

Pollution and Health

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A. Background: Programme Direction and envisaged impact



Overall Impact:

- *Significant progress is made in transitioning towards a pollution free planet.*

Programme Objective:

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

Photo source: <https://pixabay.com/photos/way-clouds-belts-direction-427984/>

A. Background: Programme focus

Air pollution
(PM2.5)

Source to sea
pollution

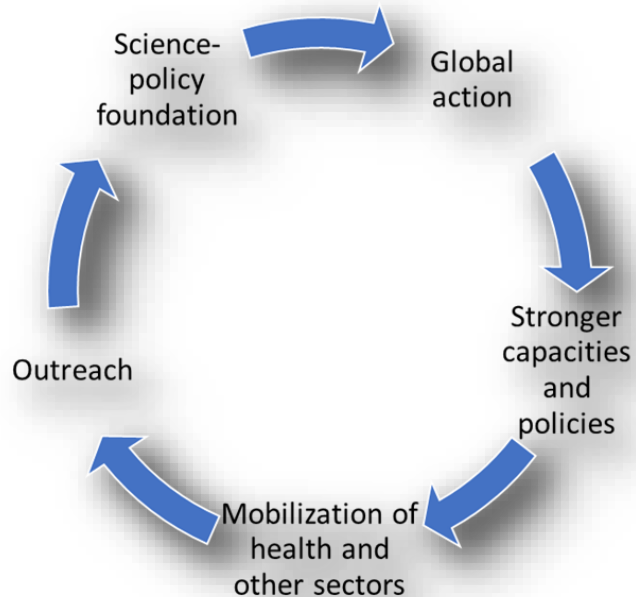
Key drivers of
antimicrobial resistance

Chemicals and
waste

Prevention, response, and recovery of conflicts, disasters
and incidents-related pollution



Photo source: <https://www.unep.org/beatpollution/forms-pollution>



Leverage capacities, provide the “glue” and maximize impacts of individual projects through:

- Alignment of efforts and synergies.
- Communication, knowledge management, visibility.
- Partnership.
- Interagency mechanisms, intergovernmental processes.
- Fund mobilization.

A. Background: Strategic Coherence

Synergies with other programmes within MTS:

- *Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*
 - *One Health*
- *Decarbonization*
 - *Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)*
 - *Sustainable Mobility*
- *Environmental Governance*
- *Science-Policy*
- *Finance and Economic Transformation*
- *Digital transformation*

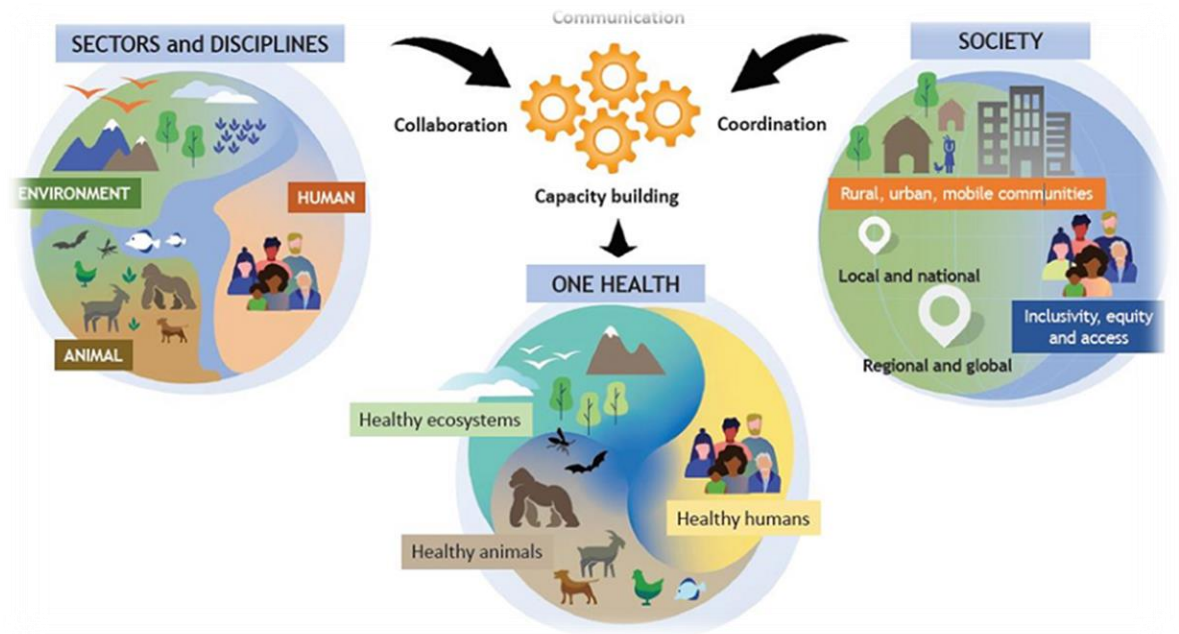


Photo source: <https://www.unep.org/topics/chemicals-and-pollution-action/pollution-and-health/unep-one-health>

