

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME DURING ITS RESUMED SIXTH MEETING HELD ONLINE ON 1-2 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Executive Board of 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 paragraphs 5 and 7 of UNEA resolution 1/5 which welcomed an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes and underscored that the three components are mutually reinforcing, and the adopted Terms of Reference for a Special Programme, to be funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Recalling also that under paragraph 24 of the Terms of Reference, the Special Programme will be open to receive voluntary contributions and applications for support for seven years from the date it is established and that on the basis of a satisfactory review and evaluation, and subject to a recommendation from the Executive Board to the United Nations Environment Assembly, the Special Programme may be eligible for a one-time extension, not to exceed an additional five years.

Recognizing that to date, 57 projects across the African, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern European and Latin America and the Caribbean regions have been funded following four rounds of applications, and that the fifth round of applications for funding is currently under review and will be considered for approval in early 2022 while *recognizing further* that there continues to be interest from many eligible countries who stand to benefit from implementing Special Programme funded projects.

Taking note of the document prepared by the Secretariat describing the future added value of the Special Programme, and *noting further* that the Special Programme plays an important role in supporting developing countries, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, with priority given to those with least capacity, in establishing and maintaining the sustainable national capacity for sound management of chemicals and waste,

Also noting that voluntary contributions and pledges to the Special Programme Trust Fund to date amount to USD 32,191,722 and *recognizing* the need to enhance resource mobilization and broadening the resource and donor base of the Programme.

Welcoming the mid-term evaluation conducted by the Evaluation Office of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2019 while *recognizing* that the Special Programme was accorded an overall rating of 'satisfactory' with regards to the performance of the Special Programme to date and that it observed that for the sustainability of the projects many countries would require to establish cost recovery mechanisms or other forms of financing, and *acknowledging* that the mid-term evaluation meets the prerequisite for a satisfactory review and evaluation for the one-time extension of the duration of the Special Programme,

1. *Recommends* the United Nations Environment Assembly to extend the duration of the Special Programme for a period of five years, in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Terms of Reference set out under UNEA resolution 1/5.
2. *Recommends* to the United Nations Environment Assembly to include the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in the Special Programme.