

UNEP's Call for Written Inputs on Issues of Concern: Priorities for further work and potential further international action

Introduction

UNEP is undertaking a consultation on priorities for further work and potential further international action on 19 Issues of concern. This call for written inputs is being conducted to gather relevant information from stakeholders and views about the next steps that should be taken on issues of concern.

The call for inputs will address 19 issues of concern and you may wish to only provide answers for issues of concern that are of relevance to your organization/ country. At the start of each section, you will be asked whether you would like to provide responses on each specific issue. If you choose "No" on the introduction page of each issue you may proceed to the next issue of concern.

Please be aware that the submitted responses will be made available on the UNEP website indicating the stakeholder affiliation/ government. The names and contact details of the respondents will not be published on the UNEP website. Further information on UNEPs consultation process can be [found here](#).

We highly recommend coordinating responses within your stakeholder affiliation/ government. Please complete this form for collecting written inputs by **15/08/2023** COB Central European time (CET).

For those using this MS word version, kindly return the completed word version of the call for written inputs. Please remember to save your work often, due to the addition of ActiveX controls below (such as option buttons and checkboxes), the autosave feature is not available on this form.

Please enter your email details.

Email:

Background

In 2020, UNEP developed an [Assessment Report on Issues of Concern](#), to inform the international community about the current situation of specific chemicals and waste issues. It was based on a review of published evidence. It was intended to support discussion at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5) and other international forums working towards sound management of chemicals and waste. The Assessment Report assessed the ability of existing actions to address current environmental and human exposure to individual chemicals and groups of chemicals. It looked at 11 issues with emerging evidence of risks identified by the Global Chemicals Outlook-II and the 6 Emerging Policy Issues (EPIS) and two other Issues of Concern identified under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The report concluded that concerted international action by all stakeholders at all levels is urgently required.

GCO-II issues	SAICM Issues
1) Arsenic	1) Chemicals in products (CIP)
2) Bisphenol A (BPA)	2) Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)
3) Cadmium	3) Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)
4) Glyphosate	4) Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)
5) Lead	5) Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)
6) Microplastics	6) Lead in paint
7) Neonicotinoids	7) Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials
8) Organotins	8) Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and the transition to safer alternatives
9) Phthalates	
10) Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)	
11) Triclosan	

In March 2022, at UNEA 5.2, UNEP was requested through [resolution 5/7](#) to seek views from Member States and other stakeholders on priorities for further work, building on existing measures and initiatives, and on potential further international action on the issues discussed in the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern. The resolution also requests the preparation of a summary analysis, taking into account the views received.

Through this call for inputs, UNEP intends to respond to UNEA's request by gathering information from stakeholders about the priorities for future work and potential further international action. The findings from this call for written inputs will inform the writing of the Summary Analysis. The Summary Analysis is expected to build upon the [SAICM Survey](#) which considered the 8 EPIs and other issues of concern.

Available resources to support your responses:

All 19 issues of concern will be covered in this call for written inputs. A recording from an information webinar held on 27 April 2023, on the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern is [available here](#) for your reference. Further background information can be found below:

- Assessment report [here>>](#)
- Annexes [here>>](#)
- Factsheets on Issues of concern [here>>](#)
- Catalogue of International Actions on Chemicals and Waste [here>>](#)
- Survey from SAICM Sec on EPIs [here>>](#)

The form for submitting written inputs will remain open until **15/08/2023** COB Central European time (CET).

Thank you for your kind support with this consultation.



Personal Information:

Institution/Organization: Plastics Europe

Type of Institution: *(Government | Intergovernmental Organization | Civil Society Organization | Business/Private Sector | Academia | Other)*

If relevant, please describe the membership coverage, geographical coverage and area of interest of your institution:

Plastics Europe is the pan-European trade association of plastics manufacturers with offices across Europe. With close to 100 members producing over 90% of all polymers across Europe, our mission is to help accelerate a solutions-driven approach working towards the circularity and climate goals of a sustainable plastics industry.

Country: Belgium



Questions

1. Arsenic

Screening Question - Arsenic

Arsenic is a naturally occurring metalloid that is ubiquitous in the Earth's crust. It is present in various inorganic and organic forms. Arsenic and arsenic compounds are used intentionally in wood preservatives, pesticides, animal feed additives, pharmaceuticals, glass production, alloy manufacturing, electronics, and semiconductor manufacturing.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Arsenic](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, e.g. Bisphenol A (BPA))*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Arsenic

Arsenic is a naturally occurring metalloid that is ubiquitous in the Earth's crust. It is present in various inorganic and organic forms. Arsenic and arsenic compounds are used intentionally in wood preservatives, pesticides, animal feed additives, pharmaceuticals, glass production, alloy manufacturing, electronics, and semiconductor manufacturing.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Arsenic](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

- a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding*
- Soft law*
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
- No international actions are needed*
- Other: _____.*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*

Other: _____

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Arsenic](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

Agriculture and food production

Construction

Electronics

Energy

Health

Labour

Pharmaceuticals

Public, private, blended finance

Retail

Textiles

Transportation

Waste

Other: _____

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

Agriculture and Food

Biodiversity

Climate Change

Health

Human Rights

Sustainable Consumption and Production

World of Work

Other: _____

- b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
 High
 Medium
 Low
 Very low

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available*).

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available*).

2. Bisphenol A (BPA)

Screening Question - Bisphenol A (BPA)

Bisphenols are a group of dozens of organic compounds that have been used as building blocks in the production of polycarbonate plastics, epoxy resins and other products since the 1960s. The variety of products include water bottles, sports equipment, medical devices, household electronics, thermal paper receipts, and food and beverage cans.

Among the bisphenols, bisphenol A (BPA) has attracted the most attention. The consumption of BPA and related products is widespread and estimated to continue to grow in the foreseeable future, driven mainly by increasing demand for polycarbonates and other plastics.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Bisphenol-A](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Cadmium)*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

A response will be given by the extended deadline.

Technical Questions - Bisphenol A (BPA)

Bisphenols are a group of dozens of organic compounds that have been used as building blocks in the production of polycarbonate plastics, epoxy resins and other products since the 1960s. The variety of products include water bottles, sports equipment, medical devices, household electronics, thermal paper receipts, and food and beverage cans.