A. Background: Contribution to MTS and PoW

Contribution to MTS Outcomes (PoW 2025 Outcomes):

- 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.

Contribution to PoW Direct Outcomes:

- 3.1 Regional and national integrated policy has shifted towards the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- 3.2 Land-based sources of pollution in fresh water and oceans, including marine litter and nutrients, are reduced.
- 3.4 Air pollution action, sustainable mobility and clean energy are supported.
- 3.5 Institutional capacity to adopt and act on national and international commitments is enhanced.
- 3.10 Collective action of United Nations system entities addresses sound management of chemicals and waste.
- 3.11 Global advocacy catalyzes the phase-out of most polluting products and practices.



Photo source: <https://pixabay.com/photos/kids-water-playing-children-child-4985042/>

B. Project Portfolio: Overview

Project	Lead Division/Branch
UNEP-wide project on air quality	Industry and Economy, Chemicals & Health
Global Framework on Chemicals support	Industry and Economy, Chemicals & Health
Chemicals, Environment and Health	Industry and Economy, Chemicals & Health
Special Programme on institutional strengthening	Industry and Economy, Chemicals & Health
Tackling the environmental dimensions of AMR	Industry and Economy, Chemicals & Health
OEWG for a Science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention	Industry and Economy, Chemicals & Health
Preventing Source to Sea Pollution	Ecosystems, Marine & Freshwater Branch
Prevention, Response, and Recovery of Conflicts, Disasters and Incidents Related Pollution	Ecosystems, Disasters and Conflicts
Chemicals and Waste GEF Portfolio	Economy, Chemicals & Health

B. Project Portfolio: Illustrative Examples

Chemicals and Waste GEF Portfolio

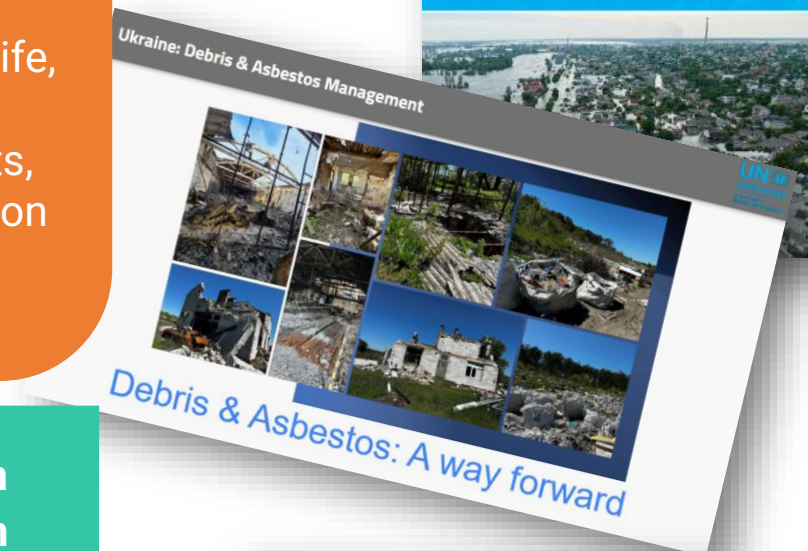
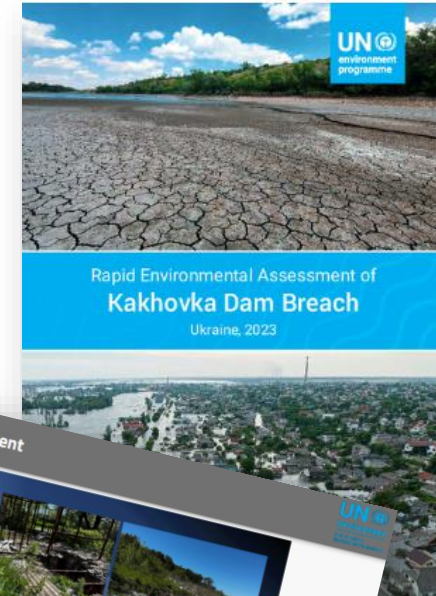
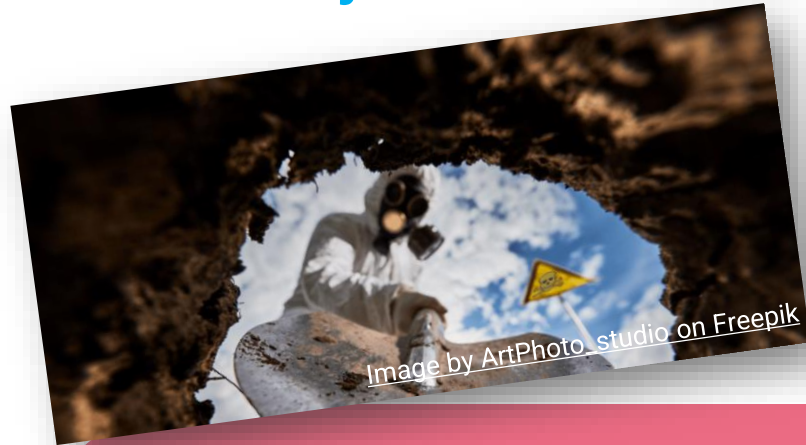
- Textile, POPs, Marine plastic.
- Mercury (MIA, NAP, PlanetGOLD, Chlor-alkali, Medical Devices, Dental amalgam, Coal, Skin lightening products).
- Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS).
- Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management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

