

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

Introduction

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

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

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 The names and contact details of the respondents will not be published on the UNEP website.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

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

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

Please enter your email details.

Email:

Background

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

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

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

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

Available resources to support your responses:

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

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

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

Thank you for your kind support with this consultation.



Personal Information:

Institution/Organization: Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Type of Institution: Intergovernmental Organization

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

The Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions are administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and are located in Geneva, Switzerland. The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention is jointly served by UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The mandates of the Secretariats are laid out in Article 16 of the Basel Convention, Article 20 of the Rotterdam Convention and Article 19 of the Stockholm Convention. The principal functions are to prepare for and service meetings of the conferences of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, to receive and convey information, to assist or facilitate assistance to Parties upon request and to coordinate with other international bodies.

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is almost universal, with 191 Parties¹. It is the most comprehensive global treaty on hazardous and other wastes and aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, management, transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous and other wastes. The scope of the Basel Convention covers a wide range of wastes defined as “hazardous” based on their origin and/or composition and characteristics, as well as other types of wastes requiring special consideration, including household waste, incinerator ash, and plastics wastes. The provisions of the Convention center around the principal aims of reducing hazardous waste generation; promoting environmentally sound management; restricting transboundary movements of hazardous wastes; and applying a regulatory system in cases where transboundary movements are permissible. See www.basel.int

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure (PIC) for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, is jointly administered by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN Environment (UNEP). The 165 Parties² to this legally-binding Convention share responsibility and cooperate to safely manage chemicals in international trade. To date 54 chemicals and pesticides and formulations are listed in its Annex III. The Convention does not introduce bans but facilitates the exchange of information among Parties on hazardous chemicals and pesticides, and their potential risks, to inform and improve national decision making. In addition, through the PIC Procedure, it provides a legally-binding mechanism to support national decisions on the import of selected chemicals and pesticides in order to minimize the risk they pose to human health and the environment. See www.pic.int

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and

¹ As of 1 August 2023.

² Ibid.

have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and damage to the central and peripheral nervous systems. The Convention requires its Parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. As of today, this legally-binding Convention has 186 Parties, giving it almost universal coverage. To date, 34 chemicals of global concern have been listed under the Stockholm Convention. See www.pops.int

Actions under the conventions are decided by the conferences of the Parties which are the governing bodies of the conventions.

Information provided in the present questionnaire is intended to reflect the conventions' text and the decisions adopted by each of the respective conferences of the Parties to the conventions.

Questions

1. Arsenic

Screening Question - Arsenic

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

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

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

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

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

Technical Questions - Arsenic

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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

We responded "do not know", however we note that there is ongoing work under the Basel Convention which affects waste category code Y24 (wastes that have arsenic or arsenic compounds Y24), as further described below.

As highlighted in the Assessment report, a number of international instruments and actions have been taken to address arsenic. Internationally, under the Basel Convention, wastes that have arsenic or arsenic compounds (waste category code Y24) as well as metal wastes and waste consisting of alloys of arsenic (waste category code A1010) are listed as hazardous wastes³ and thus subject to the Convention provisions.

The expert working group on the review of annexes under the Basel Convention is mandated to review, among others, Annex I, including entry Y24, and Annex III. So there is ongoing work under the Basel Convention to review those annexes with a view to:

i) Improve/update the description of categories of wastes in Annex I and the list of hazardous characteristics in Annex III;

ii) Improve environmental controls by including any additional categories of wastes in Annex I and any additional hazardous characteristics in Annex III that occur in practice; and

iii) Clarify the descriptions in Annexes I and III to address conflicts or overlaps.

In addition to this current stream of work, Parties to the Convention have the opportunity to decide to update existing or develop new technical guidelines relevant to the environmentally sound management of wastes that have arsenic or contain alloys of arsenic. Among others, the updating of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds (R4) (UNEP, 2004), which address recycling of secondary Annex I metals such as arsenic, appears relevant if further international action is taken.

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: Arsenic wastes are covered by the Basel Convention. Looking ahead, the Conference of the Parties has, among others, the authority to amend the text of the Convention and its annexes (for instance as an outcome of the current exercise to review Annexes I and III as mentioned in response to question 1), to collect information, and to adopt guidance documents and technical guidelines covering arsenic wastes.

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

³ Unless they do not possess any of hazardous characteristics listed in Annex III to the Convention.



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: The Secretariat is not aware of factors preventing action/progress on addressing the issue.*

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...).*

The Basel Convention has the objective of protecting human health and the environment from wastes that are hazardous or require special consideration. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention has the authority to decide on any further action to protect human health and the environment from wastes containing arsenic that are hazardous.

