

## 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 will be taken on 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 The names and contact details of the respondents will not be published on the UNEP website.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](#).

After completing the form and clicking "*submit*", your responses will be saved. An email will be sent to the email address you register below with a summary of your responses and a link to edit your submitted form. **It is therefore possible to return and edit your responses before the deadline by clicking "*submit*" again at the end of the same form.**

We highly recommend coordinating responses within your stakeholder affiliation/ government. The form for collecting written inputs will be available until **26/07/2023** COB Central European time (CET) .

Please enter your email details below to be notified once your form is submitted and to receive the URL to revisit and edit your form.

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

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 **26/07/2023** COB Central European time (CET).

Thank you for your kind support with this consultation.



Personal Information:

**Institution/Organization:** American Chemistry Council (ACC)

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

Business/Private Sector

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

ACC represents the leading companies engaged in the multibillion-dollar business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products, technologies and services that make people's lives better, healthier, and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health, safety, and security performance through Responsible Care®; common sense advocacy addressing major public policy issues; and health and environmental research and product testing. ACC members and chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development, and are advancing products, processes, and technologies to address climate change, enhance air and water quality, and progress toward a more sustainable, circular economy.

**Country:** United States of America

## Questions

### 1. Arsenic: No Comments

#### *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? *(If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Bisphenol A (BPA))*
  - **No, this issue is not relevant to my country or institution**
  - 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
  - Don't 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*).

## 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? *(If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Cadmium)*
  - Yes**
  - a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

### *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)*
  - No**
  - a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response\*:

Bisphenol A (BPA) is one of the most studied chemicals in the world. BPA has been assessed by government scientists around the globe, and they have found that it is safe as used in materials that come into contact with food, such as reusable food-storage containers. Therefore, we do not agree



that further international action is necessary. In 2018, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Toxicology Program (NTP) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) released the CLARITY-BPA (Consortium Linking Academic and Regulatory Insights on BPA Toxicity) Core study. The CLARITY-BPA Core study results are consistent with previous U.S. Federal government studies, which indicate that BPA is unlikely to cause health effects at the very low levels to which people are exposed.

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](#)).*

**No international actions are needed**

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

No international action on Bisphenol A is needed since BPA is being addressed and managed by national and regional regulatory schemes. Risk-based action, considering the uses of Bisphenol A, is the responsibility of National or Regional authorities. The U.S. FDA, Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), The South Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS), Canada's Chemicals Management Plan, and the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) have concluded that low exposures to BPA, pose little to no risk of health concerns (<https://www.factsaboutbpa.org/safety-assessments/government-assessments/>). The CLARITY-BPA Core study, which is a large-scale chronic toxicity study in laboratory animals, found no adverse health effects at doses even remotely close to consumer exposure levels. Other studies found no reproductive or developmental effects at similar low doses. These results are consistent with the way that BPA is processed in the body, which make it very unlikely that BPA could cause health effects at typical consumer exposure levels (<https://www.factsaboutbpa.org/safety-assessments/fda-research-bpa-safety/>).

Impacts of BPA in the environment is minimal. It has been demonstrated that BPA efficiently biodegrades in wastewater treatment systems. Any residual BPA that makes it into the environment quickly decomposes and does not accumulate in the environment. The vast majority of BPA produced is consumed at manufacturing sites and only very low levels of BPA are released to the environment. These releases must be within limits deemed acceptable by permitting authorities. Measurements of BPA in the environment have confirmed that when detected at all, BPA is present only at very low levels, typically less than a part per billion in surface water.

Additionally, Bisphenol A cannot be considered persistent. Laboratory studies, using internationally accepted guidelines from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), show that BPA is readily and inherently biodegradable in water, meaning that it breaks down rapidly and does not persist in the environment. Other studies confirm that BPA degrades rapidly in actual surface waters and sediments from a wide variety of regions (<https://www.factsaboutbpa.org/bpa-overview/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](#)).*

- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)*

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

We believe that the focus should be on creating robust chemicals management systems, so that countries are best equipped to effectively regulate this chemical under their own jurisdiction. Ideally, this could be done under SAICM. Any measures taken should be based on risk and high-quality science conducted in accordance with guidelines and weight-of-evidence approaches. As we have stated above, most governments have determined that the levels of human exposure to BPA do not pose a risk to human health. We strongly support a science- and risk-based chemical management system to address action on Bisphenol A.