Prevention, response, and recovery of conflicts, disasters and incidents-related pollution

- To reduce harmful impacts on human life, health, livelihoods and to ecosystems from pollution associated with incidents, disasters and conflicts, through provision of rapid technical assistance and capacity.

Preventing and addressing the degradation of freshwater and marine ecosystems from source to sea

- Strengthened global to local action through implementation of a Source to Sea approach to protect freshwater and marine ecosystems, by addressing land and sea-based degradation from wastewater, nutrients, and physical alteration and destruction of habitats.



B. Project Portfolio: Illustrative Examples

UNEP-wide Air Quality

- Strengthen capacities to reduce air pollution
- Support country level policy measures and air pollution reduction efforts.
- Support regional and sub-regional cooperation.

Chemicals and waste

Global Framework on Chemicals (former SAICM)

- Secretariat and implementation support.
- Development of indicators, operationalization of the Fund.

Chemicals, environment and health

- Advocates and supports phasing out and minimization of chemicals and issues of concern for the environment and health (heavy metals, EDCs, chemicals in products).

Special Programme

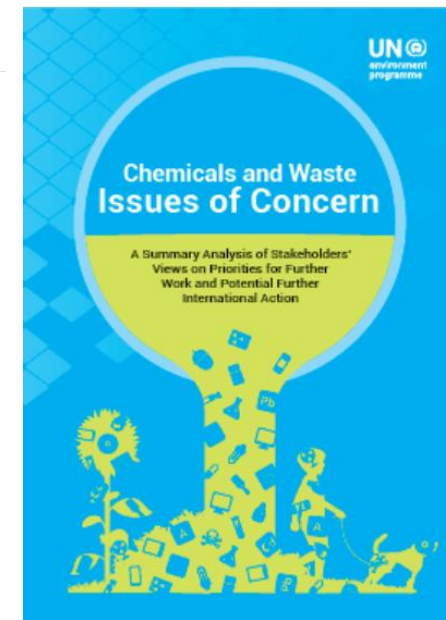
- Supports institutional strengthening at the national level.
- 75 country projects in 65 countries so far.

Tackling the environmental dimensions of AMR

- Promote and inform action to address the environmental dimensions of AMR, through a One Health approach
- Focus on improving/strengthening governance, surveillance, capacity building and knowledge, financing and global coordination.

