

C. Towards a Pollution Free Planet

2030 Outcome

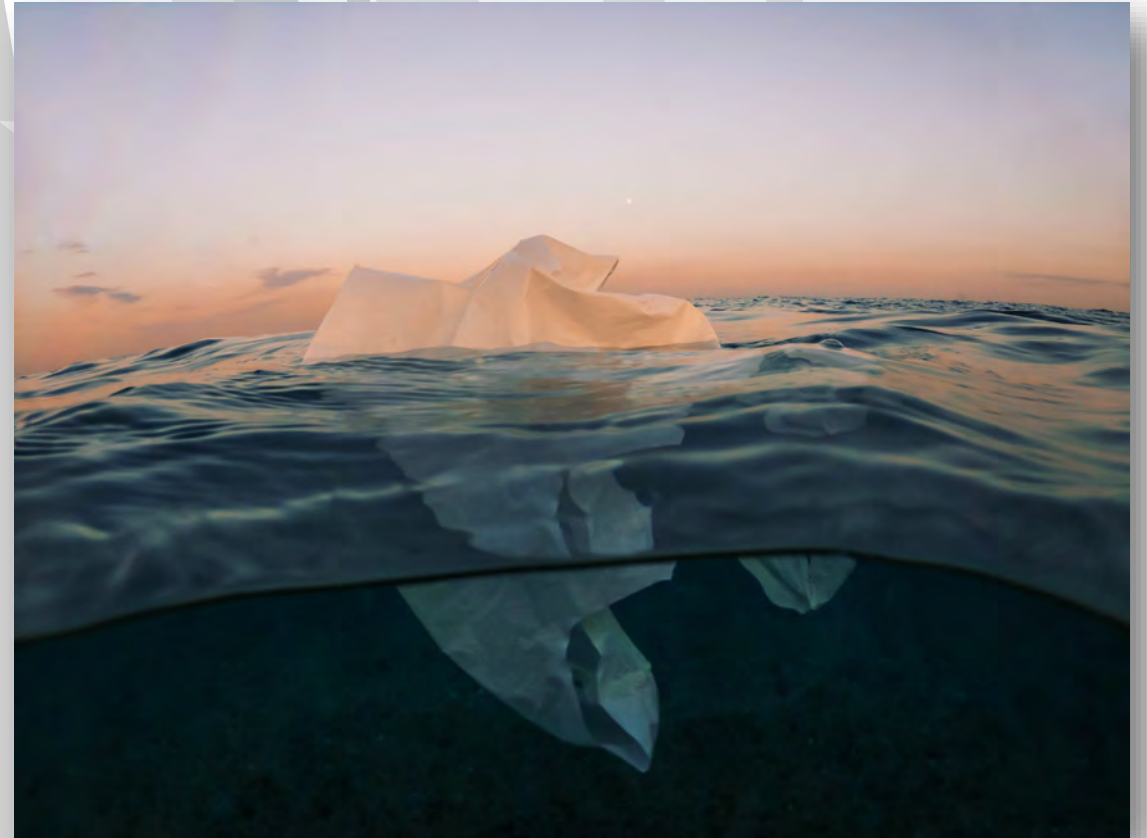
Significant progress is made towards a pollution-free planet, particularly through the delivery of the *Towards A Pollution-Free Planet Implementation Plan*

Towards a Pollution Free Planet has three programmatic areas

1.
Towards
Zero
Waste

2.
Circularity
in Sectors

3.
Pollution
and
Health



1. Towards Zero Waste

Takehiro Nakamura

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A. Background: Towards Zero Waste

Objective:

Improving waste and wastewater management through, *inter alia*, minimizing material input and waste and wastewater generation, circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw materials and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites.



Linkages to MTS:

MTS 2025 Outcome 3B.

Contribution to SDGs:

11.6, 12.4 and 12.5.

A. Background: Towards Zero Waste

Envisaged Outputs

- Capacity built through legislative and regulatory systems, transfer of best available techniques and technologies.
- Waste reduced and recycled in High impact sectors (electrics, textile/fashion) and in selected waste types (plastics, post disaster and conflict debris) with circular economy approaches.
- Increased availability and accessibility of waste data and information.
- Increased finance and partnerships to accelerate investment for sound management of waste and wastewater.

The Programme tries, first, to prevent and minimize waste. If there is still waste, then reuse, recycling and other recovery is implemented.

If waste is not recycled, reused or recovered, then environmentally sound and controlled disposal is adopted to avoid uncontrolled open burning and dumping.



B. Results: Towards Zero Waste

Development of Extended Producer Responsibility systems

EU4Environment

Circular Economy supported five countries to preserve their natural capital by developing comprehensive sustainable waste management policies and Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) schemes for packaging and e-waste streams.

Armenia

Economic analysis of the Deposit Refund System (DRS) models for packaging waste.

Azerbaijan

Gap analysis for the draft packaging waste law and recommendations to develop EPR scheme for packaging waste.

Ukraine

Roadmap to establish EPR system and a Roadmap for engaging with the private sector in establishing EPR systems for packaging waste. Tables of Concordance for three draft laws for packaging, batteries and WEEE waste streams, followed by the preparation of the draft legal proposals for establishing the EPR schemes for them.

Georgia

Review and update of the existing National Waste Management Strategy and development of new National Waste Action Plan 2021-2025, both adopted by the Government in December 2022.

Moldova

Technical assessment report of the existing EPR mechanisms for WEEE and Gap analysis and recommendations report to address identified shortcomings in implementing the EPR legislation for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).

Belarus

Technical report on the existing EPR mechanisms for packaging waste.



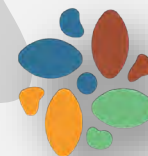
B. Results: Towards Zero Waste

Closing of dump sites in Latin America and the Caribbean



Roadmap for the closure of dumpsites: pilot in Argentina

Under the Coalition for the Closure of Dumpsites in the LAC, a pilot test of the Roadmap was conducted in the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina. This included the development of a baseline on waste management and an Operational Plan for the closure of a dumpsite in the municipality of Calchaqui with a training on waste management to municipal government officers.