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

- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress*

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

Bisphenol A has been safely used for decades. Bisphenol A has been the subject of many scientific assessments, including the Consortium Linking Academic and Regulatory Insights on BPA Toxicity (CLARITY-BPA) Core study conducted by the FDA researchers at FDA's National Center for Toxicological Research and in collaboration with the National Toxicology Program (NTP) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). Preceding studies on BPA determined that consumer exposures are low, it is rapidly eliminated from the body and BPA is unlikely to cause health effects. The results of the CLARITY-BPA Core study confirmed that there is no risk of health effects from BPA at typical human exposure levels, even if people are exposed to BPA throughout their lives. Due to this conclusion, we believe there is no action needed by the UNEP.

**More Information on the CLARITY-BPA Core Study can be found [here](#).**

5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level?

We do not believe that this IoC requires international action, and that the focus should be on the creation of robust chemicals management systems, that allow for countries to effectively manage chemicals. We support policies and initiatives that encourage reuse of plastics and lead to circularity and recycling. Plastic materials are too valuable to waste and governments should support collection, sortation, and recycling of all types of plastics and help society develop technologies that innovate and expand circular solutions.

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).*
- Electronics**
  - Energy**
  - Health**
  - Retail**
  - Textiles**
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...).*

We do not believe that any international forum or instrument should take the lead on this issue.

- 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**
  - Climate Change**
- 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](#)):*

Polycarbonate plastic made with BPA is shatter-resistant, lightweight, and has high optical clarity, similar to glass. Examples of polycarbonate plastic include protective safety gear (e.g. helmets and protective visors). Polycarbonate made with BPA is used to make housings for electronics, optical discs and components that are thin, lightweight, and strong. Polycarbonate is used in automobiles to make cars lighter and more fuel-efficient while maintaining safety (<https://www.chemicalsafetyfacts.org/chemicals/bpa-bisphenol-a/>). Polycarbonate is also able to withstand the harsh sterilization methods required of medical housing and equipment, making it a key component in life saving medical procedures. In addition, its optical clarity makes it useful in medical devices such as incubators in the neonatal unit (<https://www.factsaboutbpa.org/benefits-applications/>).

Epoxy resins made with BPA are tough and readily adhere to metal surfaces, making them excellent materials for protective coatings. Food cans and other metal containers may be coated with epoxy resin linings made with BPA to help prevent direct food contact with metal, which helps protect food from contamination and spoilage.

High-performance epoxy resins are used to make aircraft, cars, bicycles, boats, golf clubs, skis and snowboards durable, flexible and strong. Durable and decorative floorings, such as terrazzo flooring, chip flooring and colored aggregate flooring, are also made from epoxy resins (<https://www.chemicalsafetyfacts.org/chemicals/bpa-bisphenol-a/>).

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

- *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.*)

We do not suggest any further action be taken at the national level.

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.*)

We do not suggest any further action be taken at the regional level.

## 2. Cadmium – NO COMMENTS

### 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? *(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
  - *Don't 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*).



### 3. Glyphosate – NO Comments

#### *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? *(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
  - Don't 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).*

#### 4. Lead – No Comments

##### *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? *(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
  - Don't 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*).



## 5. 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? *(If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Neonicotinoids)*
  - Yes**
  - a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

### Technical Questions - 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.

**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**
  - 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](#)).*

- Soft law**
- Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives**

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

Multiple intergovernmental and national reports have been conducted over the past 5 years. They all agree that the scientific information available is of poor quality and hinders the ability to make sound, scientific recommendations. The [WHO \(2018\)](#) on drinking water did not find an urgent need for action and neither did the [WHO \(2022\)](#) report on dietary and inhalation exposure to microplastics. Similar conclusions were reached by the [European Union \(2019\)](#).

Given that current concentrations of microplastics are not obviously harmful to health or the environment, our priority should be to reduce the amount of plastic entering the environment that go on to forming secondary microplastics. This can be accomplished by the ongoing Plastics Agreement negotiations. Additionally, better product by design may also hold promise to reduce the production of microplastics.

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](#)).*

- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)**
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research**

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

Given that current concentrations of microplastics are not obviously harmful to health or the environment, our priority should be to reduce the amount of plastic entering the environment that go on to forming secondary microplastics. Global agreement to end plastic waste in the environment is already mandated to reduce Microplastics in the environment. The primary focus of the agreement should be preventing plastic waste from entering into the environment, which will have the dramatic effect of reducing the formation of secondary microplastics.