Among the bisphenols, bisphenol A (BPA) has attracted the most attention. The consumption of BPA and related products is widespread and estimated to continue to grow in the foreseeable future, driven mainly by increasing demand for polycarbonates and other plastics.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Bisphenol-A](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding
- Soft law
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
- No international actions are needed
- Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to*

the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).

- Regulatory control measures
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)
- Options / guidance for economic instruments
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research
- Other: _____

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization (Multiple answers based on list below)?

- Lack of technical capacity
- Lack of scientific knowledge
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress
- Other: _____

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? (Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? (Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Bisphenol A](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).

- Agriculture and food production
- Construction
- Electronics
- Energy
- Health

- Labour
- Pharmaceuticals
- Public, private, blended finance
- Retail
- Textiles
- Transportation
- Waste
- Other: _____

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

- Agriculture and Food
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Health
- Human Rights
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- World of Work
- Other: _____

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. *(Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

3. Cadmium

Screening Question - Cadmium

Cadmium is a toxic metal that is naturally found in the Earth's crust, generally at low levels. Cadmium and cadmium compounds are mainly used in nickel-cadmium batteries, alloys, coatings and plating, pigments in plastics, glasses, ceramics and paints, solar cells, PVC stabilisers and others. It has been produced, used and released in large quantities, and thus intentional human uses have caused widespread, persistent contamination and exposure.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Cadmium](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Glyphosate)*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Cadmium

Cadmium is a toxic metal that is naturally found in the Earth's crust, generally at low levels. Cadmium and cadmium compounds are mainly used in nickel-cadmium batteries, alloys, coatings and plating, pigments in plastics, glasses, ceramics and paints, solar cells, PVC stabilisers and others. It has been produced, used and released in large quantities, and thus intentional human uses have caused widespread, persistent contamination and exposure.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Cadmium](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding
- Soft law
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
- No international actions are needed
- Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)*?

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Cadmium](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*

- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? (*Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...*).

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? (*Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
- High*
- Medium*
- Low*
- Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available*).

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

4. Glyphosate

Screening Question - Glyphosate

Glyphosate is an organophosphorus herbicide for agricultural, forestry and residential weed control that kills or suppresses all plant types, with the exception of those genetically modified to be tolerant to it. Since its introduction in 1974, glyphosate has become the most widely used herbicide worldwide. The largest use of glyphosate has been in agriculture, however glyphosate use in urban settings can also be a significant source of contamination.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Glyphosate](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Lead)*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Glyphosate

Glyphosate is an organophosphorus herbicide for agricultural, forestry and residential weed control that kills or suppresses all plant types, with the exception of those genetically modified to be tolerant to it. Since its introduction in 1974, glyphosate has become the most widely used herbicide worldwide. The largest use of glyphosate has been in agriculture, however glyphosate use in urban settings can also be a significant source of contamination.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Glyphosate](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding
- Soft law
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
- No international actions are needed
- Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures

- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Glyphosate](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*

- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other:* _____

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? (*Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...*).

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? (*Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other:* _____

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
- High*
- Medium*
- Low*
- Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available*).

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

5. Lead

Screening Question - Lead

Lead is a toxic metal that occurs naturally in the Earth's crust. It may exist in both inorganic and organic forms. The current global uses of lead are in batteries, rolled and extruded products, pigments and other product additives (e.g. for paints, cathode ray tubes, enamels and ceramics, PVC stabilisers), ammunition, alloys, cable sheathing and other uses

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Lead](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Microplastics)*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Lead

Lead is a toxic metal that occurs naturally in the Earth's crust. It may exist in both inorganic and organic forms. The current global uses of lead are in batteries, rolled and extruded products, pigments and other product additives (e.g. for paints, cathode ray tubes, enamels and ceramics, PVC stabilisers), ammunition, alloys, cable sheathing and other uses

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Lead](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding
- Soft law
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
- No international actions are needed
- Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures

- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Lead](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*

- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other:* _____

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? (*Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...*).

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? (*Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other:* _____

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
- High*
- Medium*
- Low*
- Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available*).

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

6. Microplastics

Screening Question - Microplastics

Microplastics are solid particles made of synthetic polymers, typically defined as smaller than 5 mm. Microplastics have been intentionally added to a wide range of products and application areas for diverse technical functions. For example, they are added in cosmetics and personal care products, detergents and maintenance products, agriculture and horticulture, medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices, medicinal products for human and veterinary use, food supplements, paints, coatings and inks, oil and gas drilling and production, plastics, technical ceramics, media for abrasive blasting, adhesives, 3D printing materials and printing inks.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Microplastics](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Neonicotinoids)*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Microplastics are solid particles made of synthetic polymers, typically defined as smaller than 5 mm. Microplastics have been intentionally added to a wide range of products and application areas for diverse technical functions. For example, they are added in cosmetics and personal care products, detergents and maintenance products, agriculture and horticulture, medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices, medicinal products for human and veterinary use, food supplements, paints, coatings and inks, oil and gas drilling and production, plastics, technical ceramics, media for abrasive blasting, adhesives, 3D printing materials and printing inks.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Microplastics](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

- a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*.

Microplastic contamination is a global issue, and solutions are urgently needed. Even though presently the effects of microplastics (MPs) on animals and humans are not clear, reducing exposure to MPs is a priority – in line with the precautionary principle. Not all MP releases in the environment are preventable; for example, MPs generated during the use phase of plastic items. However, measures should be enacted to eliminate, or, failing that, minimise preventable MP releases, such as pre-production resin pellet losses through the plastics value chain.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options](#)).*

- Legally binding*
 Soft law
 Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
 No international actions are needed
 Other: _____.