Coalition for the closure of dumpsites
Latin America and the Caribbean

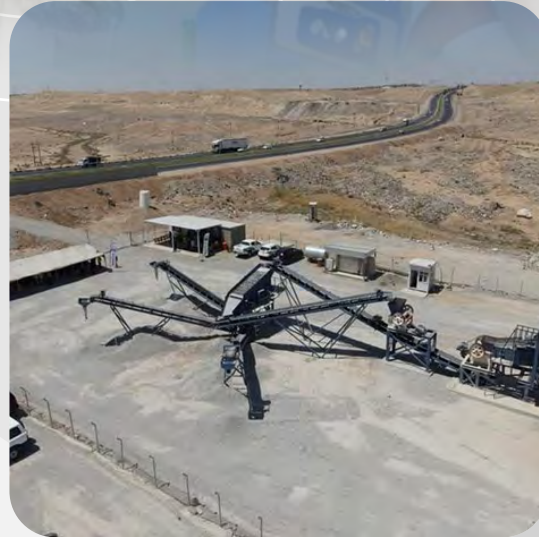


B. Results: Towards Zero Waste

Addressing conflict debris through technical advice and support

Conflict debris management in Iraq: in partnership with IOM and Japan

- More than ~55 million tonnes of rubble created by the ISIL conflict (63 cities, 1,556 villages destroyed).
- Establishment and handover of Iraq's first debris recycling center in Mosul in July 2022.
- ~30,000 tonnes of debris were cleared, recovered and sorted; 50% of which crushed into recycled aggregate.
- Over 360 much-needed jobs generated targeting vulnerable persons, including 40 women.



Technical advisory support on demolition waste management in Aghdam district, Azerbaijan

- ~3 million tonnes of demolition waste in Aghdam district.
- Establishment of first debris recycling pilot project with aim of using recycled materials in road construction through Private sector joint venture.
- Around 100,000 tonnes of debris delivered to project site and 15,000 tonnes recycled so far.

B. Results: Towards Zero Waste

Zero Waste Initiatives

GA Resolution 77/161 on zero waste

- UNEP and UN-Habitat function as secretariat of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Zero Waste.
- The first meeting was organized in Istanbul on 1 November 2023.

International Day observance event in Nairobi, March 2023



International Day of Zero Waste

- UNEP and UN-Habitat facilitated the very first observance of the International Day of Zero Waste (30 March 2023) based on the GA Resolution 77/161.
- Key events in New York, Bangkok, Kingston, Beirut, Geneva and Nairobi.
- 29,500 posts using the official hashtag.
- 259 activities registered by stakeholders.

B. Results: Towards Zero Waste

Organic waste management and climate change

Climate change mitigation through organic waste management in Peru

- UNEP supported the design of a Trust Fund by Peruvian stakeholders to support innovative organic waste projects contributing to Peru's NDC, to showcase the economic, social and environmental benefits of organic waste initiatives to community, government and the private sector.
- The Trust Fund will make available three financial instruments: i) Grant/Subsidy through public tender; ii) Guarantee fund; and iii) Loan.
- By acting as a catalyst, the Trust Fund inspires project formulators to develop similar initiatives throughout the country.

Reduce greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutants from the waste sector through a circular economy concept (Bhutan, Nepal and Mongolia)

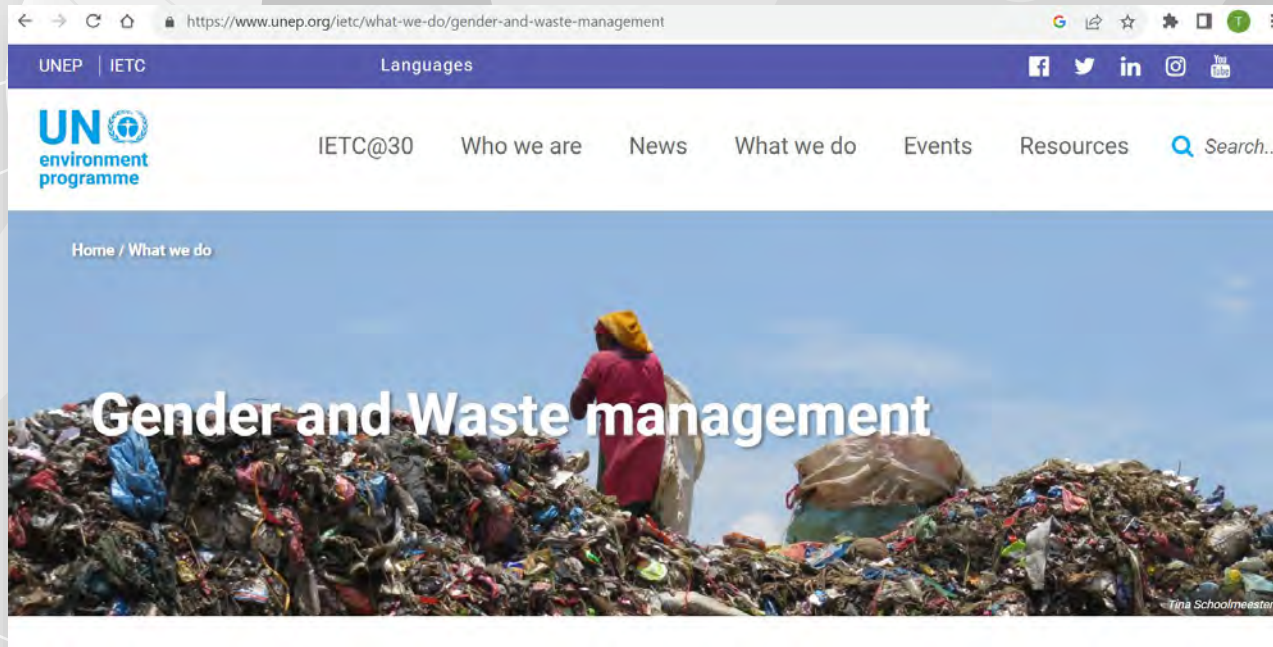
- Overall avoided emission: Bhutan 0.1t/a and Mongolia 1.8t/a (CO₂eq).
- Based on national and city solid waste management strategies supported by the project:
 - ❖ Pilot demonstration of biogas/composting technologies;
 - ❖ Development/education on waste management; and
 - ❖ Consideration of financing for waste management.