- 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.*)

Further work at the national level could encompass training and capacity building activities for the prevention and environmentally sound management (ESM) of wastes that have arsenic or arsenic compounds (Y24) and metal wastes and wastes consisting of alloys of arsenic (A1010). This could also address the control of transboundary movements of such wastes. The Secretariat will, subject to the availability of resources and upon request, provide technical assistance to Parties regarding the minimization of the generation of arsenic wastes, the control of transboundary movements of arsenic wastes, and their ESM.

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.*)

Similar to response 9, training and capacity-building activities could take place at the regional level on arsenic wastes, making use of existing Basel Convention regional centres which have been established to support Basel Convention Parties to implement the Convention.

2. Bisphenol A (BPA)

Screening Question - Bisphenol A (BPA)

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

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

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

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

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

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

BPA being an endocrine disrupting chemical is hence addressed below.

Technical Questions - Bisphenol A (BPA)

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Cadmium

Screening Question - Cadmium

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

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

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

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

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

Technical Questions - Cadmium

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

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

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

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

- Yes

No

Do not know

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

We responded "do not know", however we note that there is ongoing work under the Basel Convention which affects waste category code Y26 (wastes that have cadmium or cadmium compounds), as further described below.

As highlighted in the Assessment report, a number of international instruments and actions have been taken to address cadmium. Internationally, under the Basel Convention, wastes that have cadmium or cadmium compounds (waste category code Y26) as well as metal wastes and waste consisting of alloys of cadmium (waste category code A1010) are listed as hazardous wastes⁴ and thus subject to the Convention provisions.

The expert working group on the review of annexes under the Basel Convention is mandated to review, among others, Annex I, including entry Y26, and Annex III. So there is ongoing work under the Basel Convention to review those annexes with a view to:

- i) Improve/update the description of categories of wastes in Annex I and the list of hazardous characteristics in Annex III;
- ii) Improve environmental controls by including any additional categories of wastes in Annex I and any additional hazardous characteristics in Annex III that occur in practice; and
- iii) Clarify the descriptions in Annexes I and III to address conflicts or overlaps.

In addition to this current stream of work,

In addition to this current stream of work, Parties to the Convention have the opportunity to decide to update existing or develop new technical guidelines relevant to the environmentally sound management of the cadmium wastes. Among others, the updating of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds (R4) (UNEP, 2004), which address recycling of secondary Annex I metals such as cadmium, appears relevant if further international action is taken.

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:* Cadmium wastes are covered by the Basel Convention. Looking ahead, the Conference of the Parties has, among others, the authority to amend the text of the Convention and its annexes (for instance as an outcome of the current exercise to

⁴ Unless they do not possess any of hazardous characteristics listed in Annex III to the Convention.



review of the annexes I and III), to collect information, and to adopt guidance documents and technical guidelines covering cadmium wastes.

- 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: The Secretariat is not aware of factors preventing action/progress on addressing the issue.*
- 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...).*

The Basel Convention has the objective of protecting human health and the environment from wastes that are hazardous or require special consideration. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention has the authority to decide on any further action to protect human health and the environment from wastes containing cadmium that are hazardous.

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.*)

Further work at the national level could encompass training and capacity building activities for the prevention and environmentally sound management (ESM) of wastes that have cadmium or cadmium compounds (Y26) and metal wastes and wastes consisting of alloys of cadmium (A1010). This could also address the control of transboundary movements of such wastes. The Secretariat will, subject to the availability of resources and upon request, provide technical assistance to Parties regarding the minimization of the generation of cadmium wastes, the control of transboundary movements of cadmium wastes, and their ESM.

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.*)

Similar to response 9, training and capacity building activities could take place at the regional level on cadmium wastes, making use of existing Basel Convention regional centres which have been established to support Basel Convention Parties to implement the Convention.

4. Glyphosate

Screening Question - Glyphosate

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

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

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

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

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:
As highlighted in the Assessment report, while the carcinogenicity of glyphosate is under discussion and risks of consumer exposure through diet are low, risks for non-targeted may exist. The chemicals nor its compounds are targeted by the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. However, the production, formulation and use of glyphosate may fall under the scope of the Basel Convention, as being addressed under the BC waste category Y4 ("wastes from the production, formulation and use of biocides"). As stated in the corresponding fact sheet, many countries have taken steps to legally ban or restrict glyphosate. Parties to the Rotterdam Convention have the opportunity to consider transmitting their final regulatory actions to the Secretariat of the Convention which would be then transmitted to the Chemical Review Committee for review which may decide to recommend to the Conference of the Parties whether the chemical should be made subject to the Prior Informed Consent procedure and, accordingly, be listed in Annex III.

Technical Questions - Glyphosate

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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

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

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

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

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

- Regulatory control measures

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Lead

Screening Question - Lead

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

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

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

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

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

Technical Questions - Lead

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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

We responded "do not know", however we note that there is ongoing work under the Basel Convention on waste acid-lead batteries.