- a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*:

Plastics Europe wishes for the extension to a global level of a legally binding action on intentionally added MPs. We aim to extend globally the approach of the EU REACH

Restriction on Synthetic Polymer Microparticles. For secondary microplastics released during the life cycle of plastic items, we suggest the introduction of information on product MP emissions to foster transparency and consumers' informed choices.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options](#)).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

- a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible:

Plastics Europe supports the introduction at global level of regulatory control measures on intentionally added MPs, on the model of the recent EU REACH revision, the Restriction on Synthetic Polymer Microparticles. This restriction contains a ban of all MPs intentionally added to consumer and professional use products. Derogations are foreseen for use at industrial sites (i.e. production of plastic resins), use in medicinal products (human and animal), fertilizing products, food additives and in vitro diagnostics. For these derogated uses of intentionally added MPs, we support a global labelling and loss reporting mandatory scheme, preferably integrating the guidelines and principles implemented by the Operation Clean Sweep (OCS) Europe Certification Scheme. For secondary MPs, Plastics Europe supports the adoption of risk mitigation measures rooted in a science-based risk assessment of plastic applications. Furthermore, we welcome the introduction of emission indices for MPs released during the life cycle of plastic items. These indices and the risk assessment framework should be based on strong and reliable data; thus, we support measures introduced to sustain and streamline research in this area at global scale.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*

Other: _____

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible:

Measures to address MP formation and mitigate potential risks of MP exposure should be based on valid and reliable science. However, knowledge gaps in fundamental areas still exist (f.e., predominant exposure pathway in humans, long-term exposure effects in organisms, significance of environmental sources, etc.). Moreover, a variety of different actors and stakeholders are involved in both MP research and measures implementation. Coordination around these can be quite minimal, which hinders progress, knowledge sharing, and adoption of efficient instruments. As an example, Plastics Europe is funding its own scientific research project, Brigid, to assess the potential risks of MPs to human health via oral exposure. At the same time, Plastics Europe is contributing to the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) exchange platform for MP research funded by industry, called MARII. While MARII aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and exchange beyond industry experts, it is challenging to comprehensively map and engage with the numerous publicly funded initiatives taking place at national and regional levels in Europe and across the globe. Another example is the adoption of OCS' Certification Scheme we developed to streamline pellet loss reporting, with the objective of minimising pellet releases in the environment. Despite our dedicated efforts, engaging the entire value chain has presented consistent challenges. An internationally binding legislation would overcome these obstacles and bring the entire value chain at the same level.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? (*Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available.*)

The revision of the European Union REACH regulation, known as the Restriction on Synthetic Polymer Microparticles, includes a ban on intentionally added microplastics (MPs) in commercial and industrial consumer and professional products. However, certain exceptions apply to industrial sites (such as plastic resin production), medicinal products (for human and animal use), fertilizing products, food additives, and in vitro diagnostics. In the case of these exempted uses of intentionally added MPs, we advocate for a globally mandatory labelling and loss reporting scheme. Ideally, this scheme should integrate the guidelines and principles established by the [Operation Clean Sweep \(OCS\) Europe Certification Scheme](#).

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? (*Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Microplastics](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response.*)

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*

- ✓ *Textiles*
- ✓ *Transportation*
- ✓ *Waste*
- ✓ *Other: Converters, Product designers, Brand owners*

Different sectors are involved in MP exposure prevention and mitigation, namely agriculture and food production (MPs in crops and soil), construction (exposure to plastic materials during construction/demolition, plastic water piping), health (plastic medical devices), retail (packaging and MP intentionally added to products), textile (wear and tear including during laundry generating microfibres), and waste (mechanical recycling). Looking at our specific perspective as European plastic producers, for pre-production resin pellets the success of loss reporting and containment measures is highly dependent on the involvement of the whole plastics value chain – i.e., producers, converters, transporters, brand owners. It is paramount that all these stakeholders are held up to the same legislative standard globally to ensure homogeneity of implementation and thus of results. Furthermore, developing solutions to achieve a decrease of MP emissions from plastic items is a priority task that involves the polymer producers (material improvement), product designers (design for recyclability/avoiding mechanical stresses increasing MP shedding), and recyclers (end-of-life).

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? (*Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...*).

- UNEP Global Plastics Treaty
- Stockholm convention

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? (*Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

- Agriculture and Food*
- ✓ *Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- ✓ *Health*
- ✓ *Human Rights*
- ✓ *Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

Biodiversity: Microplastic pollution intertwines with other forms of pollution, such as macroplastics and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), leading to a detrimental impact on ecosystems and a loss of biodiversity. Particularly, the loss of plastic pellets in coastal

and wetland areas, influenced by production sites near waterways, poses a significant threat to these vital environments. By addressing microplastic contamination, we can safeguard biodiversity and protect these crucial ecosystems.

Health: While the precise effects of MPs on human health are still uncertain, concerning reports have surfaced in recent years. The plastic industry is funding research projects, such as Brigid, aiming to produce comprehensive data and conduct holistic risk assessments. This research is pivotal in unravelling the potential health risks associated with microplastic exposure, fostering informed decision-making, and safeguarding public well-being.

Human Rights: The adverse impacts of MPs disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, including minorities, women, children, and marginalized populations. Environmental pollution and unsafe plastic recycling practices expose these groups exponentially to MPs. Recognising the human rights dimension, it becomes imperative to address this issue equitably, ensuring the protection of every individual's right to a clean and healthy environment.

Sustainable Consumption and Production: A sustainable product lifecycle encompasses the assessment of microplastic emissions at every stage. Incorporating microplastic inputs into life cycle analysis (LCA) analyses becomes crucial in evaluating the sustainability of products. By considering MP contamination within the realm of sustainable consumption and production, we pave the way for informed choices, responsible manufacturing practices, and a circular economy that minimizes microplastic pollution.