Biogas container, Bhutan



B. Results: Towards Zero Waste

Gender and Waste



To highlight the gender and waste nexus, UNEP organized a webinar on gender and waste (Sep 2022) and released six short gender materials on waste in general, healthcare waste, e-waste, and plastic waste.

The importance of actions such as collecting gender-disaggregated data and conducting gender assessment has been highlighted as the first step towards evidence-based gender responsive policies.

C. Strategic Risks and Opportunities: Towards Zero Waste

Strategic Risks

- Solid waste, particularly municipal solid waste, is not appropriately recognized under the international discussion on chemicals and waste.
- Producers and consumers may not see social and economic opportunities to reduce waste during production and in households.



Recycling center, Thailand

Opportunities

- Private sector engagement not only supports public waste management, but also creates business and livelihood opportunities.
- Some activities under the programme evidenced the waste management linkage with climate change mitigation and adaptation, opening-up climate change funding for waste management.

D. Lessons Learned and Changes Made: Towards Zero Waste

Lessons Learned

- Waste generation is increasing while waste management capacity is still limited. Waste reduction, through sustainable consumption and production or zero waste approaches, is important.
- There are many good examples of sustainable waste management, but these are not properly shared or used.

Changes Made

- Design of national interventions includes producers and consumers.
- Under this programme, a waste management knowledge framework will be developed in cooperation with partners.



E. Looking Ahead: Towards Zero Waste

Start country-specific waste management interventions in selected priority countries working closely with the Ministries of Environment and possibly pilot municipalities in the implementation of the waste management strategies; associated fund raising.

Launch the 2nd edition of the Global Waste Management Outlook (GWM02).

Bring producers and consumers to waste management through Extended Producer Responsibility and other private public partnerships.

Explore coherent waste data and statistic systems improvement at different levels.



Chulalongkorn University Zero Waste Initiative, Bangkok, Thailand

Thank you

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2. Circularity in Sectors

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A. Background: Circularity in Sectors

Objective

To scale up the adoption of circularity policies and practices across key high-impact sectors and systems, while also ensuring positive social and economic outcomes.

High Impact Sector (HIS) focus

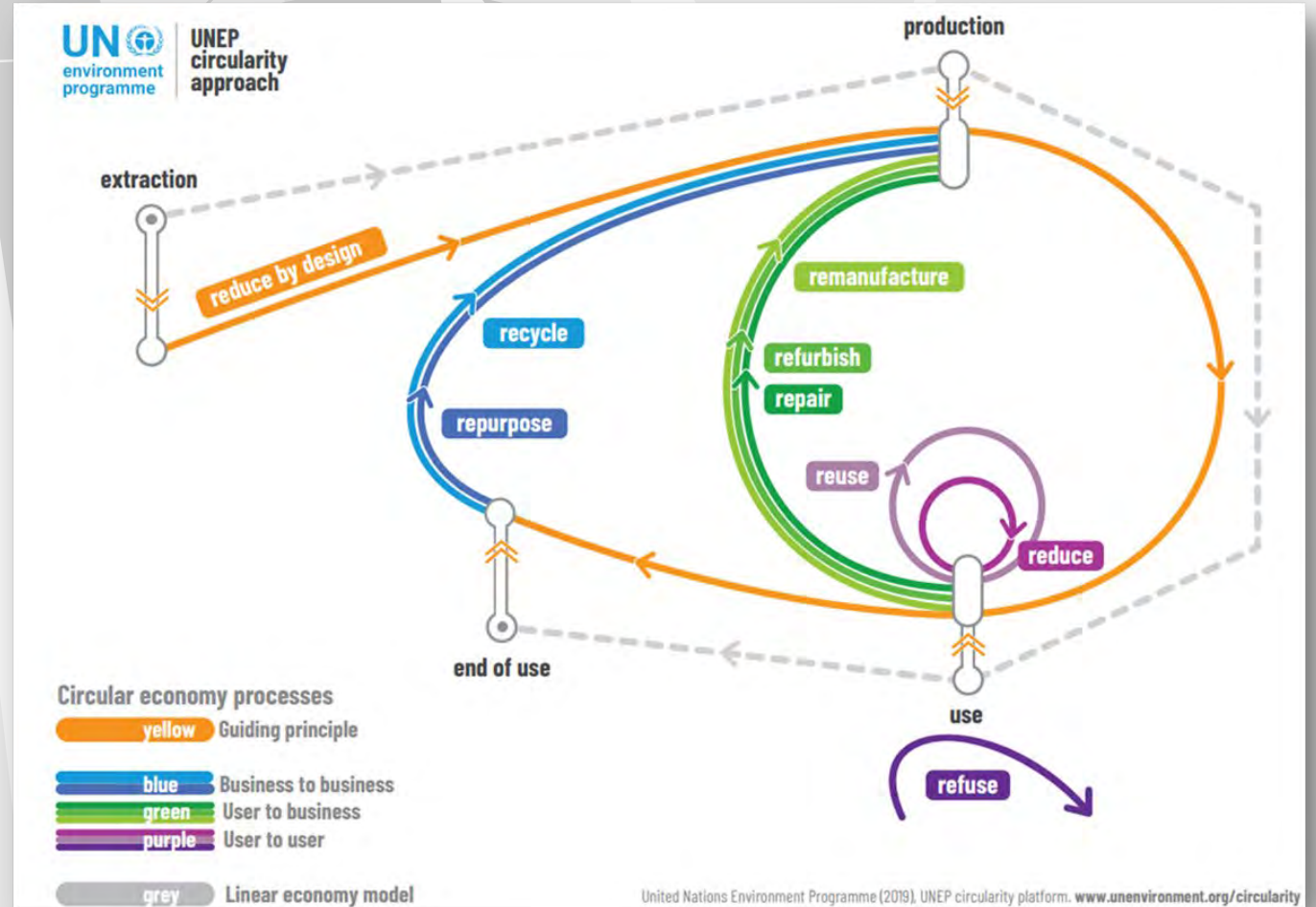
Plastics, Textiles, Mining and Electronics.

Programme of Work Outcomes

Programme contributes to:

Towards a Pollution-free Planet Outcome 3A: Human health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste; and

Outcome 3C: Releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean are reduced.