Mandatory implementation of the principles of Operation Clean Sweep will also help prevent the accidental spillage of pellets from entering the environment during manufacture and transport. Additionally, better product by design may also hold promise to reduce the production of microplastics.

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

- Lack of scientific knowledge**

- 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).*

<https://icca-chem.org/focus/microplastics-advanced-research-and-innovation-initiative-marii/>  
<https://www.opcleansweep.org/>

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**
  - Pharmaceuticals**
  - Textiles**
  - Transportation**
  - Waste**
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...).*

The future Plastics Agreement would be the best place to address this issue as a mechanism to prevent plastic waste from entering into the environment in the first place, thereby decreasing the creation of secondary microplastics.

- 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**
  - Climate Change**
  - Health**
  - Sustainable Consumption and Production**
- 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?
- **Medium,**

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).*

Additional research on the long term effects of microplastics on human health and the environmental, to help make scientifically informed decisions. However, it is imperative that the scientific research is done by investigators that are properly trained to avoid contamination, and that the research is done with relevant controls, conditions, materials, and exposures.

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. Neonicotinoids – No Comments

### *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? *(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
  - Don't 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*).



## 7. Organotins – No Comments

### *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? *(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:

## Technical Questions - 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.

**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
- Don't 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*).

## 8. 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? *(If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs))*
  - **Yes**
  - a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

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)*

**No**

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response\*. \_\_\_\_\_

We believe that the evaluation of phthalates should be conducted under a country's chemicals management system. The regulation of phthalates as a class of chemicals is highly complex and nuanced, that has to take into account a number of factors. For example, not all members of the phthalate class of chemicals have reproductive toxicity. Phthalates with carbon backbones containing  $\geq 7$  carbons do not have the same effect on the male reproductive system as the other members. This should be considered in the evaluation of the substances at the national level.

Each country should determine its own risk tolerance for the needs of its citizens. Phthalates are used in a wide range of applications, everything from medical tubing and blood bags to durable and flexible building materials and car parts.

A unilateral response would be too overarching and would prohibit countries from assessing the utility of these chemicals in achieving circularity.

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](#)).*

**No international actions are needed**

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

Phthalates are widely used, and even when scientists hypothesize extreme exposures, because of the unique properties of high phthalates, the predicted exposure levels are hundreds or thousands of times below the safe level established by regulatory authorities.

A number of scientific evaluations of human exposures to phthalates in dust and indoor air show that exposure to phthalates in dust and indoor air do not pose a health concern to sensitive subpopulations, thus minimizing the risk of exposure to the substance:

Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER). Opinion on risk assessment on indoor air quality (2007)

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_055.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_055.pdf).

European Chemicals Agency (2013) – Evaluation of new scientific evidence concerning DINP and DIDP in relation to entry 52 of Annex XVII to REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. Final review report. <https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/31b4067e-de40-4044-93e8-9c9ff1960715>.

Christia C, Poma G, Harrad S, de Wit CA, Sjostrom Y, Leonards P, Lamoree M, Covaci A (2019) Occurrence of legacy and alternative plasticizers in indoor dust from various EU countries and implications for human exposure via dust ingestion and dermal absorption. *Environmental Research* 171: 204-212.

Kim H-H, Yang J-Y, Kim S-D, Yang S-H, Lee C-S, Shin D-C, Lim Y-W (2011) Health Risks Assessment in Children for Phthalate Exposure Associated with Childcare Facilities and Indoor Playgrounds. *Environ Anal Health Toxicol* 26: e2011008.

Hammel SC, Levasseur JL, Hoffman K, Phillips AL, Lorenzo AM, Calafat AM, Webster TF, Stapleton HM: Children's exposure to phthalates and non-phthalate plasticizers in the home: The TESIE study. *Environment International* 2019, 132:105061.

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](#)*).

***Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)***

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*)?

***None, there are no factors preventing action or progress***

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).*

- Construction**
- Electronics**
- Energy**
- Health**
- Textiles**
- Transportation**
- Waste**

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...).*

We believe that the focus should be on creating robust chemicals management systems, so that countries are best equipped to effectively regulate this chemical under their own jurisdiction. Ideally, this could be done under SAICM.

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](#)):*

- Climate Change**
- Sustainable Consumption and Production**

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?