The intricate links between MPs and international agendas underscore the urgency for collective action. By embracing a multidimensional approach that spans biodiversity, health, human rights, and sustainable practices, we can forge a path towards a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for all.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available.*)

Although many knowledge gaps in the space of MPs are still present, we should prioritise human health effects of MP exposure data, to implement efficient mitigation measures as soon as possible. In Europe, different publicly funded scientific research projects are active on this particular topic: we recommend examining amongst others the [MOMENTUM consortium](#) and the [CUSP Cluster of EU H2020 projects](#) (IMPTOX, Plasticheal, AURORA, PlasticsFatE, POLYRISK). MOMENTUM, a project sponsored by the Dutch Health Agency, seeks to examine and clarify the potential impact of micro-

and nanoplastics (MNPs) on human health. The project's objective is to propose solutions that minimize the health risks associated with MNPs. MOMENTUM aims to develop a roadmap for comprehensive risk assessment by addressing the key safety concerns related to MNPs. This roadmap will be based on the project's own findings and will integrate scientific and policy perspectives. A crucial aspect of this project is to enhance the practicality of MOMENTUM's research for risk assessment purposes, drawing upon insights from the field of nanomaterials. The CUSP Cluster, on the other hand, focuses on conducting research to understand the intricate relationship between MNPs and human health throughout various life stages, ranging from early life to adulthood. The findings of this research will contribute to the health-related objectives outlined in the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy, the Bioeconomy Strategy, and the REACH restrictions on intentionally added MPs in products. Ultimately, these findings will provide new evidence to support the development of more effective preventive policies.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

Please see answer 9.

7. Neonicotinoids

Screening Question - Neonicotinoids

Neonicotinoids are a class of neuroactive insecticides chemically related to nicotine. Since the first neonicotinoid (imidacloprid) was commercialized in the 1990s, seven main compounds (acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, thiamethoxam and thiacloprid) are now available on the global market. Today, neonicotinoids are used in protecting plants, livestock and pets from pest insects, as well as for malaria vector control, i.e., mosquitos, to protect humans, in more than 100 countries. Neonicotinoids are also used as biocides.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Neonicotinoids](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Organotins)*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Neonicotinoids

Neonicotinoids are a class of neuroactive insecticides chemically related to nicotine. Since the first neonicotinoid (imidacloprid) was commercialized in the 1990s, seven main compounds (acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, thiamethoxam and thiacloprid) are now available on the global market. Today, neonicotinoids are used in protecting plants, livestock and pets from pest insects, as well as for malaria vector control, i.e., mosquitos, to protect humans, in more than 100 countries. Neonicotinoids are also used as biocides.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Neonicotinoids](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding
- Soft law
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
- No international actions are needed
- Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Neonicotinoids](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*

- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other:* _____

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? (*Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...*).

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? (*Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other:* _____

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
- High*
- Medium*
- Low*
- Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available*).

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

8. Organotins

Screening Question - Organotins

Organotins are organic compounds that contain at least one tin-carbon bond. There are four main groups of organotin compounds, which are used in various applications. Mono- and di-organotins are mainly used as heat stabilisers in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in a wide range of applications, including window frames and house siding, PVC pipes, food contact blister packs and water bottles. Tri-organotins are mainly used as biocides (e.g. in wood preservatives, in anti-fouling paints for boats and in textiles) and as pesticides. Tetra-organotins have been used as intermediates in the preparation of other organotins and as oil stabilisers.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Organotins](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Phthalates)*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Organotins are organic compounds that contain at least one tin-carbon bond. There are four main groups of organotin compounds, which are used in various applications. Mono- and di-organotins are mainly used as heat stabilisers in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in a wide range of applications, including window frames and house siding, PVC pipes, food contact blister packs and water bottles. Tri-organotins are mainly used as biocides (e.g. in wood preservatives, in anti-fouling paints for boats and in textiles) and as pesticides. Tetra-organotins have been used as intermediates in the preparation of other organotins and as oil stabilisers.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Organotins](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding
 Soft law
 Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
 No international actions are needed
 Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to*

the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).

- Regulatory control measures
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)
- Options / guidance for economic instruments
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research
- Other: _____

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization (Multiple answers based on list below)?

- Lack of technical capacity
- Lack of scientific knowledge
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress
- Other: _____

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? (Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? (Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Organotins](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).

- Agriculture and food production
- Construction
- Electronics
- Energy
- Health

- Labour
- Pharmaceuticals
- Public, private, blended finance
- Retail
- Textiles
- Transportation
- Waste
- Other: _____

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

- Agriculture and Food
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Health
- Human Rights
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- World of Work
- Other: _____

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. *(Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

9. Phthalates

Screening Question - Phthalates

Phthalates are a large family of semi-volatile organic compounds. They are a group of plasticizers with softening and elastic effects, and they are produced in high volumes to be used in products such as vinyl flooring, adhesives, detergents, lubricating oils, automotive plastics, plastic clothing and personal care products. Phthalates accounted for 65 per cent of global consumption of plasticizers in 2017.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Phthalates](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs))*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

A response will be given by the extended deadline.

Phthalates are a large family of semi-volatile organic compounds. They are a group of plasticizers with softening and elastic effects, and they are produced in high volumes to be used in products such as vinyl flooring, adhesives, detergents, lubricating oils, automotive plastics, plastic clothing and personal care products. Phthalates accounted for 65 per cent of global consumption of plasticizers in 2017.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Phthalates](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding
- Soft law
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
- No international actions are needed
- Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Phthalates](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*

- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? (*Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...*).

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? (*Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
- High*
- Medium*
- Low*
- Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available*).

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

10. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

Screening Question - Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a class of more than 100 organic compounds. They occur naturally in coal and crude oil, but are also formed as a by-product during the incomplete combustion from both natural (e.g. volcanic eruptions, burning of coal, oil and gas) or anthropogenic (e.g. vehicle emissions, industrial processes, food preparation) sources. PAHs may also be present in consumer products (e.g. plastic components, footwear); however, they are never intentionally added during manufacturing. Plant-based foods may contain PAHs as a result of pollutant deposition before harvest.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Triclosan)*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a class of more than 100 organic compounds. They occur naturally in coal and crude oil, but are also formed as a by-product during the incomplete combustion from both natural (e.g. volcanic eruptions, burning of coal, oil and gas) or anthropogenic (e.g. vehicle emissions, industrial processes, food preparation) sources. PAHs may also be present in consumer products (e.g. plastic components, footwear); however, they are never intentionally added during manufacturing. Plant-based foods may contain PAHs as a result of pollutant deposition before harvest.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options](#)).*

- Legally binding
 Soft law
 Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
 No international actions are needed
 Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to*

the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).