A. Background: Circularity in Sectors

Intended Outputs

1

Uptake of circular and sustainable practices among high-impact industry actors.

2

Shift in government policy and regulatory environment to create change in HIS and value chains.

3

Alignment of financing and leveraging public/private investment for circularity in HIS and value chains.



4

Social action and behavioral change of stakeholders, including consumers of products and services from HIS.

5

Knowledge and science to orient decision-making in high-impact sectors.

B. Results: Circularity in Sectors

Plastics High Impact Sector

Stakeholder engagement

- Multistakeholder events and meetings during INC-1 and INC-2: Over 1200 representatives from governments, business, academia and NGOs actively participated and shared experiences and insights to reduce plastic pollution.
- 33 new governments at all levels committed in 2022 to become signatories of the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment (NPEGC) to reduce plastic pollution.
- GPML

Knowledge

- Turning off the Tap report lays out strategic solutions to reduce plastic pollution.
- Various knowledge products and training have been developed to increase the capacity of countries to prepare for the INC meetings.

Industry partnerships

- Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, led by UNEP and UNWTO, acts as sectoral interface of the NPEGC : Over 200 signatories, among which 140 (70%) are businesses.

Projects

- More than \$120 million has been mobilized (including GEF) to support the implementation of circular economy of plastics in more than 25 countries.



B. Results: Circularity in Sectors

Textiles High Impact Sector

Stakeholder engagement

- Fashion Industry Target Consultation with inputs from 800+ stakeholders (textile manufacturers and brands, government representatives, civil society) from 90+ countries completed, jointly with the Global Fashion Agenda.

Industry partnerships

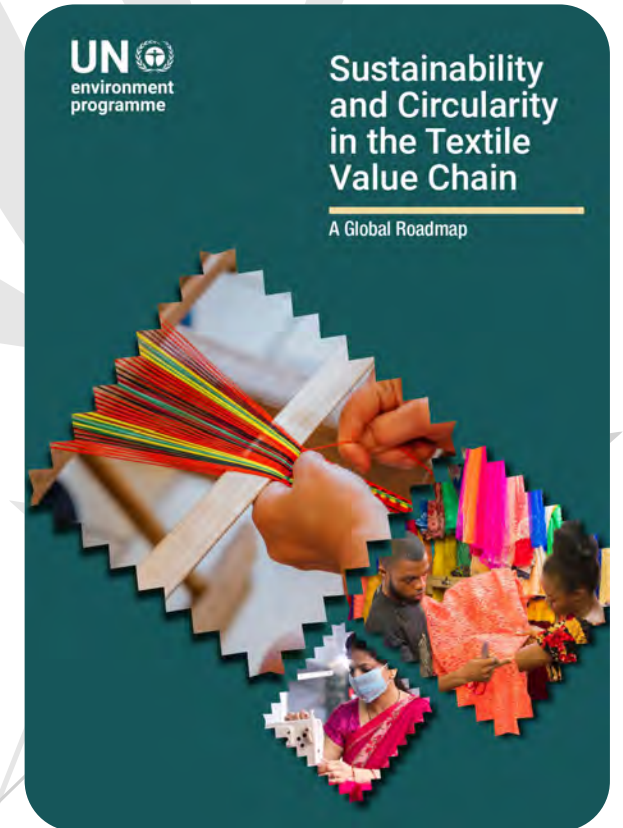
- Fashion industry convened in various consultations (targets, publications) and part of UNEP's Textile Expert Community.

Knowledge

- UNEP Textile Roadmap Report launched at the World Circular Economy Forum 2023.
- UNEP and UNFCCC Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook launched at the Global Fashion Summit 2023.

Projects

- Textile SMEs in Kenya, South Africa and Tunisia are measuring their Product Environmental Footprint and developing circular business models (EU funded InTex project).



B. Results: Circularity in Sectors

Mining High Impact Sector

Stakeholder Engagement

- 113 national focal points were nominated to participate in the UNEA 5/12 implementation process.
- Organization of five intergovernmental regional consultations and one global meeting engaging over 100 Member States and over 60 accredited organizations (April – September 2023).

Knowledge

- Launch of UNEP sand and sustainability report in 2022.

Industry partnerships

- Announcement to establish a Global Tailings Management Institute by mining industry and investors (following launch of the Global Industry Standard on Mine Tailings Management).

Projects

- The flagship UNEP-led, GEF-funded, planet GOLD programme is working in more than 20 countries to make small-scale gold mining safer, cleaner, and more profitable.



B. Results: Circularity in Sectors

Electronics High Impact Sector

Stakeholder Engagement

- UNEP is an active member of the UN e-waste coalition, which involves UN agencies working on the electronic sectors and e-waste.
- Support a network of governmental procurers and businesses to develop guidelines and best practices on sustainable procurement of IT equipment through the Circular & Fair ICT Pact (CFIT).

Industry partnerships

- Through collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union, UNEP works with the ITU member companies.
- UNEP is working with the Circular Electronics Partnership of the World Business Council on Sustainable Development.

Knowledge

- UNEP-UNITAR 2050 Electronic and Electrical Waste Outlook in West Asia.

Projects

- Implementing Extended producer responsibility (EPR) Concept in Policies and Regulations for the Sound Management of E-waste – Circular Economy for Electronics, Part 4 (ITU-UNEP).
- Dominican Republic, Gambia and Botswana developed Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) national policies/strategies/regulations.