As highlighted in the Assessment report, a number of international instruments and actions have been taken to address lead, including actions under the Basel Convention and Rotterdam Convention.

Under the Basel Convention, wastes that have, as constituents, lead or lead compounds and waste consisting of alloys of lead are covered by the Convention's obligations. The Convention's provisions, i.e. to control transboundary movements of the wastes, promote their environmentally sound management and minimize their generation, apply to Parties to the Convention.

Under the Basel Convention, there are ongoing efforts to update technical guidelines on wastes lead-acid batteries which will be submitted for possible adoption in May 2025.

Technical assistance is provided to countries to support them to manage their used lead-acid batteries in an environmentally sound manner through joint activities undertaken by the BRS Secretariat and UNEP.

Under the Rotterdam Convention, the main ingredients of lead (TEL and TML) are listed in Annex III of the Convention and therefore the Convention's provisions apply to those chemicals.

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: Wastes that have, as constituents, lead or lead compounds and waste consisting of alloys of lead are covered by the Basel Convention. Looking ahead, the Conference of the Parties has, among others, the authority to amend the text of the Convention and its annexes (for instance as an outcome of the current exercise to review of the annexes I and III), to collect information, and to adopt guidance documents and technical guidelines covering wastes containing wastes.*

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*: The Secretariat is not aware of factors preventing action/progress on addressing the issue.

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...*).

The Basel Convention has the objective of protecting human health and the environment from wastes that are hazardous or require special consideration. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention has the authority to decide on any further action to protect human health and the environment from wastes containing lead that are hazardous.

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*).

Further work at the national level could encompass training and capacity-building activities for the prevention and environmentally sound management (ESM) of wastes containing lead. This could also address the control transboundary movements of such wastes.

The Secretariat will, subject to the availability of resources and upon request, provide technical assistance to Parties regarding the minimization of the generation of wastes containing lead, the control of transboundary movements of such wastes, and their ESM. Additionally, some technical assistance activities targeting waste lead-acid batteries are planned under the Basel Convention for the biennium 2024-2025⁵.

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*).

Similar to response 9, training and capacity-building activities could take place at the regional level on waste containing lead, making use of existing Basel Convention regional centres which have been established to support Basel Convention Parties to implement the Convention.

⁵ Programmes of work activity fact sheets for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the biennium 2024-2025 (Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51/Rev.1.

6. Microplastics

Screening Question - Microplastics

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

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

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

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

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

The BRS Conventions do not regulate the production and usage of intentionally added microplastics. Nonetheless, we acknowledge that when these become waste, they could impact the environmentally sound management and the potential long-range environmental transport of hazardous chemicals.

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
- No
- Do not know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. Neonicotinoids

Screening Question - Neonicotinoids

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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

We responded "do not know", as there is no assessment/request from Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to require further international actions on neonicotinoids. Given the similarities with HHPs and the overlap in coverage, we refer to the comments made related to the HHPs section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Very low

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

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

8. Organotins

Screening Question - Organotins

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

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

We responded "do not know", as there is no assessment/request from Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to require further international actions on organotins as a group.

As highlighted in the Assessment report, a number of international instruments and actions have been taken to address specific organotins. At the international level, the focus has been on tri-organotins and their uses in anti-fouling paints on ships, with the listing of tributyltin compounds under the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP and FAO 2014; UNEP and FAO 2015) and the inclusion of organotins (i.e. tributyltins) in the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships (the AFS Convention; signed in 2001 and entered into force in 2008).

In accordance with the procedures of the Convention for listing new chemicals to Annex III to the Convention, and in line with the wish of Parties, the framework provided by the Rotterdam Convention may provide an avenue for further international action on organotins, e.g. targeting other types of organotins going beyond the already listed tributyltin compounds.

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: Tributyltin compounds are covered by the Rotterdam Convention.*

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: The Secretariat is not aware of factors preventing action/progress on addressing the issue*

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.*)

Further work at the national level could encompass training and capacity-building activities for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention's provisions, particularly regarding tributyltin compounds. This would improve the control of international trade of those chemicals by assisting countries to enhance their national decision-making on their import and export of the chemicals, including to strengthen their national capacities related to hazard and risk evaluation and draft and submit import responses to the Secretariat and export notifications to the importing Parties; and to strengthen capacity for the development/updating of legal and institutional frameworks. The Secretariat will, subject to the availability of resources and upon request, provide technical assistance to Parties regarding the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention's provisions.

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.*)

Similar to response 9, training and capacity-building activities could take place at the regional level on the Rotterdam Convention's provisions, making use of existing Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, as well as other regional arrangements, e.g. UNEP and FAO regional offices, which are active in supporting Parties to the Rotterdam Convention in their efforts to implement the Convention.