- Regulatory control measures
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)
- Options / guidance for economic instruments
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research
- Other: _____

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization (Multiple answers based on list below)?

- Lack of technical capacity
- Lack of scientific knowledge
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress
- Other: _____

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? (Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? (Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).

- Agriculture and food production
- Construction
- Electronics
- Energy
- Health

- Labour
- Pharmaceuticals
- Public, private, blended finance
- Retail
- Textiles
- Transportation
- Waste
- Other: _____

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

- Agriculture and Food
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Health
- Human Rights
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- World of Work
- Other: _____

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. *(Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

11. Triclosan

Screening Question - Triclosan

Triclosan is a synthetic, broad-spectrum antibacterial chemical used as an additive in thousands of consumer and medical antibacterial products and plastics. It has been used commercially across the globe since the 1970s. Major global use is in cosmetics and personal care products (68%, particularly deodorants) followed by disinfection and medical use (16%) and lower amounts in paints (8%), and in plastic materials, toys and appliances (8%).

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Triclosan](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Chemicals in Products (CIP))*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Triclosan

Triclosan is a synthetic, broad-spectrum antibacterial chemical used as an additive in thousands of consumer and medical antibacterial products and plastics. It has been used commercially across the globe since the 1970s. Major global use is in cosmetics and personal care products (68%, particularly deodorants) followed by disinfection and medical use (16%) and lower amounts in paints (8%), and in plastic materials, toys and appliances (8%).

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Triclosan](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding
- Soft law
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
- No international actions are needed
- Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Triclosan](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*

- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other:* _____

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? (*Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...*).

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? (*Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other:* _____

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
- High*
- Medium*
- Low*
- Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

12. Chemicals in products (CiP)

Screening Question - Chemicals in products (CiP)

Chemicals may be released at any stage of a product's life cycle (including production, use, recycling or reuse, end-of-life disposal), resulting in potential exposures for humans and the environment. Information exchange in the value chain is fundamental for manufacturers, brands, retailers, end-consumers, waste managers and regulators in identifying and soundly managing any chemicals of technical, environmental or human health concerns in products.

CiP was identified as an issue of concern under SAICM at ICCM2 in 2009, "with a view of taking appropriate cooperative actions, to consider the need to improve the availability of and access to information on chemicals in products in the supply chain and throughout their life cycle". SAICM stakeholders also identified four priority sectors: textiles, toys, building products and electronics.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Chemicals in Products](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs))*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Chemicals in products (CiP)

Chemicals may be released at any stage of a product's life cycle (including production, use, recycling or reuse, end-of-life disposal), resulting in potential exposures for humans and the environment. Information exchange in the value chain is fundamental for manufacturers, brands, retailers, end-consumers, waste managers and regulators in identifying and soundly managing any chemicals of technical, environmental or human health concerns in products.

CiP was identified as an issue of concern under SAICM at ICCM2 in 2009, "with a view of taking appropriate cooperative actions, to consider the need to improve the availability of and access to information on chemicals in products in the supply chain and throughout their life cycle". SAICM stakeholders also identified four priority sectors: textiles, toys, building products and electronics.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Chemicals in Products](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options](#)).*

- Legally binding
 Soft law
 Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
 No international actions are needed
 Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Chemicals in Products](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*

- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other:* _____

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? (*Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...*).

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? (*Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other:* _____

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
- High*
- Medium*

Low

Very low

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

13. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)

Screening Question - Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)

An EDC is an exogenous substance or mixture that alters the function(s) of the endocrine system and consequently causes adverse health effects in an intact organism, or its progeny, or (sub)populations. Substantial efforts have been made over the past two decades to develop a better scientific understanding of EDCs and their characteristics, to test and identify EDCs, and to develop scientific approaches in order to support risk management measures.

In 2012, at ICCM3, EDCs were identified as an issue of concern under SAICM, and SAICM stakeholders decided “to implement cooperative actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders” and invited IOMC organisations to lead and facilitate a series of cooperative actions on EDCs, which was renewed in a Resolution at ICCM4.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs))*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- b. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

A response will be given by the extended deadline.

Technical Questions - Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)

An EDC is an exogenous substance or mixture that alters the function(s) of the endocrine system and consequently causes adverse health effects in an intact organism, or its progeny, or (sub)populations. Substantial efforts have been made over the past two decades to develop a better scientific understanding of EDCs and their characteristics, to test and identify EDCs, and to develop scientific approaches in order to support risk management measures.

In 2012, at ICCM3, EDCs were identified as an issue of concern under SAICM, and SAICM stakeholders decided “to implement cooperative actions on endocrine-disrupting chemicals with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders” and invited IOMC organisations to lead and facilitate a series of cooperative actions on EDCs, which was renewed in a Resolution at ICCM4.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding
 Soft law
 Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
 No international actions are needed
 Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. *(Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
- High*

Medium

Low

Very low

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available.*)

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available.*)

14. Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)

Screening Question - Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)

Pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics, and their metabolites can enter the environment through a variety of pathways, including wastewater and solid waste from pharmaceutical manufacturing, consumption and excretion, improper disposal of unused or expired products, animal husbandry and aquafarming. Their presence in the environment may result in different adverse effects on wildlife and ecosystems; some well-known cases include endangerment of some vulture species, reproductive failures in fish, and the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Internationally, EPPPs were recognized as an issue of concern under SAICM at ICCM4 in 2015. The same resolution “considers that information dissemination and awareness-raising on EPPP are particularly relevant and that improving the availability of and access to information on such chemicals is a priority”, “recognizes the current knowledge gaps on exposure to and the effects of EPPP”, “decides to implement cooperative actions on EPPP with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders”, and “requests all interested stakeholders and organizations to provide support, including expertise, financial and in-kind resources, on a voluntary basis, for such cooperative action, including by participating in developing and making available relevant information and guidance”