B. Results: Circularity in Sectors

South-South Cooperation

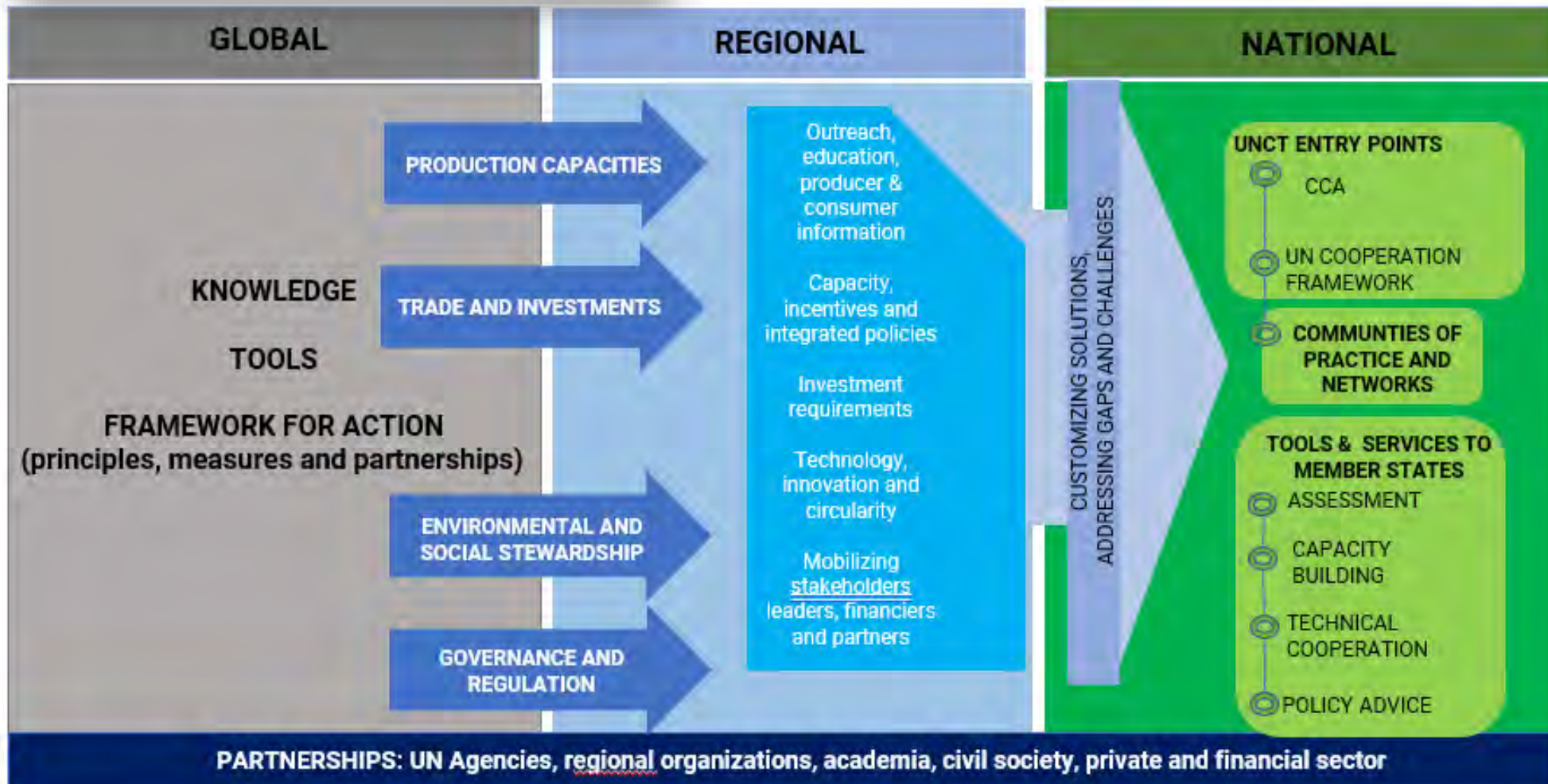


UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S WORKING GROUP
ON TRANSFORMING THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Harnessing Critical Energy Transition Minerals for Sustainable Development in Least Developed and Land-Locked Developing Countries

Just Transitions in Low Carbon Technologies

A UN Secretary-General Initiative



South-South Cooperation

Experts from Mexico and Sri Lanka are providing support to Kenya, South Africa and Tunisia on life cycle approaches for the textile sector.

C. Strategic Risks and Opportunities: Circularity in Sectors

Strategic Risks

- Economic challenges may lead to a de-prioritization of, and a 'risk-averse' approach to, environmental sustainability measures.
- Global economic model is built around growth, structured around increasing production and increasing consumption.



Opportunities

- The programmatic approach aims to leverage, consolidate and scale up ambition and impacts through strategic partnerships and enhanced coherent delivery of sectoral portfolio by One UNEP teams across technical divisions and regional offices.
- Focusing on high-impact sectors enables the transformation of whole value chains through targeted enabling policies and business practices, to lead to significant environmental, economic and social benefits at scale.
- Enhanced cooperation and coordination with MEAs.

D. Lessons Learned and Changes Made: Circularity in Sectors

Lessons Learned

- High impact sector coordination mechanism across UNEP is generating strengthened synergies within UNEP around a shared vision, strategy, and delivery.
- The UNEP Delivery Model leverages the expertise within technical divisions and the political insight and UNCT engagement by regional offices.
- Design of future activities to enhance their delivery to the Climate and Nature MTS/PoW strategic objectives.



Changes Made

- For each high impact sector, a One UNEP framework project provides a home for aligned delivery and enables the tracking of aggregated results and impacts.
- Further leveraging the use of Umoja/IPMR to better capture results mapping (and contending with its design constraints).

E. Looking Ahead: Circularity in Sectors

All High Impact Sectors (Plastics, Textiles, Mining, Electronics)

- Securing sizeable resources (incl global funds) and building portfolio that are at various levels of maturity.
- Leveraging the influence of investors.

