

**Fifth session of the International Conference for Chemicals
Management (ICCM5)**

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**Potential areas of collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of the
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the new "beyond 2020"
chemicals and waste global policy framework instrument**

Submission by the United Nations Environment Programme

I. Introduction

1. The annex to the present note contains a submission by the United Nations Environment Programme titled “Potential areas of collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the new “beyond 2020” chemicals and waste global policy framework instrument.” It is reproduced as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

Annex

Summary

The present submission contains the document titled “Potential areas of collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the new "beyond 2020" chemicals and waste global policy framework instrument.” The document is structured into four sections. It first highlights the relevance of fostering collaboration and cooperation between multilateral environmental agreements and other initiatives from the chemicals and waste and biodiversity clusters. It proceeds to outline relevant steps taken in past years to build such cooperation and concludes by identifying key areas for strengthened collaboration, cooperation, and synergies between clusters, with a focus on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the development and implementation of the new "beyond 2020" chemicals and waste global policy framework instrument.

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Possible action

The Conference may wish to consider the information provided in the present annex and adopt a resolution on “collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the [new framework instrument for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020]” along the following lines:

The International Conference on Chemicals Management,

Recalling the Overarching Policy Strategy and the mandate of the Strategic Approach to enhance cooperation on the sound management of chemicals and waste,

Welcoming the resolutions and other outcomes of sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly that contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including resolution 5/7 inviting Governments and stakeholders to put in place an ambitious, improved enabling framework to address the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2022 reflecting a life cycle approach,

Taking note of the report on the activities undertaken by the secretariat to implement the Strategic Approach between July 2015 and June 2023,

Taking note of the information provided by stakeholders on activities undertaken to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach, including the report submitted by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to the Conference in its fifth session,

Emphasizing the cross-cutting and cross-sectoral relevance of the sound management of chemicals and waste to many of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to addressing the three planetary crises of pollution, biodiversity, and climate change,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, as well as the secretariats of other relevant conventions, particularly from the biodiversity and climate clusters, to ensure mutual support and complementarities for the implementation of the [new framework instrument for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020] and to develop a proposal for activities providing such mutual support to be considered by the Conference at its sixth session,
2. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to collaborate and enhance cooperation with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and its Participating Organizations, as appropriate,
3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and *invites* stakeholders to take into account the objectives of the Framework in their actions to implement the [new framework instrument],
4. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with relevant organizations, including those referred to in paragraph 1, a report about interlinkages between the [new framework instrument] and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, outlining entry points for enhancing collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of the two frameworks, for consideration by the Conference at its sixth session,
5. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and other stakeholders to pursue additional activities aimed at strengthening collaboration and cooperation with the biodiversity, climate change, and chemicals and waste sectors for the implementation of the [new framework instrument],
6. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference at its sixth session on its activities to implement the present resolution, as appropriate.

Potential areas of collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the new "beyond 2020" chemicals and waste global policy framework instrument

I. An introduction to collaboration and cooperation between the chemicals and waste and biodiversity clusters of multilateral environmental agreements

1. As a result of the multiple functions of chemicals for humanity, their consumption and production are rapidly increasing. Modern societies are "living in the most-chemical-intensive era in human history," and such substances are commonly found in nearly all day-to-day human activities and products, from antibiotics to veterinary inputs.¹ The size of the global chemical industry is projected to double by 2030, which presents not only risks to human and planetary health but also opportunities to advance innovation, sustainable practices,² and further alignment with global frameworks designed to address the three interconnected planetary crises of climate change, nature loss, and pollution.³

2. More specifically, the unsound management of chemicals and waste impacts nature in numerous ways. According to the global assessment report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), *pollution* in its varied forms is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss.⁴ For example, mercury deriving from or used in mining activities, including artisanal and small-scale gold mining, can lead to the contamination of soils, streams, and rivers, as well as put species at higher risk of immune, reproductive, and/or carcinogenic effects, including in Arctic environments far from major sources of mercury emissions and releases. Similarly, pesticides used in agriculture threaten birdlife and lead to a decline in bird and pollinator populations.⁵