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP))*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics, and their metabolites can enter the environment through a variety of pathways, including wastewater and solid waste from pharmaceutical manufacturing, consumption and excretion, improper disposal of unused or expired products, animal husbandry and aquafarming. Their presence in the environment may result in different adverse effects on wildlife and ecosystems; some well-known cases include endangerment of some vulture species, reproductive failures in fish, and the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Internationally, EPPPs were recognized as an issue of concern under SAICM at ICCM4 in 2015. The same resolution “considers that information dissemination and awareness-raising on EPPP are particularly relevant and that improving the availability of and access to information on such chemicals is a priority”, “recognizes the current knowledge gaps on exposure to and the effects of EPPP”, “decides to implement cooperative actions on EPPP with the overall objective of increasing awareness and understanding among policymakers and other stakeholders”, and “requests all interested stakeholders and organizations to provide support, including expertise, financial and in-kind resources, on a voluntary basis, for such cooperative action, including by participating in developing and making available relevant information and guidance”

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding
 Soft law
 Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
 No international actions are needed
 Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. *(Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
- High*
- Medium*
- Low*
- Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available.*)

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available.*)

15. Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products
(HSLEEP)

*Screening Question - Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products
(HSLEEP)*

Electrical and electronic products (EEP), also referred to as electronic and electrical equipment (EEE), include any device with a circuit, battery or plug. They can contain many chemical additives for certain properties such as flame retardancy. Some chemical additives may be hazardous, including heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and may be released during production, use, transport, and end-of-life treatment (disposal or recycling), leading to environmental and human exposures and possible adverse effects.

HSLEEP was adopted as an EPI at ICCM2 in 2009. Conscious that actions are needed up-, mid- and downstream, a life cycle approach was endorsed. Despite valuable efforts made at all levels, significant challenges remain in regard to identifying, disseminating and implementing best practices at all stages of the life cycle, including design, recycling and disposal.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Hazardous Substances within the Life cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs))*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)

Electrical and electronic products (EEP), also referred to as electronic and electrical equipment (EEE), include any device with a circuit, battery or plug. They can contain many chemical additives for certain properties such as flame retardancy. Some chemical additives may be hazardous, including heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and may be released during production, use, transport, and end-of-life treatment (disposal or recycling), leading to environmental and human exposures and possible adverse effects.

HSLEEP was adopted as an EPI at ICCM2 in 2009. Conscious that actions are needed up-, mid- and downstream, a life cycle approach was endorsed. Despite valuable efforts made at all levels, significant challenges remain in regard to identifying, disseminating and implementing best practices at all stages of the life cycle, including design, recycling and disposal.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Hazardous Substances within the Life cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding*
- Soft law*
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
- No international actions are needed*
- Other: _____.*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Hazardous Substances within the Life cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. *(Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

Very high

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

16. Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)

Screening Question - Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)

The FAO and WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management defines HHPs as: “Pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment according to internationally accepted classification systems such as the WHO or the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) or their listing in relevant binding international agreements or conventions. In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous”.

At ICCM4 in 2015, HHPs were identified as an issue of concern. In addition, among other actions, governments and other stakeholders supported “concerted action to address HHPs in the context of SAICM” and encouraged “relevant stakeholders to undertake concerted efforts to implement the strategy at the local, national, regional and international levels, with emphasis on promoting agroecologically-based alternatives and strengthening national regulatory capacity to conduct risk assessment and risk management, including the availability of necessary information, mindful of the responsibility of national and multinational enterprises”, and welcomed “the offer of the FAO, UNEP and WHO to develop modalities for international coordination in the context of the IOMC”

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Highly Hazardous Pesticides](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Lead in Paint)*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)

The FAO and WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management defines HHPs as: “Pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment according to internationally accepted classification systems such as the WHO or the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) or their listing in relevant binding international agreements or conventions. In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous”.

At ICCM4 in 2015, HHPs were identified as an issue of concern. In addition, among other actions, governments and other stakeholders supported “concerted action to address HHPs in the context of SAICM” and encouraged “relevant stakeholders to undertake concerted efforts to implement the strategy at the local, national, regional and international levels, with emphasis on promoting agroecologically-based alternatives and strengthening national regulatory capacity to conduct risk assessment and risk management, including the availability of necessary information, mindful of the responsibility of national and multinational enterprises”, and welcomed “the offer of the FAO, UNEP and WHO to develop modalities for international coordination in the context of the IOMC”

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Highly Hazardous Pesticides](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding*
- Soft law*
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
- No international actions are needed*
- Other: _____.*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers)*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Highly Hazardous Pesticides](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. *(Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

Very high

High

Medium

Low

Very low

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available.*)

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available.*)

17. Lead in paint

Screening Question - Lead in paint

Lead is a multi-system toxicant for which no safe level of exposure has been identified. Exposure to lead can cause chronic and debilitating health impacts in all age groups, and children are particularly vulnerable to its neurotoxic effects. The widespread use of lead has caused extensive environmental and human exposure across the globe. One major source of exposure, particularly for children, is through “lead paint”, or paint to which lead compounds have been added as pigments, drying agents or anti-corrosives.

Among others, “Lead in Paint” was recognized as an issue of concern under the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) in 2009. The ICCM2 also endorsed the establishment of an international partnership, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP), to assist in phasing out lead paint worldwide. The GAELP aims to have all countries adopt “legally binding laws, regulations, standards and/or procedures to control the production, import, sale and use of lead paints with special attention to the elimination of lead decorative paints and lead paints for other applications most likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure” and to have all paint manufacturers eliminate “the use of added lead compounds in priority areas” by 2020.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Lead in Paint](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials)*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Lead in paint

Lead is a multi-system toxicant for which no safe level of exposure has been identified. Exposure to lead can cause chronic and debilitating health impacts in all age groups, and children are particularly vulnerable to its neurotoxic effects. The widespread use of lead has caused extensive environmental and human exposure across the globe. One major source of exposure, particularly for children, is through “lead paint”, or paint to which lead compounds have been added as pigments, drying agents or anti-corrosives.

Among others, “Lead in Paint” was recognized as an issue of concern under the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) in 2009. The ICCM2 also endorsed the establishment of an international partnership, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP), to assist in phasing out lead paint worldwide. The GAELP aims to have all countries adopt “legally binding laws, regulations, standards and/or procedures to control the production, import, sale and use of lead paints with special attention to the elimination of lead decorative paints and lead paints for other applications most likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure” and to have all paint manufacturers eliminate “the use of added lead compounds in priority areas” by 2020.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Lead in Paint](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding
- Soft law
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives
- No international actions are needed
- Other: _____.