More ambitious public action

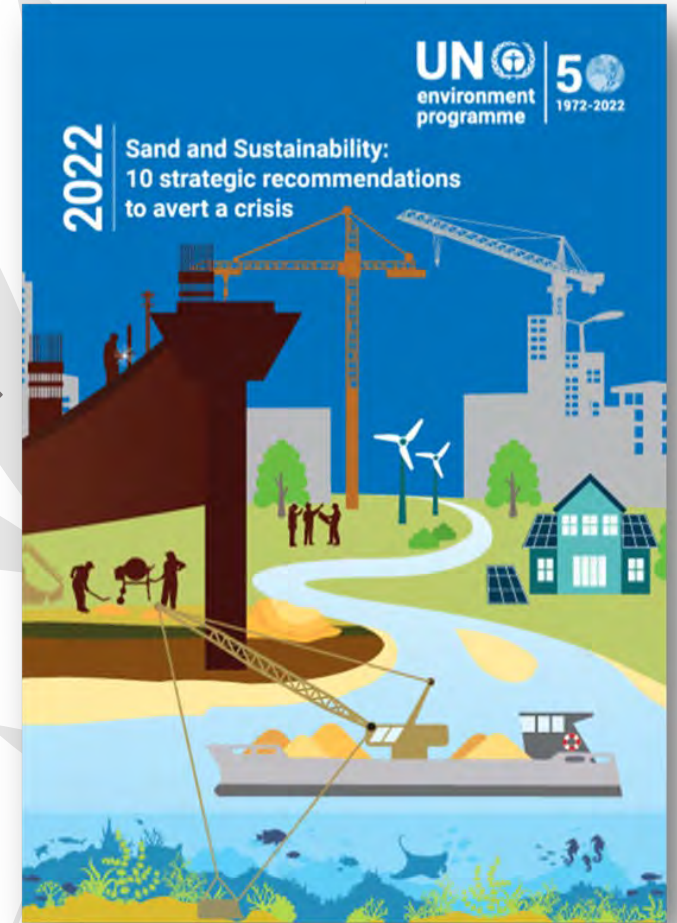
- **Plastics:** UNEP getting ready for scaled up technical support to governments, businesses and consumers upon entry into force of plastics treaty.
- **Textiles:** Exploring a global policy coordination mechanism.
- **Mining:** Leveraging UNEA 5/12 national focal points to further develop UNEP's work on mining, minerals and metals value chains.

Science-based knowledge

- Textiles: Environmental and socio-economic impacts of the different sustainable economic models in the textiles value chain (UNEA4/Res.1).
- Mining: UNEP spotlight report on the environmental aspects of minerals critical for the energy transition; PlanetGOLD 2024 Forum.

More responsible industry for better impacts

- Fashion industry targets (textiles) or standards across value chains (mining).



Thank you

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3. Pollution and Health

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A. Background: Pollution and Health

Objective

Strengthen global action to prevent chemicals and pollution risks to the environment and health.

Envisaged impact

Significant progress is made towards a pollution-free planet.

Chemicals/pollutants that pose significant risks to the environment and health

- Air pollution (PM2.5).
- Source to sea pollution.
- Lead and other heavy metals, SDCs, other chemicals/ issues of concern.
- Pharmaceuticals and other key drivers of antimicrobial resistance.

PoW 2025 Outcome(s) contributed to

3A. Human Health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste;

3C. Releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean are reduced.

Contributions to MEA implementation

BRS, Minamata, LRTAP.

Contributions to SDG targets

3.9, 6.3, 11.6, 12.4, and 14.1



Science-policy foundation

Global action

Outreach

Mobilization of health and other sectors

Stronger capacities and policies

B. Results: Pollution and Health

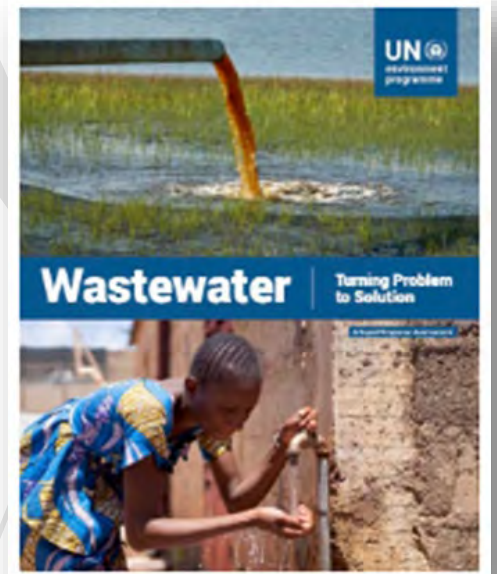
Global Action

Global Framework for Chemical adopted @ICCM5, Bonn

- New “Global Framework for Chemicals” with 28 targets calling for:
 - ❖ Prevention of illegal trade and trafficking of chemicals and waste.
 - ❖ Implementation of national legal frameworks.
 - ❖ Phase out of highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture by 2035.
 - ❖ Transition to safer and more sustainable chemical alternatives, the responsible management of chemicals in industry, agriculture, and healthcare sectors, etc. and the enhancement of transparency and access to information on chemicals and their associated risks.
- High-level Declaration.
- New “Global Fund for Chemicals” and a request to the Global Environment Facility for a greater focus on chemicals and waste.

UNEP Working Group on Nitrogen

- Action areas for national action plans identified, and potential options and modalities for improved coordination of policies across the global nitrogen cycle being discussed.



B. Results: Pollution and Health

Science Policy Interface

Science-Policy Panel for chemicals, waste and pollution prevention (Res. 5/8)

- OEWG 1 and 2 in 2023
- OEWG 3 in June 2024 (in Geneva)
- Webinar series (in collaboration with GEN)
- Regional consultations meeting



26 September 2023 | 14:00-15:30 CEST | Webex

Options of Engagement and Participation Modalities for Major Groups and Stakeholders to the OEWG on a Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution

ROAD TO OEWG 2
SPP-CWP SERIES

UN environment programme

With the support of the
GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

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Knowledge products

- Bracing for Superbugs: strengthening environmental action in the One Health response to antimicrobial resistance.
- Chemicals in Plastics.
- Wastewater: turning problem to solution 2023.
- Guide to ambient air quality legislation 2023.
- EDCs, Asbestos, Issues of concern (in preparation).

B. Results: Pollution and Health

Stronger Capacities

Enhanced capacities and cooperation on air quality

- Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Action Plan on Air Quality 2022-2025 implementation efforts.
- Europe: Air Quality Central Asia Platform (AQCA).
- West Asia: Recommendation to establishment a Regional Air Quality Network.
- Asia Pacific: UNESCAP-led Regional Action Plan on Air Pollution; Assessment “Understanding the costs of inaction of tackling air pollution in ASEAN countries”, Climate and Clean Air Conference 2023.
- Africa: Community of Practice in Southern Africa; Clean Air Programme for Africa (AUC).
- Establishment of CCAC Clean Air Flagship.

Growing Chemicals and Waste GEF portfolio

- Textile, POPs, Marine plastic.
- Mercury (MIA, NAP, PlanetGOLD, Chlor-alkali, Medical Devices, Dental amalgam, Coal, Skin lightening products).
- Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS).
- Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management (FARM).