Cross-cutting

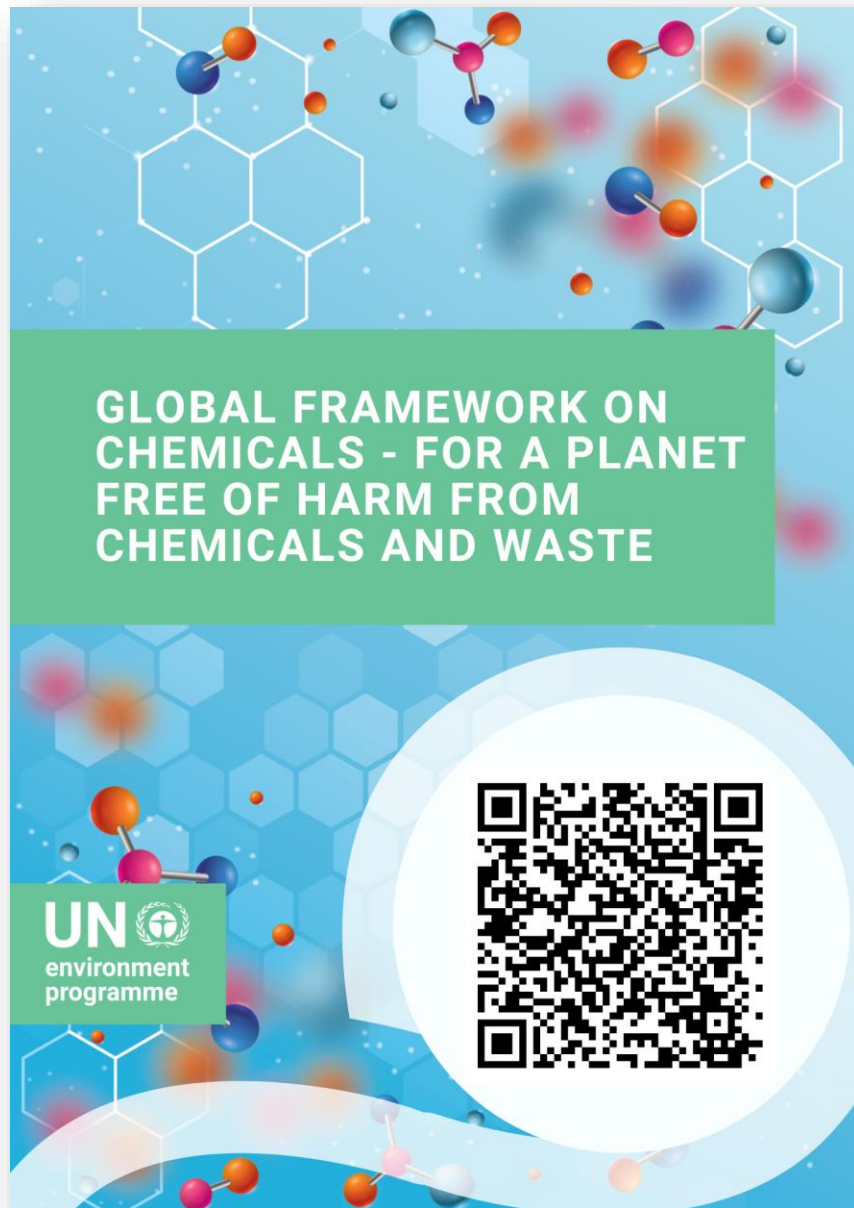
- UN Common Approach to Pollution (EMG).
- UNCT engagement.
- Pollution and One Health.
- BeatPollution Campaign.



Science-Policy Panel

- Support to OEWG and inter-governmental meeting for the establishment of the Panel.
- Webinars and knowledge sharing.

C. Results Achieved: Chemicals and Waste



For a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste

Bonn Declaration

- Political drive and high-level ambition.

Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) and its Fund adopted

For a safe, healthy and sustainable future.

- 5 strategic objectives, 28 targets.
- Implementation programmes.
- 27m USD in the GFC Fund.
- Expected continued support from GEF and Special Programme.
- UNEA6 first global governing body to acknowledge the Framework and to request for implementation support (UNEA Resolutions 6/9 and 6/11).

Gearing up to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals

- Development of indicators to measure progress (including high-level indicators on the impacts of chemicals and waste on human health and on the environment).
- Initiated the development of a gender action plan.
- Working towards operationalization of the Fund.
- Resource mobilization.