9. Phthalates

Screening Question - Phthalates

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

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

We responded "do not know", as there is no assessment/request from Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to require further international actions on phthalates as such.

Phthalates are not targeted by the Rotterdam Convention nor the Stockholm Convention. However, the wastes from the production, formulation and use of phthalates may fall under the scope of the Basel Convention, as being covered by the BC waste category Y13 ("wastes from the production, formulation and use of resins, latex, plasticizers, glues/adhesives").

As we responded earlier, there is ongoing work under the Basel Convention to review of the Convention's Annex I, including entry Y13, and Annex III, with a view to:

- i) Improve/update the description of categories of wastes in Annex I and the list of hazardous characteristics in Annex III;
- ii) Improve environmental controls by including any additional categories of wastes in Annex I and any additional hazardous characteristics in Annex III that occur in practice; and
- iii) Clarify the descriptions in Annexes I and III to address conflicts or overlaps.

Looking ahead, the Conference of the Parties has, among others, the authority to amend the text of the Convention and its annexes (for instance as an outcome of the current exercise to review of the annexes I and III).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Lack of technical capacity*
- Lack of scientific knowledge*
- Difficulties in sharing knowledge and coordinating action among different stakeholders and across sectors*
- Difficulty with resource mobilisation*
- Lack of economically feasible green and sustainable alternatives*
- Only coordinated international action can address the issue (e.g., due to transboundary effects, or prevalence of chemicals in international trade)?*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Agriculture and Food*
- Biodiversity*
- Climate Change*
- Health*
- Human Rights*
- Sustainable Consumption and Production*

- World of Work*
- Other: _____*

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

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

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

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

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

10. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

Screening Question - Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

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

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

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

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

- a. If you selected "No, other" in the previous question, please elaborate here:
As mentioned in the assessment report, the Basel Convention addressed PAHs at the end of products' life cycles, for example in ship breaking, and could cover the movement of used tyres, but it does not directly address consumer products that contain PAHs during their production and use.

Technical Questions - Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

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

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

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

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

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. Triclosan

Screening Question - Triclosan

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

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

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

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

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

Technical Questions - Triclosan

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. Chemicals in products (CiP)

Screening Question - Chemicals in products (CiP)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

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

We responded "do not know", as there is no assessment/request from Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that call for further specific international actions on the chemicals in products (CiP) programme, as per the definition provided by SAICM. However, there are numerous tracks of work under the conventions that are relevant to the issues aimed at being addressed under the CiP programme. For example, Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention provides that each Party shall identify persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in stockpiles, products and articles in use, and in wastes, to the extent practicable. During the recent Stockholm COP-11 held in May 2023, it was acknowledged that Parties face challenges in implementing these provisions, particularly in relation to traceability of chemicals, including those found in plastics. In decision SC-11/12, the COP requested the POPs Review Committee to explore options for identifying these chemicals in stockpiles, products, articles in use, and wastes, with the aim of assisting Parties in their implementation. The Committee is expected to commence its work at the nineteenth meeting scheduled to take place from 9 to 13 October 2023 in Rome.

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are important international treaties related to hazardous chemicals and wastes. Each of these conventions addresses different aspects of the chemicals management, and their relevance to the CiP program can be understood as follows:

The Basel Convention aims at controlling the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and promoting their environmentally sound management. It aims to minimize the generation of hazardous wastes and ensure their environmentally sound management including disposal. The interlinkages between the Basel Convention and the CiP lie in the management of hazardous chemicals that may be present in products which will ultimately become wastes. Getting information on the chemical content of a product throughout its life cycle is key in determining the environmentally sound disposal methods. This information on chemical content of product is even more essential in circular economies in which materials do not become "waste"

but are reused or recycled. Those working in the recycling and waste handling industry need to know if they face exposure to harmful chemicals when handling and recycling certain products and if the recycling of those products could possibly (re)introduce contaminants into the supply chain.

The Rotterdam Convention aims at promoting shared responsibility and cooperative efforts in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides. It requires exporting countries to provide information to importing countries about the potential risks associated with the chemicals being shipped. The importing country can then make an informed decision about whether to accept the import. The relevance of the Rotterdam Convention to the CiP program lies in regulating the international trade of chemicals that may eventually be used in the manufacturing of products, ensuring that importing countries are aware of any potential hazards and can take necessary precautions.

The Stockholm Convention targets the reduction and elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), which are highly toxic substances that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate in living organisms, and pose a risk to human health and the environment. The Convention aims to control and ultimately phase out the production, use, and release of POPs. As mentioned above, the relevance of the Stockholm Convention to the chemicals in products program is in addressing the presence of POPs in products, especially those that might be released into the environment during the product's lifecycle or disposal. Note that while recycling of products and articles containing POPs is generally prohibited, with the exception of commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether and commercial octabromodiphenyl ether, which have specific exemptions for recycling until 2030. Furthermore, the Convention provides labelling requirements for products and articles containing hexabromocyclododecane, pentachlorophenol and PCB, The Secretariat has developed guidance on the labelling of products and articles that contain POPs (<https://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NationalImplementationPlans/Guidance/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>).