B. Results: Pollution and Health

Mobilizing the health sector



Bracing for Superbugs
Strengthening environmental action in the One Health response to antimicrobial resistance



Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and the Environment with High-level officials meeting in Nov. 2023 and the Thematic Working Groups on Air quality, Chemicals and Waste, etc.



Who we are ▾ Where we work ▾ What we do ▾ Publications & data 



Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment

Strengthening Environmental Action in the One Health, including response to antimicrobial resistance.

The 7th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health for Europe, with Budapest Declaration to accelerate action on health dimensions of climate change, pollution, land degradation and biodiversity loss.



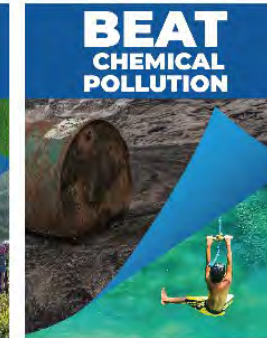
B. Results: Pollution and Health

Advocacy and political mobilization

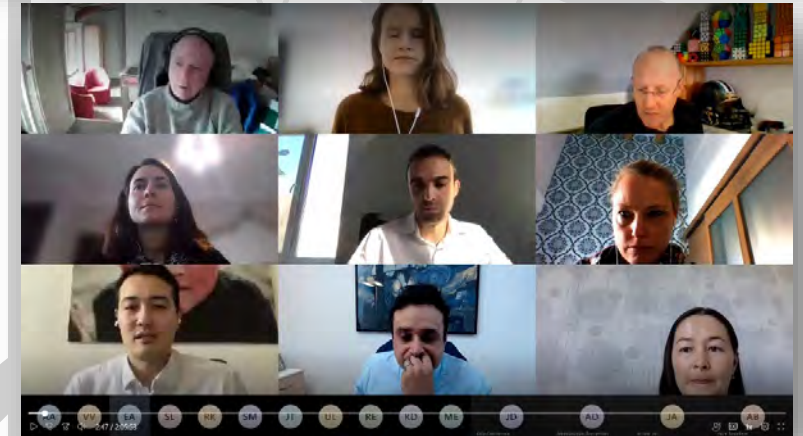
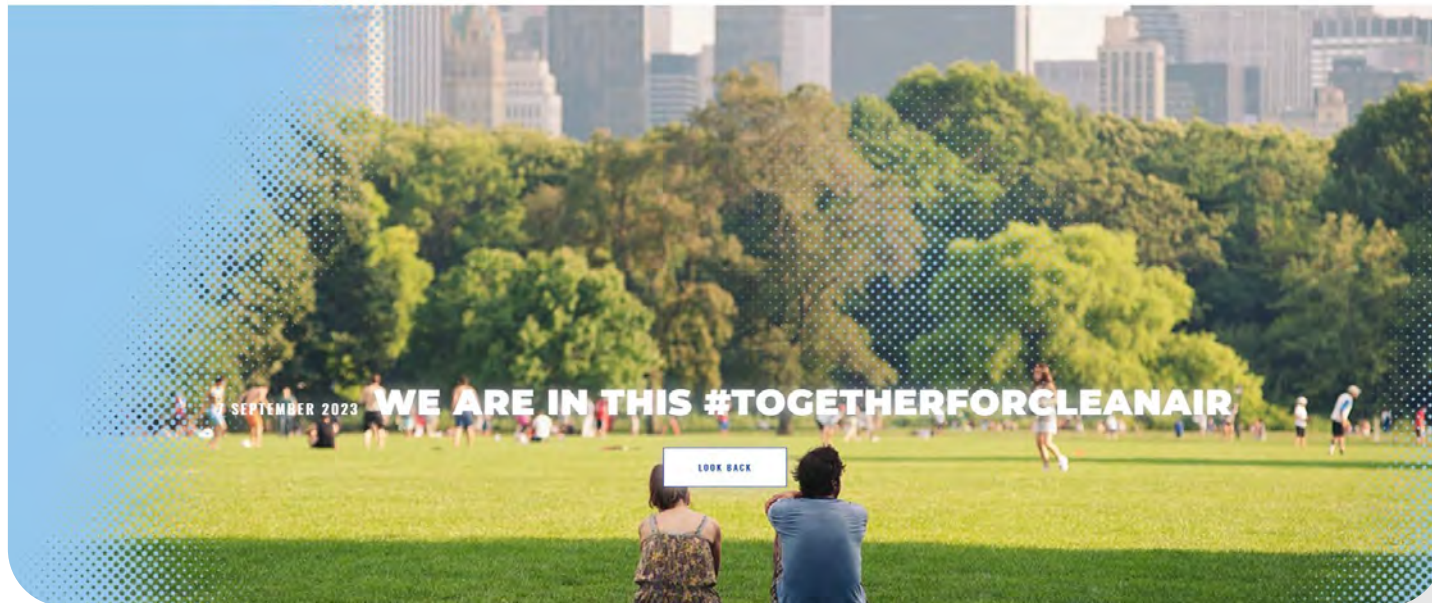
The 4th celebration of the International day of clean air for blue skies

- Gearing up for the 5th anniversary in September 2024

Beating pollution requires action on a number of fronts:



BeatPollution campaign rebranding



B. Results: Pollution and Health

Mainstreaming Pollution-free across the UN system and their assistance to the Member States

UN System Common Approach to Transitioning towards a Pollution-free Planet, endorsed at the 29th Senior Officials Meeting on 10th October 2023.