C. Results Achieved: Chemicals and Waste- continued

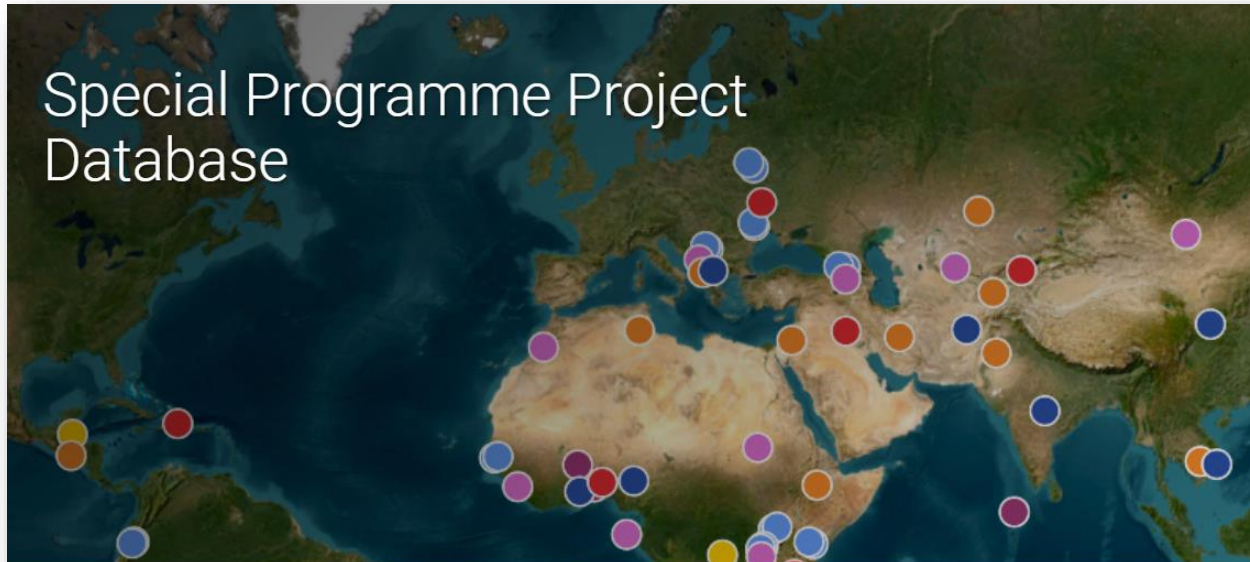


Photo source: <https://www.unep.org/topics/chemicals-and-pollution-action/chemicals-management/special-programme/special-programme>

The Special Programme

- To date 6 funding rounds have been completed; the seventh will be finalized by the Executive Board in April 2024.
- 75 country projects in 65 countries have been approved so far with a combined budget of USD 20 million and co-financing of USD 11 million. Some results so far:
 - 19 countries have adopted policy or regulatory frameworks for SMC&W.
 - 14 countries have reported improved level of integration of SMC&W into national sector planning.
 - 5 countries have used the Special Programme support to submit required reports under the chemicals and wastes conventions.
 - 14 countries have established multistakeholder coordination.

C. Results Achieved: air quality

- Regional cooperation and knowledge sharing e.g. LAC Intergovernmental Network, EANET, Southern Africa Community of Practice).
- Country level support.
- Air quality benefits from CCAC and Sustainable Mobility work.
- CCAC Clean Air Flagship.
- Awareness raising.
- Strengthening private sector engagement.
- MOU with the Clean Air Fund (CAF).



UN Headquarters in haze from wildfire smoke



Image source:
<https://twitter.com/UNEP/status/1564885705339285505>

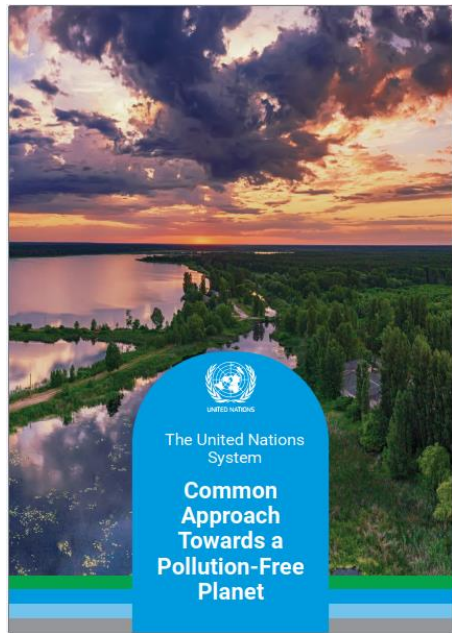
UNEA Resolution 6/10 Promoting Regional Cooperation on Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally

- Encourages Member States to accelerate efforts to improve air quality.
- UNEP to form and facilitate a cooperation network on air quality.
- UNEP to provide a global online platform for information sharing.
- Invites Member States and other stakeholders to help mobilize means of implementation.
- Invites regional and subregional cooperation bodies and initiatives, as well as financing institutions, to implement regional solutions to air pollution.