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Lead in Paint](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. *(Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? *(Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available).*

18. Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

Screening Question - Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

While no definition has been internationally agreed upon, nanomaterials are commonly defined as materials having at least one external or internal dimension between 1 and 100 nm.

Nanotechnology, i.e. the manipulation of matter at the nanometre scale, has rapidly developed in the past few decades and led to the widespread presence of nanomaterials in consumer products and industrial applications.

Despite multiple benefits associated with the technology, concerns have emerged regarding potential risks posed by manufactured nanomaterials to human health and the environment. In light of these concerns “Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials” was designated an emerging policy issue at the second session of the ICCM in 2009. Stakeholders stressed the need to close knowledge gaps; to understand, avoid, reduce and manage risks; and to review the methods used for testing and assessing safety.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs))*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

Technical Questions - Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

While no definition has been internationally agreed upon, nanomaterials are commonly defined as materials having at least one external or internal dimension between 1 and 100 nm.

Nanotechnology, i.e. the manipulation of matter at the nanometre scale, has rapidly developed in the past few decades and led to the widespread presence of nanomaterials in consumer products and industrial applications.

Despite multiple benefits associated with the technology, concerns have emerged regarding potential risks posed by manufactured nanomaterials to human health and the environment. In light of these concerns “Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials” was designated an emerging policy issue at the second session of the ICCM in 2009. Stakeholders stressed the need to close knowledge gaps; to understand, avoid, reduce and manage risks; and to review the methods used for testing and assessing safety.

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Legally binding*
- Soft law*
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
- No international actions are needed*
- Other: _____.*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions](#) prepared by UNEP for more information on available options).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization *(Multiple answers based on list below)?*

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other: _____*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*

a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other: _____*

b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. *(Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
- High*

Medium

Low

Very low

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available.*)

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available.*)

19. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)

Screening Question - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)

The PFAS family is composed of thousands of synthetic organic chemicals that contain at least one perfluorocarbon moiety (e.g. –CF₂–) in their molecular structures. These substances have been widely used in numerous commercial and consumer applications since the late 1940s.

Since the late 1990s and early 2000s, studies have been conducted to assess some “long-chain” PFASs. Their findings resulted in the listing of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and its precursors under the Stockholm Convention in 2009. That same year, at ICCM2, SAICM stakeholders identified “managing PFASs and the transition to safer alternatives” as an issue of concern. A resolution by ICCM2 further invited intergovernmental organisations, governments and other stakeholders “to consider the development, facilitation and promotion in an open, transparent and inclusive manner of national and international stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches to reduce emissions and the content of relevant perfluorinated chemicals of concern in products and to work toward global elimination, where appropriate and technically feasible”

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFASs\) and the transition to safer alternatives](#) for more information on the topic.

1. **Entry question:** Would you like to provide responses on this issue of concern? *(Please select only 1 option below. If you select a "No" option, you may move to the Conclusion page)*

- Yes
- No, I do not know enough about this issue
- No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution
- No, other

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

The PFAS family is composed of thousands of synthetic organic chemicals that contain at least one perfluorocarbon moiety (e.g. –CF₂–) in their molecular structures. These substances have been widely used in numerous commercial and consumer applications since the late 1940s.

Since the late 1990s and early 2000s, studies have been conducted to assess some “long-chain” PFASs. Their findings resulted in the listing of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and its precursors under the Stockholm Convention in 2009. That same year, at ICCM2, SAICM stakeholders identified “managing PFASs and the transition to safer alternatives” as an issue of concern. A resolution by ICCM2 further invited intergovernmental organisations, governments and other stakeholders “to consider the development, facilitation and promotion in an open, transparent and inclusive manner of national and international stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches to reduce emissions and the content of relevant perfluorinated chemicals of concern in products and to work toward global elimination, where appropriate and technically feasible”

Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFASs\) and the transition to safer alternatives](#) for more information on the topic.

Please answer the questions below that are relevant to your organization/ country/ region:

1. Do you agree with the assessment report that further international action is necessary*? *(If you select "No", you are welcome to answer the questions below or you may proceed directly to question 9)*

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response*. _____

PFAS substances are a large, diverse group with different chemical, physical, thermal, and biological properties. Among the substances defined as PFAS, there are distinct substances with very different properties: polymers and non-polymers, solids, liquids, and gases; persistent and non-persistent substances; highly reactive and inert substances; mobile and insoluble (non-mobile) substances; and (eco) toxic and nontoxic chemicals. The term PFAS does not inform whether a compound presents a risk or not, but only communicates that the compounds under this term share the same structural trait of having a fully fluorinated methyl or methylene carbon moiety. Polymers generally have very different physical, chemical, and biological properties than do non-polymer chemical substances of low molecular weight. A segmentation of the PFAS family according to known properties rather than a structure-based classification alone is needed for a risk-based regulatory approach and requests a general derogation for fluoropolymers.

2. What types of international actions should be taken? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options](#)).*

- Legally binding*
- Soft law*
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*
- No international actions are needed*
- Other: _____.*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible*. _____

Plastics Europe highlights that there are many chemical regulations in place at the global and national/regional level. It welcomes further efforts to enforce these existing schemes and the further establishment of exposure-based chemical management legislation in countries that are lacking such schemes, to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

3. Which type of approach or measure would you see as appropriate to address this issue at the international level? *(Multiple answers based on the catalogue of action, Please refer to the [catalogue of international actions prepared by UNEP for more information on available options](#)).*

- Regulatory control measures*
- Information based and enforcement tools (such as Scientific and technical and guidelines, Guidelines and tools for enforcement, Awareness tools (including of consumers))*
- Options / guidance for economic instruments*
- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research*
- Other: _____*

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

There are sufficient data proving the safety of fluoropolymers. Fluoropolymers are known for their high chemical stability and inertness and low reactivity. These compounds are of low toxicity, demonstrating little if any toxicological activity. Where toxicological studies have been conducted on fluoropolymers, no findings of significance for human health hazard assessment have been reported. None of the fluoropolymers is known to be a skin irritant or sensitiser in humans. Following grossly excessive exposure to fluoropolymer resin dust by inhalation, increases in urinary fluoride were produced, however, no toxic effects were observed.