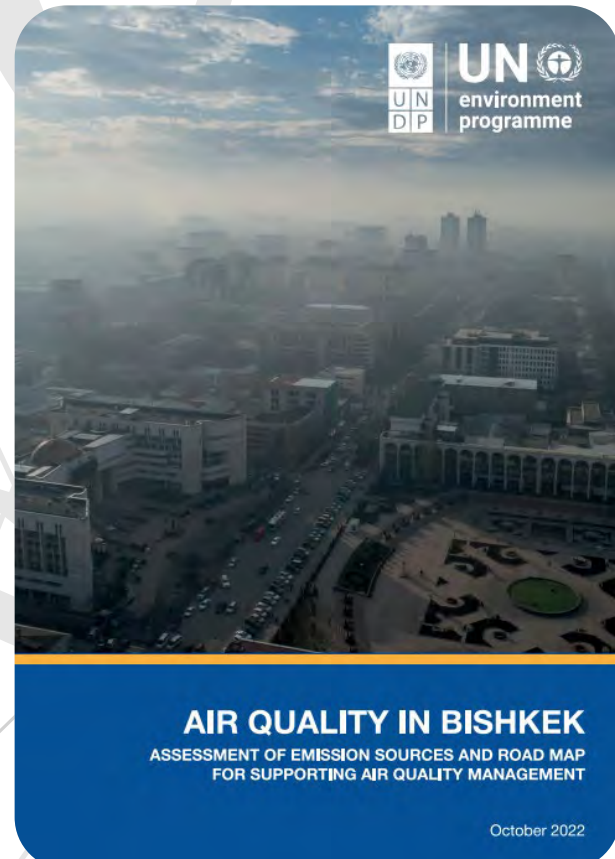
 UN Environment Programme Europe
@UNEP_Europe

Air pollution is an integral part of the UN Country Team's sustainable development strategy with the Serbian Government, said UN Resident Coordinator @FrancoiseJUN, at a #WorldCleanAirDay event in Belgrade, with authorities, civil society & academia. #TogetherForCleanAir



Catalyzing UNCT action in Kyrgyzstan Development Partner Coordination Committee (DPCC)'s Sub-Working group on Air Quality.

Mobilizing the Regional Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) to support UN RCO in Serbia to address air pollution from the domestic heating sector.



C. Strategic Risks and Opportunities: Pollution and Health

Strategic Risks

- Level of ambition and magnitude of the problems vis-a-vis sufficient resources.
- Very limited mainstreaming of chemicals management and pollution control in national development efforts, resulting in limited investment, e.g., in context of bilateral cooperation.
- Lack of dedicated multilateral funding for certain issues, e.g., air quality.



Opportunities

- The recognition by the UN General Assembly that a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a human right.
- Increasing attention from the health sector on pollution. The 76th World Health Assembly in May 2023 approved a resolution on the impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health.
- Increasing amount of data on the health and economic impacts of pollution (e.g., air pollution and AMR) to help make the case for action.

D. Lessons Learned and Changes Made: Pollution and Health

Strengthening engagement of non-environmental, development agencies and actors is a must.

Linkages with national, regional and global level sustainable development efforts, health and human rights agenda. Stronger advocacy and communication of messages is planned.

Lessons learned and expertise gained through the efforts to phase out lead in fuels can be applied to other substances and products.

An integrated approach to chemicals management and pollution prevention and control with sector specific, targeted measures are effective.

Close collaboration between pollutants-focused efforts in this programme and sector specific efforts in Circularity in Sectors programme.



E. Looking Ahead: Pollution and Health

Implementation of the **Global Framework for Chemicals**, including through operationalization of the Global Fund for Chemicals.

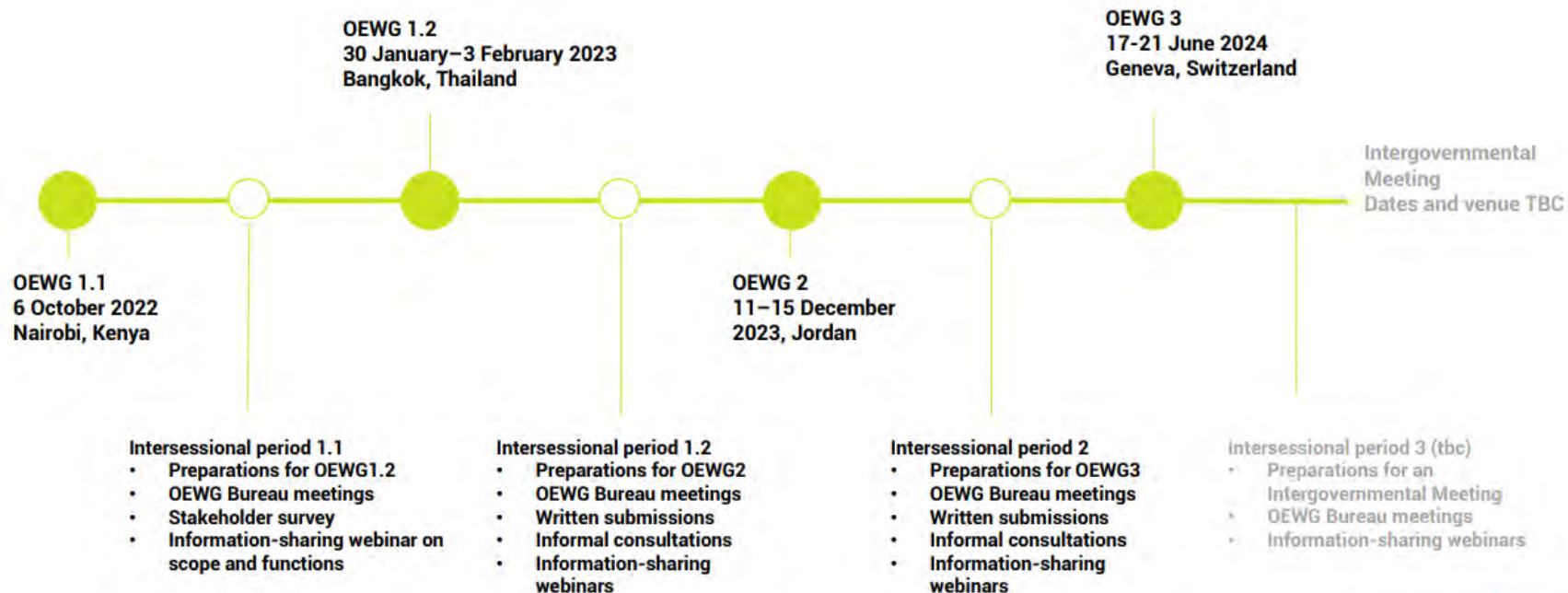
UNEA-6 additional guidance and mandates.

Conclusion of the OEWG process for a science policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention.

Stronger collaboration with other UN agencies for the **UN Common Approach to Pollution-free**.

New projects will be developed by January 2024, thus support to countries and stakeholders will expand.

OEWG Process – Timeline



Thank you

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