C. Results Achieved: UN System Common Approach to Pollution

To mobilize, accelerate, and scale up the sustainable, inclusive and just transition towards a pollution-free planet

Figure 1 - Structure of the Common Approach to Pollution



Mainstreaming pollution action into national frameworks



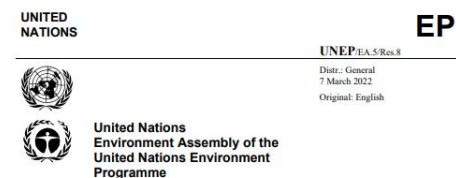
UNEP - UNCT Western Balkans technical dialogue for a strengthened UN response on pollution

The approach is well aligned with existing global frameworks
Outcome 3.1 The sound and integrated management of chemicals and waste is achieved throughout their life cycle in an integrated manner, in accordance with international frameworks, and through the leveraging of the role of the public and private sectors and engagement of all sectors of development

C. Results Achieved: Science-Policy Panel



<http://enb.iisd.org/media/plenary-oewg2-spp-15dec23-photo>



United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
Fifth session
Nairobi (hybrid), 22 and 23 February 2021
and 28 February-2 March 2022

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

5.8. Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 4/8 on sound management of chemicals and wastes, and stressing the urgent need to strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels to support and promote science-based local, national, regional and global action on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,

Recalling also its resolution 5/2, which approved the medium-term strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2022-2025, with its subprogramme on chemicals and pollution action, alongside those on nature action and climate action, its promotion of sound science, and the sharing of information and knowledge,

Appreciating the work on the promotion of the sound management of chemicals and waste and the prevention of pollution by the relevant multilateral agreements, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies, including the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and welcoming the continuation of their scientific work to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution,

Recognizing the importance of science-based assessments to inform decision-making processes,

*Noting the report prepared by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals entitled *Assessment of Options for Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface at the International Level for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste*¹*

¹ United Nations Environment Programme, *Assessment of Options for Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface at the International Level for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste* (2020).

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The Capacity-Building Function of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention: Lessons Learned from Existing Science-Policy Interfaces and Sharing of Views

Webinar for the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on a Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, 11th April 2024

OEWG SPP Secretariat



Science-Policy Panel (SPP)

- Two OEWG sessions held to date to prepare proposals for the establishment of a Science-Policy Panel.
- Third session (OEWG-3) being planned in Geneva, Switzerland, from 17 to 21 June 2024, preceded by regional and stakeholder consultations on 16 June 2024.
- Proposals for the establishment of the Science-Policy Panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention expected to be completed in 2024.

D. Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned:

- Greater awareness of the nexus of pollution, health, social well-being and the economy is key to driving change and informing action.
- Highest political level recognition is core to moving things forward.
- Ambition required to address key pollution issues still not matched by substantial and steady funding and human resources.
- Co-benefits and trade offs are sometimes overlooked in decision making.

Changes Made:

Awareness raising on the situation, impacts and solutions and advocacy for action built in the programme.

Efforts to bring pollution into the sustainable development agenda undertaken and stronger focus on health, climate and biodiversity linkages to continue.

Fund mobilization, partnership building, visibility efforts and connection with the health, economic and social agenda embedded in the programme and ongoing.

E. Way Forward

A: Work closely with Member States, stakeholders, MEAs, UN and other partners, to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals.

B: More commitment and partnership at all levels to live up to the level of ambition required to reduce pollution.

C: Work together towards the timely delivery of proposals by the OEWG and the successful establishment of the Science-Policy Panel.

D: Work with Member States, regional arrangements and partners to further advance cooperation on air quality and establish a cooperation network.

E: Work with Member States and all stakeholders towards resource mobilization and with Multilateral Development banks and other investors to finance pollution solutions

F: Continue to engage with UNCTs and the UN system to promote stronger focus on pollution and to mobilize all relevant mandates.



Photo source: <https://pixabay.com/photos/jedane-ethiopia-women-children-102569/>

Thank you

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