



United Nations Environment Assembly
of the United Nations Environment Programme
Sixth session
Nairobi, 26 February–1 March 2024

Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 1 March 2024

6/9. Sound management of chemicals and waste

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 5/7 of 2 March 2022 on the sound management of chemicals and waste, noting General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and reaffirming the critical role of multilateral environmental agreements for the sound management of chemicals and waste,

Noting with concern that progress towards the sound management of chemicals and waste has not been sufficient and that pollution in air, water and soil negatively affects the environment and human health, and acknowledging the need to take appropriate action to make faster progress towards the sound management of chemicals and waste,

Welcoming the reports¹ prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in response to the request contained in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/7,

Welcoming also World Health Assembly resolution WHA76.17 of 30 May 2023 on the impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health, and recognizing, in particular, the importance of sound chemicals management for human health, the key role of the World Health Organization in providing leadership and coordination on the human health aspects of the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, and the necessity of health sector participation in and contribution to those efforts,

Welcoming with appreciation the substantial increases in funding allocated to the chemicals and waste focal area by donors to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility,

1. *Acknowledges* the voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;²

2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing implementation support to the voluntary, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral Global Framework on Chemicals;

¹ United Nations Environment Programme, “Chemicals and waste issues of concern: a summary analysis of stakeholders’ views on priorities for further work and potential further international action” (Geneva, forthcoming) and information on the implementation of para. 24 of resolution 5/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste, presenting a paper entitled “Options for addressing asbestos contaminants in products and the environment”, as contained in document UNEP/EA.6/INF/14.

² Resolution V/1 of 29 Sept. 2023, annex II, adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session. See document SAICM/ICCM.5/4.

3. *Encourages* all stakeholders to provide further resources to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund;
4. *Invites* the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session to appropriately acknowledge the Global Framework on Chemicals, including its strategic objectives and targets;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate coordination between the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, within the scope of their respective mandates, in order to enhance complementarity and avoid duplication;
6. *Adopts* the amendments to the terms of reference of the Special Programme, as set out in the annex to the present resolution, in order to take into account the Global Framework on Chemicals and its implementation, in accordance with the decision contained in paragraph 16 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/7;
7. *Recalls* paragraph 18 of Environment Assembly resolution 5/7;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report, subject to the availability of resources, building on existing measures and initiatives to address lead, cadmium, arsenic and organotins, and to continue the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in supporting Member States in their actions;
9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the Environment Assembly at its seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution and the implementation of the programme of work with respect to chemicals and waste.

Annex

Amendments to the terms of reference for the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Recalling decision 27/12 on chemicals and waste management, part VIII, paragraphs 13 and 14 of the First Universal Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

I. Objective of the Special Programme

1. The objective of the Special Programme is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, taking into account the national development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, to increase sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle. Institutional strengthening under the Special Programme will facilitate and enable the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention, ~~and~~ the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste (hereinafter referred to as “the Instruments”).

[...]

III. Expected outcomes of institutional strengthening through the Special Programme

3. It is expected that strengthened national institutions would have the capacity to do the following:

(a) Develop and monitor the implementation of national policies, strategies, programmes and legislation for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;

(b) Promote the adoption, monitoring and enforcement of legislation and regulatory frameworks for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;

(c) Promote the mainstreaming of the sound management of chemicals and wastes into national development plans, national budgets, policies, legislation and implementation frameworks at all levels, including addressing gaps and avoiding duplication;

(d) Work in a multisectoral, effective, efficient, transparent, accountable and sustainable manner in the long term;

(e) Facilitate multisectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation and coordination at the national level;

(f) Promote private-sector responsibility, accountability and involvement;

(g) Promote the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention, ~~and~~ the Strategic Approach and the Global Framework on Chemicals;

(h) Promote cooperative and coordinated implementation of the Instruments at the national level.

[...]

VI. Governance arrangements for the Special Programme

9. An Executive Board will be the decision-making body and oversee the Special Programme with the support of a secretariat.
10. The Executive Board will reflect a balance between donors and recipients. The term of the representatives will be in a two-year rotation. The Executive Board will be composed of the following:
- (a) Four representatives of recipient countries, reflecting equitable geographical representation, drawn from the following United Nations regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, the Executive Board will have one representative from a least developed country or a small island developing State on a rotational basis;
 - (b) Five representatives of donor countries, which are not also recipient countries.
11. The executive secretaries of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention, the Coordinator of the Strategic Approach [and the Global Framework on Chemicals](#), and a representative of the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, as well as representatives of Governments and regional economic integration organizations, any implementing agencies and one representative from each of the Bureaus of the governing bodies of the Instruments may participate, at their own expense, as observers at the meetings of the Executive Board.
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