3. Within the context of the risks and opportunities associated with the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, as well as the negative impact of pollution on nature, this submission highlights the relevance of fostering collaboration and cooperation between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) – and other initiatives – from the *chemicals and waste* and *biodiversity* clusters (section I). It will go on to outline relevant steps taken in past years to build such cooperation (section II) and identify key areas for strengthened collaboration, cooperation, and synergies between clusters, with a focus on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the development and implementation of the new "beyond 2020" chemicals and waste global policy framework instrument ("new framework instrument") (sections III and IV).⁶

4. The chemicals and waste cluster encompasses a number of MEAs, as well as other binding and voluntary agreements and further initiatives relating to safeguarding human and planetary health from hazardous chemicals and waste,⁷ including the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)⁸ and related Intersessional Process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.⁹ Global MEAs from the chemicals and waste cluster include the following:

¹ UNEP, *Global Environment Outlook 6* (Cambridge, UN Environment, 2019).

² UNEP, *Global Chemicals Outlook II: From legacies to innovative solutions* (Cambridge, UN Environment, 2019).

³ See UNEP, *Making Peace with Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity, and pollution emergencies* (Nairobi, UN Environment, 2021).

⁴ IPBES, *The global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services* (Bonn, IPBES Secretariat, 2019).

⁵ For a comprehensive overview of the interlinkages between the chemicals and waste conventions and biodiversity, see: Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions (BRS), and the Minamata Convention on Mercury (MC), *Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity: Key insights* (Geneva, 2021).

⁶ SAICM/IP.4/11, Annex: Intersessional Process Single Consolidated Document.

⁷ SAICM/IP.4/INF/3, Assessment on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste management and options to coordinate and cooperate on areas of common interest.

⁸ SAICM/ICCM.1/7.

⁹ See SAICM/ICCM.4/15, Annex I, IV/4: The Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

- a. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,
 - b. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,
 - c. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and
 - d. Minamata Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention).
5. The biodiversity cluster similarly encompasses several biodiversity-related MEAs, other binding and voluntary agreements, and further initiatives, including the following eight globally-focused MEAs participating in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions¹⁰:
- a. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),
 - b. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),
 - c. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS),
 - d. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention),
 - e. International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC),
 - f. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA),
 - g. International Whaling Commission (IWC), and
 - h. World Heritage Convention (WHC).

6. Increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of MEAs through increased cooperation and the identification of potential synergies have already been given significant consideration in international *fora*.¹¹ However, efforts to date have mainly focused on cooperation and collaboration within the same thematic cluster.¹² Nonetheless, within both the chemicals and waste and biodiversity clusters, there are common interests in reducing the impacts of anthropogenic activities on nature and achieving effective delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its sustainable development goals (SDGs).¹³ This includes SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production, and related target 12.4 on the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes,¹⁴ SDG 14 on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources, and SDG 15 on protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, and halting land degradation and biodiversity loss.

7. Building on complementarities and mutually supportive implementation can significantly enhance the delivery of instruments from both clusters. This has been increasingly addressed and considered by relevant initiatives and by the governing bodies of MEAs from the chemicals, waste, and biodiversity conventions, as seen in the section below.

¹⁰ For more information, see <https://www.cbd.int/blg/>

¹¹ See, for example, the synergies process under the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions (<https://www.brsmearg/Decisionmaking/Overview/SynergiesProcess>).

¹² Nordic Council of Ministers, *Strengthening collaboration and coordination between biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters* (Copenhagen, 2022).

¹³ A/RES/70/1, 70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

¹⁴ “By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.” For more information, see CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/12.

II. Examples of relevant steps on the road to building collaboration and cooperation between the chemicals and waste and biodiversity clusters for a beyond 2020 agenda

8. In the run-up to the fifteenth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP), which culminated in the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5 or "the Conference"), a number of governing bodies of MEAs from the chemicals and waste and biodiversity clusters – as well as the Intersessional Process and other initiatives¹⁵ – have considered issues relating to cooperation and collaboration between clusters as follows:

Examples of relevant steps in the context of MEAs and initiatives of the chemicals and waste cluster

9. Intersessional Process: The mandate for the Intersessional Process does not explicitly mention collaboration and cooperation between thematic clusters.¹⁶ Nonetheless, through its resolution I/V, the Conference decided that the work of the intersessional process is to be informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in its first session.¹⁷ Resolution 1/5 includes the outcome document "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term," which refers to the value of enhanced cooperation both within and outside the chemicals and waste clusters at national and international levels.¹⁸ The Intersessional Process has, therefore, explored potential cooperation in some areas,¹⁹ and through both formal and informal approaches in learning lessons from MEAs and other international processes to inform future directions on issues such as indicators, reporting, and capacity-building.²⁰ Furthermore, at the request of the Open-ended Working Group, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) submitted to the Intersessional Process at its third and fourth sessions an assessment of linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste management and options to coordinate and cooperate on areas of common interest.²¹ This assessment has informed discussions, including those under thematic group A, on targets, milestones, and indicators.²²

