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**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Programme of work and budget, and other
administrative and budgetary issues**

**Progress in the implementation of resolution 3/9 on eliminating
exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound
management of waste lead-acid batteries**

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

In its resolution 3/9,¹ on eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme requested the Executive Director to assist countries in eliminating the use of lead paint, under the leadership of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and the World Health Organization, in particular providing tools and capacity-building for developing national legislation and regulations, and to work regionally, where appropriate; and to continue to assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to strengthen and enhance the national, subregional and regional implementation of environmentally sound management of waste, including by providing further capacity-building with respect to waste lead-acid batteries to implement regulatory frameworks and programmes for recycling, and better track and trace shipments, in close cooperation with the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

* UNEP/EA.4/1/Rev.1.

¹ UNEP/EA.3/Res.9.

I. Progress in the implementation of resolution 3/9

A. Lead in paint

1. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) is a voluntary partnership formed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization to prevent exposure to lead. It promotes the phasing out of paints containing lead and is guided by an advisory group, currently chaired by the United States of America through its Environmental Protection Agency and consisting of government representatives from Colombia, Kenya, the Republic of Moldova and Thailand and representatives of the following organizations: AkzoNobel, Health and Environmental Alliance, International Paint and Print Ink Council, International Persistent Organic Pollutants Elimination Network and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. It has 104 partners. The Lead Paint Alliance has provided tools to assist countries to pass and implement legislation on lead paint and has developed and made available to Governments in the six official languages of the United Nations the *Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint*, which provides guidance on developing lead paint legislation at the national level. A resource package on heightened awareness towards eliminating lead paint was launched in October 2018 during International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. A “Toolkit for establishing laws to eliminate lead paint” provides detailed information in support of legislation on lead paint. In September 2018, an update was issued to the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint, which provides a regional and global overview of lead paint legislation.

2. As at 30 September 2018, four additional countries (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Iraq and Kazakhstan) had enacted lead paint laws, bringing the total number of countries having enacted legally binding controls to limit the production, import and sale of lead paint to 71 of 194 countries (36.5 per cent). At the regional level, countries have been actively supported by the Lead Paint Alliance in drafting lead paint laws. The proportion of countries in each region having enacted lead paint laws is as follows: Africa: 6 countries (11.1 per cent); Asia-Pacific: 8 countries (20.2 per cent); Western Asia: 3 countries (27.3 per cent); Latin America and the Caribbean: 11 countries (33 per cent); Europe: 41 countries (74.1 per cent); North America: 2 countries (100 per cent).

3. The Global Environment Facility will provide significant financial support for the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (Strategic Approach) through a project with a large lead-in-paint component. The project, expected to begin in January 2019, will provide support to 40 additional countries in the development of lead paint legislation, in line with the Strategic Approach 2020 goal of eliminating lead paint. The project will engage the paint sector in paint reformulation using alternatives to lead additives. Countries will be provided with policy advocacy and technical assistance in drafting lead paint laws. To date, resources mobilized for the Lead Paint Alliance have primarily consisted of in-kind support and technical assistance from partners. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has also provided some financial support.

B. Waste lead-acid batteries

4. Trade and market analysis of used lead-acid batteries is available for Asia and the Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean. A needs assessment survey conducted among Strategic Approach focal points confirmed the need for technical assistance with the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries. At its fourteenth meeting, to be held in Geneva from 29 April to 10 May 2019, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention will discuss an update to the *Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-acid Batteries*.

5. The Government of Japan has provided funding to support certain work on waste lead-acid batteries, while other partners have provided in-kind support through capacity-building activities in developing countries. A proposal for a project to enhance the understanding of lead poisoning and the use of the most effective practices and measures to control exposure, focusing on waste lead-acid batteries, is under development. A joint project concept between the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and UNEP, with the aim of providing capacity-building activities in four selected countries to further the environmentally sound management of the collection of waste lead-acid batteries and addressing the issue of remediation of contaminated sites is in the fund-raising stage.

6. The International Lead Association and Pure Earth are two key partners of UNEP in providing technical assistance and capacity-building in low-income and middle-income countries.

II. Recommendations and suggested actions

A. Lead in paint

7. UNEP is coordinating the lead-in-paint component of the Global Environment Facility project. The project involves supporting Governments in developing lead paint laws and working with small and medium-sized enterprises to promote the phasing-out of the use of lead additives. Targeted Governments will receive an invitation to join the project and express an interest in developing or strengthening legislation to phase out the use of lead in paint.

8. At its fourth session, the Environment Assembly may wish to welcome and support the work being undertaken by UNEP and the World Health Organization towards achieving the 2020 goal under the Strategic Approach of eliminating lead paint, including recognizing the work and achievements of the Lead Paint Alliance.

9. Furthermore, in the light of continued concerns regarding lead toxicity and other uses of lead and sources of lead exposure, the Environment Assembly may wish to request the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare a report on the significance of those sources and ways in which they could be minimized for submission to the Environment Assembly at its fifth session.

B. Waste lead-acid batteries

10. Concrete capacity-building activities on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries are planned with the support of key partners, such as the International Lead Association and Pure Earth, subject to availability of funding.

11. The Environment Assembly at its fourth session may wish to note and express support for the work being undertaken by UNEP and request the Executive Director to prepare a report mapping environmentally sound solutions, best practices and considerations on alternative technologies as substitutes for lead-acid batteries.