- o **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).*

Not at this time. High molecular weight phthalates ( $\geq 7$  carbons) have been thoroughly studied and reviewed by a number of government scientific agencies and regulatory bodies worldwide. These agencies agree that high phthalates are safe for existing uses. More information on ongoing regulatory actions can be found at : <https://www.americanchemistry.com/industry-groups/high-phthalates/resources/high-phthalates-a-primer-on-dinp-and-didp>



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. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) – No Comments

### *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? *(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
  - Don't 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*).

## 10. Triclosan – No Comments

### *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? *(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
  - Don't 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).*

## 11. 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? *(If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs))*
  - **Yes**
  - 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**
    - a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response\*. \_\_\_\_\_

Addressing transparency in the value chain is a nuanced and broad topic. We would recommend that any international action be voluntary, and sector specific for the highest likelihood of adoption and success.

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](#)).*
  - Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives**
    - a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible\*. \_\_\_\_\_

As it currently stands, this IoC is quite broad. We believe that it should be narrowed to focus on supply chain transparency, or information sharing. What chemicals are regulated, and how that information is shared is best handled under a chemicals management law. An example of this is the EU SCIP, which is a regional effort, and based within an existing chemicals management law.

However, there are a few examples of supply chain transparency initiatives driven by specific sectors, or regions. A good example is the GADSL List (<https://www.gadsl.org/>), which identifies chemicals in automotive products, and identifies disclosure requirements.

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).*

- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)***

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

As stated in the previous response, the scope of this Issue should be narrowed to focus on supply chain transparency, or information sharing. What chemicals are regulated, and how that information is shared is best handled under a chemicals management law. However, the use of voluntary measures/guidelines can help identify chemicals of concern, and promote disclosure within key value chains.

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

- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors***

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

Due to the complexity of global supply chains, it can be very difficult to garner information about what substances are in what products.

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 GADSL List (<https://www.gadsl.org/>) already exists at the international levels. Rather than “scaling up”, we would recommend sector specific initiatives driven by particular industries.

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...*).

As this is closely related to the creation of chemicals management systems, we believe that SAICM should be the best forum for any continued work on this Issue of Concern.

- 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?

- **Medium,**

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. 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? *(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:

## 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)*

**No**

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

There is already action occurring at the international level, both at the UN Subcommittee of Experts on GHS and at the OECD. Additional international action is not needed at this time, until those work streams have been concluded.

Instead, engagement on EDCs should be focused on the national level and through the implementation of strong national chemical management systems. Scientifically, it is important to remember that “endocrine disruption” is not an adverse effect. Instead, endocrine disruption is the mode of action by which EDCs produce adverse effects on reproduction, development, and other endocrine-related endpoints in an intact organism, or its progeny, or (sub)populations. These adverse effects on endocrine-related and all other endpoints are identified with the existing hazard classification and hazard communication measures in GHS (e.g., STOT RE). The best manner to regulate hazardous chemicals is via local chemicals management laws and actions.

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).*

**Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives**

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

Please see prior answer for more information as to why no further international action is needed. While we do not believe coordinated international action is needed, we do believe that capacity building exercises could be leveraged to educate regulators on the nuances of the science behind endocrine disruption, and how they should best be regulated.

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](#)).*

- Voluntary measures and approaches: (such as Guidelines, principles and strategies)***
- Measures supporting science-based knowledge and research***

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

While we do not believe that additional international action is needed on EDCs, there are still opportunities for global science and research that could be used to better benefit the existing workstreams at UNSCEGHS and OECD.

Scientists are still developing information to better understand endocrine disruption and the potential adverse outcomes these mechanisms may lead to. In the meanwhile, countries should be encouraged to harmonize their different approaches in the screening, assessment, and identification of EDCs.

Information sharing regarding the tools, methods, and outstanding research needs would be valuable. While implementation of the current GHS in a robust chemical management system at the local level is our priority, we still believe that international coordination on this topic could be useful for this reason. Additionally, voluntary measures such as international information sharing could also be instrumental in helping countries harmonize their approaches towards the regulatory structures surround EDCs.

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

- Other: Lack of robust country specific chemicals management systems***

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).*

At the international level, the UNSCEGHS is already exploring how endocrine disruptors might be added to the GHS Purple Book, in conjunction with the experts at OECD. We do not believe that any other further initiatives, other than research coordination, are needed 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 [Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*
- Agriculture and food production**
  - Health**
  - Pharmaceuticals**
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...).*

Currently, UNSCEGHS has the lead on this issue. As the primary focus should be on implementing local and national chemicals management plans, we would recommend continuation under the future SAICM Beyond 2020 Instrument as well. Due to the research component needed, there might be place for inclusion of chemicals whose adverse effects are caused through endocrine disruption under the future Science Policy Panel.

