
   ✓ *Chemicals in products (CiP)*
   ✓ *Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)*
   ✓ *Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)*
   ✓ *Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)*
   ✓ *Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)*
   ✓ *Lead in paint*
   ✓ *Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials*
   ✓ *Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and the transition to safer alternatives*

   a. Please explain your response. *(Open space to elaborate).*

2. From the list of 19 issues, which issue(s) is/are the most actionable? *(Multiple options from the list of 19 issues)*

☐ *Arsenic*
☐ *Bisphenol A (BPA)*
☐ *Cadmium*
☐ *Glyphosate*
☐ *Lead*
☐ *Microplastics*
☐ *Neonicotinoids*
☐ *Organotins*
☐ *Phthalates*
☐ *Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)*
☐ *Triclosan*
✓ *Chemicals in products (CiP)*
✓ *Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)*
✓ *Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)*
✓ *Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)*
✓ *Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)*
✓ *Lead in paint*
✓ *Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials*
✓ *Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and the transition to safer alternatives*

b. Please explain your response. *(Open space to elaborate).*

There are already 8 issues of concern (IoCs) under SAICM. 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 and its significance for creating conditions for the fulfilment of the Agenda 2030.

However, while all eight IoCs are of global value, 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. It is obvious that countries should focus their attention on developing legally binding international actions and regulatory control measures to effectively address the existing IoCs and achieve meaningful results.

3. Are there any other observations you wish to note? *(Open space to elaborate).*

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 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 beyond 2020. 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.

See detailed information in the information document for ICCM5 (SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/8 Assessment of effectiveness of Issue of Concern Implementation to Continue Work on a Particular Issue) submitted by a group of NGOs.