In summary, the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions are relevant to the CiP program as they collectively address issues related to the management, trade, and control of hazardous chemicals and substances, with a focus on protecting human health and the environment from the adverse effects of these substances. Implementing these conventions can support safer and more sustainable practices concerning the use and disposal of chemicals in various products.

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:* Looking ahead, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions have, among others, the authority to amend the text of the conventions and their annexes, to collect information, and to adopt guidance documents and technical guidelines to address new issues within the Conventions' scope.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Agriculture and food production*
- Construction*

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Very high*
- High*
- Medium*

Low

Very low

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

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

13. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)

Screening Question - Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Technical Questions - Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

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

We responded "do not know", as there is no request from Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to require further international actions on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals as a group of chemicals.

However, many of the POPs listed under the Stockholm Convention are considered endocrine disruptors.

Moreover, the expert working group on the review of Annexes, in the context of its review of Annex III as mentioned in reply to question 1 on arsenic, is discussing whether “endocrine disruptor” or “endocrine disruption” could be put forward as a possible new hazardous characteristic under the Basel Convention. As currently discussed, the characteristic reads “An endocrine disruptor is an exogenous substance or mixture that alters function(s) of the endocrine system and consequently causes adverse health effects in an intact organism, or its progeny, or (sub)populations”. For this characteristic to be added to the Convention, a Party would need to submit a specific amendment proposal to that effect. In addition, the expert working group, in the context of its work to determine whether any additional characteristics in relation to plastic

waste should be added to Annex III to the Convention, has concluded that that characteristic seemed relevant in relation to plastic wastes or to classify plastic wastes as hazardous.

The resolution on the impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health adopted at the 76th WHA requested the Director General of the WHO to, among other things, work jointly with the UNEP, to update the report entitled State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012 to be prepared prior to the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in line with the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/7. The BRS would be delighted to contribute inputs through UNEP and collaborate in this endeavor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14. Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)

Screening Question - Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

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

We responded "do not know", as there is no assessment/request from Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that require further international actions on Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants (EPPPs), as per the definition of emerging issue provided by SAICM. However, we note that there is ongoing work under the Basel Convention which affects three waste categories that are relevant to pharmaceuticals, as further described below.

It is to be noted that the Basel Convention covers waste from clinical wastes from medical care in hospitals, medical centres and clinics (Y1), wastes from the production and preparation of pharmaceutical products (Y2) and waste pharmaceuticals, drugs and medicines (Y3). The Basel Convention's provisions apply to these types of wastes for Parties to the Convention, i.e. to control transboundary movements of the wastes, promote their environmentally sound management and minimize their generation.

The Basel Convention could then be considered as part of the international responses available to control the entry points of releases of pharmaceuticals in the environment, in particular through better control of wastes from pharmaceutical manufacturing and environmentally sound management of expired pharmaceutical products.

In that regard, the Convention has adopted Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Biomedical and Healthcare Wastes (Y1; Y3) (2022) – Available at: <https://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalMatters/DevelopmentofTechnicalGuidelines/TechnicalGuidelines/tabid/8025/Default.aspx>

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:* Pharmaceuticals wastes are covered by the Basel Convention. Looking ahead, the Conference of the Parties has, among others, the authority to amend the text of the Convention and its annexes (for instance as an outcome of the current exercise to review of the annexes I and III), to collect information, and to adopt guidance documents and technical guidelines covering pharmaceutical wastes.

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:* The Secretariat is not aware of factors preventing action/progress on addressing the issue.

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...).

The Basel Convention has the objective of protecting human health and the environment from wastes that are hazardous or require special consideration. The Conference of the Parties to the

Basel Convention has the authority to decide on any further action to protect human health and the environment from pharmaceuticals wastes that are hazardous.

- 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).*

Further work at the national level could encompass training and capacity building activities for the prevention and environmentally sound management (ESM) of biomedical and healthcare wastes. This could also address the control of transboundary movements of such wastes. The Secretariat will, subject to the availability of resources and upon request, provide technical assistance to Parties regarding the minimization of the generation of pharmaceuticals wastes, the control of transboundary movements of such wastes, and their ESM.

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).*

Similar to response 9, training and capacity building activities could take place at the regional level on biomedical and healthcare wastes, making use of existing Basel Convention regional centres which have been established to support Basel Convention Parties to implement the Convention.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

Please provide a brief explanation for your response*.

We responded "do not know", as there is no assessment/request from Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to require further international actions on Hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP), as per the definition of emerging issue provided by SAICM.