10. BRS conventions: The secretariats of the BRS conventions and the Minamata Convention have prepared an exploratory joint study entitled "Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste and multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity,"²³ which was submitted to the COPs to the BRS conventions in their resumed meetings in June 2022.²⁴ The COPs, through decisions BC-15/25, RC-10/14, and SC-10/21 on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations, welcomed the study.²⁵ Furthermore, they called on their parties to "take into account the objectives of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, once adopted, in their actions to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions" and requested the BRS Secretariat to "prepare [...] a report, including possible recommendations, on how the conventions could contribute to the post-2020 biodiversity framework, once adopted, for consideration by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings".²⁶ This report is currently being developed by the BRS Secretariat and will be considered by the Conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2025. It is worth noting that the most recent meetings of the BRS COPs concluded in May

¹⁵ For example, in April 2021, the SAICM secretariat, in partnership with the University of Cape Town, organized a discussion regarding the intersection of the biodiversity and chemicals management agendas through its Community of Practice on and the Sustainable Development Goals. More information available at

[https://saicmknowledge.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAICM UCT CDSG CoP 2021 Discussion 1 digest .pdf](https://saicmknowledge.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAICM%20UCT%20CDSD%20CoP%202021%20Discussion%201%20digest.pdf).

¹⁶ SAICM/ICCM.4/15, Annex I, IV/4: The Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

¹⁷ UNEP/EA.1/10, Annex I, 1/5. Chemicals and waste.

¹⁸ UNEP/EA.1/10, Annex I, 1/5. Chemicals and waste.

¹⁹ See, for example, a number of references to cooperation and collaboration in the draft intersessional process co-chairs single consolidated document. SAICM/IP.4/11, Annex: Intersessional Process Single Consolidated Document.

²⁰ See, for example, SAICM/IP.4/INF/40.

²¹ SAICM/IP.4/INF/3/Rev.1.

²² See, for example, SAICM/IP.3/12/Rev.1, Annex I, Outcome document of thematic group A – Target, milestones and indicators for further consideration in the development of indicators and milestones.

²³ The full report on biodiversity interlinkages includes annexed tables mapping the four conventions and their impacts on and benefits to biodiversity.

²⁴ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/44, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/29, UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/48 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/13.

²⁵ UNEP/CHW.15/31/Add.1, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1, UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1, Annex.

²⁶ UNEP/CHW.15/31/Add.1, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1, UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1, Annex..

2023. Through decisions BC-16/22, RC-11/9, and SC-11/21 the COPs welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,²⁷ and also reiterated the call directed at Parties to consider the framework's objectives in their actions to implement the BRS conventions.²⁸ In addition, through their decisions BC-15/21, RC-10/12, and SC-10/15, the BRS COPs welcomed the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022-25, which included language on cooperation and collaboration.²⁹ According to Paragraph 4 of the plan, it “*aims at supporting Parties to the three conventions in engaging in interministerial processes on strengthening chemicals and waste management in the long-term, contributing thereby to important framework processes such as prevention of climate change and protection of biodiversity.*”³⁰

11. **Minamata Convention on Mercury:** The exploratory joint study entitled "Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste and multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity" was also submitted to the COP to the Minamata Convention in its fourth session (March 2022).³¹ The COP, through its decision MC-4/12 on international cooperation and coordination, took note of the study and requested "*the secretariat to continue gathering knowledge about, raising awareness of and demonstrating, through appropriate means, the contribution of the implementation of the Minamata Convention to other relevant international regulations and policies, including those related to pollution, biodiversity, and climate change.*"³² The COP also requested the Minamata Convention Secretariat to prepare a report on how the convention could contribute to implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and submit the report for its consideration at its fifth meeting (in November 2023).³³ The report "Analysis of the mutually supportive implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" is now available as an information document (UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/27).³⁴

12. Figure 1 below highlights examples of decisions from the governing and decision-making bodies of chemicals & waste MEAs that represent examples of steps taken on the road to building cross-thematic synergies.