Basing on such established scientific knowledge, the legal framework at international/global level should be improved and homogenized. Guidelines and tools for enforcement; Awareness tools (including of consumers) shall be elaborated and implemented.

4. What factors prevent action/progress on addressing the issue in your country/ organization
(Multiple answers based on list below)?

- Lack of technical capacity
- Lack of scientific knowledge
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?
- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress
- Other: Lack of scientific knowledge with respect to specific analytics

a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____

For most non polymeric PFAS chemicals, there are no analytical methods existing, especially to detect them in small quantities (impurities). This fact may become an issue for a numerous number of recycling activities especially in the field of polymer recycling.

Fluoropolymers are a distinct type of fluorinated polymers that can be clearly distinguished from other Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as they have different physicochemical properties and toxicological profiles. Their combination of properties such as unmatched chemical and temperature resistance and unique electrical performance and durability, render them ideal materials for a wide range of applications and ideal materials that enable the development of innovative technologies. Fluoropolymers are high performance materials that offer unmatched performance in various applications required to meet the European Union's Green Deal objectives.

It is recognized that the fields of application for fluoropolymers are variable, but one common parameter is that fluoropolymers are chosen due to their superior performance in applications where other solutions are not available or would have significantly worse performance, leading to significant safety concerns, and need for more frequent maintenance or replacement due to failures. In some cases, such reduced performance would not be accepted by the final users of an article or the operators of a process.

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? (Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).

We would like to have implemented in European Union a regulation as it is suggested below, question 9. Such a regulation may then be replicated at the international level.

6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFASs\)](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*
- Electronics*
- Energy*
- Health*
- Labour*
- Pharmaceuticals*
- Public, private, blended finance*
- Retail*
- Textiles*
- Transportation*
- Waste*
- Other: Chemicals Industry, Aerospace and Defence*

7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*

At the international level, we believe that this aspect is best addressed as part of other multilateral environmental agreements and activities such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the UN GHS, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Since its original objective was set for 2020, SAICM has initiated an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

- a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*

- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*
- World of Work*
- Other: _____*

- b. Please explain your response, including examples if possible. (*Open space question. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)*):

Health: environment and health monitoring and surveillance systems, safety guidelines and norms regarding water, air, soil, food etc.

World of Work: workers need for, and right to, information about the chemicals they use at work, monitoring at the workplace.

8. What priority level do you attach to this issue for international action?

- Very high*
- High*
- Medium*
- Low*
- Very low*

9. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the national level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available*).

A segmentation of the PFAS family according to known physico-chemical and (eco)toxicological properties rather than a structure-based classification alone is needed for a risk-based regulatory approach which is scientifically sound. Fluoropolymers should not be grouped together with other PFAS.

Fluoropolymers are durable materials and therefore persistent. However, they do not bioaccumulate, they are non-mobile and non-toxic, therefore rendering their restriction under the PFAS proposal unjustified. Regulating all PFAS as one homogenous group may result in non-replaceable fluoropolymers being unjustly banned from critical applications with high societal value. Fluoropolymers are high performance materials that offer unmatched performance in various applications required to meet the European Union's Green Deal objectives.

Instead, different regulatory measures can be implemented to address concerns related to fluoropolymers such as the European Union's Industrial Emissions Directive, the Waste Framework Directive and the Occupational Health and Safety Legislation.

10. Is there any priority further work you would like to suggest at the regional level*? (*Open space to elaborate. Please share a weblink to the suggestion(s) if available.*)

No response

Conclusion:

Thank you for having reached this point in the form. You are now on the last page. Below are a final set of questions covering all 19 issues of concern.

GCO-II issues:

[Arsenic](#) | [Cadmium](#) | [Glyphosate](#) | [Lead](#) | [Microplastics](#) | [Neonicotinoids](#) | [Organotins](#) | [Phthalates](#) | [Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons \(PAHs\)](#) | [Triclosan](#) | [Bisphenol A \(BPA\)](#)

List of SAICM issues:

[Chemicals in products \(CiP\)](#) | [Endocrine-disrupting chemicals \(EDCs\)](#) | [Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants \(EPPPs\)](#) | [Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products \(HSLEEP\)](#) | [Highly hazardous pesticides \(HHPs\)](#) | [Lead in paint](#) | [Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials](#) | [Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFASs\) and the transition to safer alternatives](#)

Please submit your completed form via email by **15/08/2023** COB Central European time (CET).

1. From the list of 19 issues, which issue(s) do you think is/are the most urgent? *(Multiple options from the list of 19 issues)*

- [Arsenic](#)
- [Bisphenol A \(BPA\)](#)
- [Cadmium](#)
- [Glyphosate](#)
- [Lead](#)
- [Microplastics](#)
- [Neonicotinoids](#)
- [Organotins](#)
- [Phthalates](#)
- [Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons \(PAHs\)](#)
- [Triclosan](#)
- [Chemicals in products \(CiP\)](#)
- [Endocrine-disrupting chemicals \(EDCs\)](#)
- [Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants \(EPPPs\)](#)
- [Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products \(HSLEEP\)](#)
- [Highly hazardous pesticides \(HHPs\)](#)
- [Lead in paint](#)
- [Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials](#)
- [Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFASs\) and the transition to safer alternatives](#)

a. Please explain your response. *(Open space to elaborate).*

No response

2. From the list of 19 issues, which issue(s) is/are the most actionable? *(Multiple options from the list of 19 issues)*

- Arsenic
- Bisphenol A (BPA)
- Cadmium
- Glyphosate
- Lead
- Microplastics
- Neonicotinoids
- Organotins
- Phthalates
- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Triclosan
- Chemicals in products (CiP)
- Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)
- Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)
- Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP)
- Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)
- Lead in paint
- Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and the transition to safer alternatives

b. Please explain your response. *(Open space to elaborate).*

3. Are there any other observations you wish to note? *(Open space to elaborate).*

No response