- 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**
  - Health**
- 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?
- Medium,**

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).*

Capacity building

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).*

Creation of chemicals management systems, and the exchange of information between regulators.

### 13. Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs) – No Comments

#### *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? *(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:

*Technical Questions - 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.

**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
  - Don't 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).*

14. 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? *(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
- Don't 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).*

## 15. Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) - No Comments

### *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? *(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
  - Don't 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).*



## 16. Lead in paint - No Comments

### *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? *(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*
- Don't 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).*

## 17. 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? *(If you select a "No" option, you may move to the next issue of concern, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs))*
  - o **Yes**
  - 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)*

**No**

a. Please provide a brief explanation for your response\*. \_\_\_\_\_

We agree with the assessment made by the OECD that “approaches for the testing and assessment of traditional chemicals are in general appropriate for assessing the safety of nanomaterials, but may have to be adapted to the specificities of nanomaterials”. They continue to say “as with other chemicals, it is clear that each nanomaterial may pose specific challenges, but in most instances, they can be addressed with existing test methods and assessment approaches.”

<https://www.oecd.org/science/nanosafety/>

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).*

**No international actions are needed**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

To address any concerns with nanomaterials, UNEP should focus on increasing the capacity of countries regarding the implementation of chemicals management systems. This would be aligned with the OECD recommendations that national legislations are best equipped to manage this issue of concern.

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

- None, there are no factors preventing action or progress***

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...*).

As we believe that this should be focused on creation of chemicals management systems, we would recommend SAICM be the most appropriate forum.

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 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. 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. –CF<sub>2</sub>–) 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? *(If you select a "No" option, you may move to the Conclusion page)*
  - **Yes**
  - a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:

## Technical Questions - 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. –CF<sub>2</sub>–) 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**
    - 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.

Part of the difficulty of regulating PFAS is that this is an extremely diverse group of chemistries are often lumped together and not differentiated. 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](#)).*

*Information sharing and awareness/ Voluntary initiatives*

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

PFAS are currently partially being addressed via Stockholm. We believe that countries own respective chemicals management systems are still the best way to safely and effectively manage PFAS, but additional international coordination might be useful to aid in the spread of information between countries. Additionally, coordinated scientific research on PFAS, and the risks associated with different chemical types could benefit numerous stakeholders as they decide how to best regulate the class of chemicals.

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.

Of note, 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.

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 [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: \_\_\_\_\_

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...).*

As more scientific work and coordination is needed, this could be a topic for the future Science Policy Panel (SPP). However, currently the topic is best addressed as part of other multilateral environmental agreements and activities such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). As additional research is needed, OECD might also be a good forum as well.

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?

- *Medium,*

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*).

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](#)

By clicking submit at the end of this page, it is possible to save your responses. The form for submitting written inputs will be available until **26/07/2023** 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)*
  - Chemicals in products (CiP)**
  - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and the transition to safer alternatives**
  - a. Please explain your response. *(Open space to elaborate).*
  
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).*

### **Important notice!**

If you click “submit” at the end of this page, your form will be saved. You can still return later to edit the form as you wish, at any time before the deadline which is **26 July 2023** Central European time (CET).

You will receive an e-mail, sent to the address you registered when starting the form. This will contain a link which you can use to return to the form to edit it. You can also share this link with a colleague, who can add extra information or change what you have already written. Indeed, we would welcome coordinated responses with views from the whole of your government or organization.

The e-mail will also have a summary of the information which you have saved.

You, or any colleague who can edit the form, will have the chance each time the form is edited to say if your submission is final, by ticking the relevant box – see below. If you tick this, that will be considered to be the final edited version of the form and future edits will not be counted. Or you can say that you wish to return to the form by ticking the other box.

**Please note that all forms will be regarded as final on the closing date for the call for written inputs – 26 July COB Central European time – whether or not you have ticked the box.**

All final forms will be published (apart from personal information about the person submitting the form).

Is this your final submission of the form? *(After 26 July 2023 COB Central European time, no further edits can be made to the form. After this date, all pending forms will be considered as final submissions).*

- Yes. This is the FINAL submission of written responses, no further edits will be made later
- No. This is NOT the final submission, further edits will be made later.