However, both the Basel and Stockholm Conventions have taken a number of actions to, respectively, promote the sound management and disposal of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), and phase out a number of hazardous chemicals considered as POP contained in EEE.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is defined under the Basel Convention as electrical or electronic equipment that is waste, including all components, sub-assemblies and consumables that are part of the equipment at the time the equipment becomes waste.

E-waste can be categorized as hazardous or non-hazardous waste under the Basel Convention. When in e-waste there is presence of toxic materials such as mercury, lead or brominated flame retardants e-waste should be classified as hazardous waste according to the Basel Convention. E-waste may also contain precious metals such as gold, copper and nickel and rare materials of

strategic value such as indium and palladium. These precious and heavy metals could be recovered, recycled and used as valuable source of secondary raw materials.

The Basel Convention started to address e-waste issues since 2002, when The Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) was adopted by COP6. The Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Electrical and Electronic Waste was adopted at COP8, in 2006, whereby Parties to the Convention agreed to cooperate, among others, to develop policies and strategies, to enhance the environmentally sound collection, separation from household waste, repair, recycling and final disposal of e-waste and to prevent illegal traffic of e-waste.

Decision IX/6, adopted by COP9 gave a mandate to the Secretariat to implement a technical assistance work plan to enhance the environmentally sound management of e-waste in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Since then, technical assistance to enhance the ESM e-waste remains a priority area of technical cooperation among Parties to the Convention.

In addition, COP9 established a new partnership: The Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE), which was active until COP13, when PACE concluded its activities. A new partnership, The Follow up Partnership to PACE, was established at COP14, in 2019, with a mandate to continue awareness raising activities on e-waste and cooperation on ESM of mobile phones and computing equipment.

At COP15, in 2022, the mandate of the Follow up Partnership to PACE was extended to include, in addition to mobile phones and computing equipment, television screens, video and audio equipment, refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment. The partnership name was changed to reflect the enlarged scope and became “Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste”, abbreviated PACE II.

At COP14, the revised technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non waste under the Basel Convention, was adopted, on an interim basis. The technical guidelines were updated again at COP15 and COP16. The technical guidelines provide practical guidance to Parties on how to address the management of electronic and electrical waste (e-waste) in an environmentally sound manner, and then establish effective and sustainable e-waste management systems.

At COP15, in 2022, the Parties adopted amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention to list both hazardous and non-hazardous e-waste in the Annexes of the Convention. Non-hazardous e-wastes are listed in Annex II with the code Y49 and hazardous e-wastes are listed under a new code in Annex VIII: A1181. Entries B1110 and B4030 were deleted and also the code A1180, which will be substituted by the new code A1181. The amendments will become effective on 1 January 2025. After this date, both hazardous and non-hazardous e-waste transboundary movements will be subject to the Prior Informed Consent Procedure (PIC) according to the Basel Convention.

In the context of the work on the review of Annex I, as mentioned in our reply to question 1 on Arsenic, the expert working on the review of Annexes is discussing whether “Waste electrical and electronic equipment including scrap” could be put forward as a possible new hazardous waste stream category listed in Annex I. For this new entry to be added to the Convention, a Party would need to submit a specific amendment proposal to that effect. The work of the expert working group to review the hazardous constituents listed in Annex I and the hazardous characteristics listed in

Annex III may also lead to further international action in relation to such constituents and characteristics as they pertain to e-waste.

As stated above, a number of chemicals contained in EEE are listed under the Stockholm Convention as POPs (e.g. decaBDE) and are hence subject to the provisions of the Stockholm Convention (e.g. elimination in production/use and environmentally sound management of wastes containing POPs). The Stockholm Convention is then part of the avenues that may also be explored at the international level to eliminate and restrict the use of additional hazardous substances in EEE.

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:* Electronic and electrical wastes are covered by the Basel Convention. Looking ahead, the Conference of the Parties has, among others, the authority to amend the text of the Convention and its annexes (like it did in 2022 to add non-hazardous ewastes to the Annex II), to collect information, and to adopt guidance documents and technical guidelines covering those wastes.

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: The Secretariat is not aware of factors preventing action/progress on addressing the issue.
- 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...).

The Basel Convention has the objective of protecting human health and the environment from wastes that are hazardous or require special consideration. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention has the authority to decide on any further action to protect human health and the environment from electronic and electrical wastes.

- 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).*

Further work at the national level could encompass training and capacity-building activities for the prevention and environmentally sound management (ESM) of electronic and electrical wastes. This could also address the control of transboundary movements of such wastes. The Secretariat will, subject to the availability of resources and upon request, provide technical assistance to Parties regarding the minimization of the generation of ewastes, the control of transboundary movements of such wastes, and their ESM. In the biennium 2024-2025, technical assistance activities targeting e-waste are planned under the Basel and Stockholm conventions.⁶

⁶ Programmes of work activity fact sheets for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the biennium 2024-2025 (Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/46/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/30/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/51/Rev.1.

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.*)

Similar to response 9, training and capacity building activities could take place at the regional level on electronic and electrical wastes, making use of existing Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres which have been established to support Parties to implement the conventions.

16. Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)

Screening Question - Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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

We responded "do not know", as there is no assessment/request from Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that require further international actions on HHPs, in the context of the emerging issues under SAICM. However, it is to be noted that all pesticides listed under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are considered HHPs, as per the definition of HHP of the FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management.⁷

In that respect, any actions taken and work carried out under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions contribute directly to the sound management of HHPs, as recognized by the Assessment report.

⁷ HHPs are defined 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 WHO or GHS or their listing in relevant binding international agreements or conventions”.

As underscored in the Assessment report, international organisations have developed and used different instruments to support countries in managing HHPs; these include setting norms, particularly in the form of codes of conduct and guidelines for identification and sound management of HHPs under the joint leadership of FAO and WHO (FAO and WHO 2019); the development of guidance and tools; and joint activities assisting countries in raising awareness, building capacity and managing HHPs.

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, together with the FAO's voluntary Code of Conduct, promote a life cycle approach and provide the necessary tools for managing pesticides.

Under the Rotterdam Convention which assists Parties to reduce risks from certain hazardous pesticides in international trade, the following tools are available:


- Sharing of information and technical assistance conducted on alternatives to hazardous pesticides. Information on alternatives is contained in the Decisions guidance documents (DGD) and in the FRA notification forms submitted by Parties;
- FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit;
- Final Regulatory Action Evaluation Toolkit (FRAE Toolkit);
- Support to customs and on labelling including customs training activities.

Under the Stockholm Convention which requires Parties to eliminate or reduce releases from persistent organic pollutants pesticides, the following tools are available:

- A financial mechanism for the provision of adequate and sustainable financial resources to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to assist in the implementation of the Convention as it relates to POPs pesticides;
- Technical assistance provided to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, upon request, by the Secretariat or by other partners, such as Stockholm Convention regional centres;
- Various guidance documents and manuals on inventorying POPs pesticides, developing/updating national implementation plans, on management of POPs pesticides and on consideration of alternative to POPs chemicals;
- Guidance on identification and management of sites contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;

Under the Basel Convention which requires Parties to manage waste containing, consisting of or contaminated by pesticides, the following tools are available:

- The prior informed consent procedure requiring that, before an export of pesticides wastes may take place, the State of export notify the authorities of the States of import and transit, providing them with detailed information on the intended movement. The movement may only proceed if and when all States concerned have given their written consent;

-  Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of POPs pesticides wastes;⁸
- Technical assistance provided, upon request, by the Secretariat or by other partners, such as the Basel Convention regional centres;
- Practical guidance for the development of inventories of obsolete pesticides and pesticide-container waste;
- Toolkit for the Environmentally Sound Management of hazardous wastes and other wastes at:
<https://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMToolkit/Overview/tabid/5839/Default.aspx>

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 number of HHPs are covered by the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Looking ahead, the conferences of the Parties have, among others, the authority to amend the text of the conventions and their annexes (for instance to list new chemicals), to collect information, and to adopt guidance documents and technical guidelines covering HHPs.*

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: _____*

⁸ UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.3/Rev.1.

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: The Secretariat is not aware of factors preventing action/progress on addressing the issue.*

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...).*

The Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions share the objective of protecting human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals. The conferences of the Parties to those conventions have the authority to decide on any further action to protect human health and the environment from hazardous pesticides in accordance with the conventions' provisions.

- 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).*

Further work at the national level could encompass training and capacity-building activities for the sound management of HHPs through the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

The Secretariat will, subject to the availability of resources and upon request, provide technical assistance to Parties regarding the identification of HHPs, implementation of related risk

mitigation measures, including risk evaluation for registration capacities, implementation of Integrated Pest Management as well as the work related to identification and destruction of obsolete stocks of pesticides including POPs.

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).*

Similar to response 9, training and capacity building activities could take place at the regional level on HHPs, through the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, making use of existing Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres and other arrangements, such as UNEP and FAO regional and national offices, as applicable.

17. Lead in paint

Screening Question - Lead in paint

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

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

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

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

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

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

Technical Questions - Lead in paint

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Very high*

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low

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

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

18. Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

Screening Question - Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Technical Questions - Nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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

We responded “We do not know” as there is no assessment/request from the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that require further international actions on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, in the context of the emerging issues under SAICM.

However, the Basel Convention has been considering the issue of waste containing nanomaterials since 2017.

In May 2017, COP13 requested the Open-ended Working Group to consider further work that may be carried out in relation to waste containing nanomaterials, on the basis of a paper to be prepared by the Secretariat on issues related to such waste. The report is available [here](#).

The [report](#) on issues related to waste containing nanomaterials and options for further work under the Convention was considered by OEWG11 which invited Parties and others to submit comments thereon, in particular on the options for further work under the Convention.

The report and the comments received thereon were considered by COP14 (2019). COP14 invited Parties and others to make available information related to activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials, including case studies about and best practices relating

to the management of waste containing nanomaterials. Similar requests were made by COP15 (2022) and COP16 (2023).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- a. Please explain your response, including examples if possible: _____
5. Can you point to existing initiatives that could be replicated or scaled up at the international level? *(Open space answer. Please share a weblink to the initiative(s) if available).*
6. Which sectors/value chains need to be closely involved in developing solutions? *(Multi-choice. Please visit the two-page factsheet on [Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials](#) for more information on the topic. If you select "Other", please elaborate your response).*
- Agriculture and food production*
 - Construction*
 - Electronics*
 - Energy*
 - Health*
 - Labour*
 - Pharmaceuticals*
 - Public, private, blended finance*
 - Retail*
 - Textiles*
 - Transportation*
 - Waste*
 - Other: _____*
7. Which international forum or instrument would be best placed to take the lead on international action on this issue? *(Open space to elaborate. Please provide specific examples of e.g., intergovernmental bodies, multilateral agreements within or outside the chemicals and waste cluster, international instruments...).*
- a. Which international agendas have important linkages with this issue of concern? *(Multiple answers based on list below. For more information, please see the [UNEP assessment paper on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste](#)):*
- Agriculture and Food*
 - Biodiversity*
 - Climate Change*
 - Health*
 - Human Rights*
 - Sustainable Consumption and Production*
 - World of Work*
 - Other: _____*

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

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

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

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

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

19. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)

Screening Question - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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

As highlighted in the Assessment report, the majority of efforts at the international level have focused on phasing out long-chain PFASs. The Stockholm Convention has been a key platform for doing so at the international level as currently some of the long-chained PFAs are being listed under the Convention and are hence set for restriction and elimination. Those are:

- PFOS, its salts and PFOSF;
- PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds;
- PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds.

The POPs Review Committee is currently reviewing long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids (LC-PFCAs), their salts and related compounds.

The provisions of the Convention require Parties to:

- Restrict or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the PFASs and their precursors listed therein;

- Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with listed PFASs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner;

The Convention also provides the following:

- **Assessment:** Studies are carried out on PFASs, such as risk profiles and risk management evaluations for PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS and their related substances; through the work of the POPs Review Committee;
- **Safer alternatives:** Assessment of alternatives are carried out to PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS and their related compounds, including during the development of risk management evaluations done by the POPs Review Committee;
- **Inventory:** Guidance on inventories of PFOS, PFOA and their related substances, have been developed for investigating the amounts of relevant PFASs produced, used, stored, disposed/recycled in the country. Inventories are conducted by Parties when preparing or updating their national implementation plans (NIPs);
- **Available techniques and practices:** Guidance on best available techniques, best environmental practices, and waste management of PFOS, PFOA and their related substances, have been developed in order to assist Parties in the sound management and disposal of those substances;
- **Awareness-raising:** Raise awareness of Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) such as PFAS;
- **Technical assistance:** Capacity-building and training are provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to support Parties in their effort to phase out PFASs and manage their waste in an environmentally sound manner.

The Convention currently allows some exempted uses for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and time-limited exempted uses for PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compound. However, these exemptions are subject to strict conditions for use (need to register), reporting requirements, and periodic reviews to ensure that there is a continued need for those and there is progress in eliminating those substances.

Additional information on the actions carried out under the Stockholm Convention on PFASs can be found at:

<https://chm.pops.int/Implementation/IndustrialPOPs/PFAS/Overview/tabid/5221/Default.aspx>.

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 number of PFASs are covered by the Stockholm Convention. Looking ahead, the Conference of the Parties has, among others, the authority to amend the text of the Convention and its annexes (for instance to list new chemicals), to collect information, and to adopt guidance documents and technical guidelines covering listed PFASs.



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: The Secretariat is not aware of factors preventing action/progress on addressing the issue*

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...).*

The Stockholm Convention has the objective of protecting human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention has the authority to decide on any further action to protect human health and the environment from listed PFASs, and possible future PFASs in accordance with the listing process.

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*).

Further work at the national level could encompass training and capacity-building activities. The Secretariat will, subject to the availability of resources and upon request, provide technical assistance to Parties regarding the sound management of listed PFASs through the effective implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

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*).

Similar to response 9, training and capacity building activities could take place at the regional level on PFASs, through the effective implementation of the Stockholm Convention, making use of existing Stockholm Convention regional centres.

Conclusion:

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

GCO-II issues:

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

List of SAICM issues:

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

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

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

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

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

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).*