MEA(s)	Decision	Relevant text
Minamata Convention on Mercury	MC-4/12: International cooperation and coordination	" (...) 6. Requests the secretariat to continue gathering knowledge about, raising awareness of and demonstrating, through appropriate means, the contribution of the implementation of the Minamata Convention to other relevant international regulations and policies, including those related to pollution, biodiversity and climate change; 7. Also requests the secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the Convention could contribute to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, once adopted, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting; (...)"
BRS Conventions	Decisions BC-16/22, RC 11/9 and SC-11/21 International cooperation and coordination with other organizations	" (...) Welcomes the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and reiterates the call to Parties contained in paragraph 26 of decisions BC-15/25, RC-10/14 and SC-10/21 to take into account the objectives of the Framework in their actions to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Reiterates the requests contained in paragraph 27 of decisions BC-15/25, RC-10/14 and SC-10/21 to the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions could contribute to the post-2020 implementation of the 2030 Targets and 2050 Goals of Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity Framework, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the conventions at their next meetings; (...)"

²⁷ UNEP/CHW.16/30-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25-UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31.

²⁸ UNEP/CHW.16/30-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25-UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31.

²⁹ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/29-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/29.

³⁰ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/29-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/29.

³¹ UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/13, UNEP/CHW.15/INF/44, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/29, and UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/48.

³² UNEP/MC/COP.4/Dec.12, MC-4/12: International cooperation and coordination.

³³ UNEP/MC/COP.4/Dec.12, MC-4/12: International cooperation and coordination.

³⁴ UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/27.

	<p>Decisions BC-15/25, RC 10/14 and SC-10/21</p> <p>International cooperation and coordination with other organizations</p>	<p>“(…) 24. Welcomes the exploratory study entitled “Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity”, including its conclusions,⁸⁸ and the report entitled “Chemicals, wastes and climate change: interlinkages and potential for coordinated action”; 25. Requests the Secretariat to forward those reports to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, respectively, with an invitation to bring the reports to the attention of the respective conferences of the Parties to those conventions, as appropriate; 26. Calls on Parties to take into account the objectives of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, once adopted , in their actions to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; 27. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the conventions could contribute to the post-2020 biodiversity framework, once adopted, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings; (…)”</p>
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Figure 1: Examples of decisions from the chemicals & waste cluster that foster collaboration and cooperation.

Examples of relevant steps in the context of MEAs and initiatives of the biodiversity cluster

13. **Convention on Biological Diversity:** Various steps were taken in the context of the CBD to build collaboration and cooperation between clusters, especially with the chemicals and waste cluster, for a beyond 2020 agenda.³⁵ The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework, adopted by the COP to the CBD in its fifteenth meeting (2022),³⁶ provides an ambitious overarching framework to accelerate action across sectors and society towards protecting, restoring, and sustainably using nature. Given the relevance of the framework and associated decisions³⁷, entry points for collaboration will be addressed in detail in section IV below. Suffice here to mention that the CBD COP decision 15/13 on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations³⁸ reaffirms the importance of strengthening cooperation in implementing the CBD and its protocols and other MEAs and initiatives from other clusters, including the chemicals and waste conventions.³⁹ It also welcomes the contribution of other conventions, international organizations, and processes to enhance synergies in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁴⁰ and encourages the "*strengthening of cooperation and synergies among relevant conventions and multilateral agreements by, as appropriate and in line with their respective mandates, legal authority and responsibilities, establishing or renewing cooperation frameworks, as needed.*"⁴¹

14. **"Bern process" (cross-cutting):** In 2019, following a request from the CBD COP in its fourteenth meeting,⁴² the CBD Secretariat convened a consultation workshop of biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (the so-called Bern I workshop).⁴³ To allow for more in-depth consultations and further identification of concrete areas of work and cooperation amongst the conventions, a second workshop was convened by UNEP in 2021 (Bern II workshop).⁴⁴ Although the primary focus of this event was on the biodiversity-related MEAs, the secretariats of the BRS and Minamata conventions, as well as SAICM, were invited to participate. The outcome of the Bern II workshop included a series of concrete conclusions relating to the preparation of the future Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the associated monitoring framework, as well as to cooperation

³⁵ For example, UNEP has submitted in February 2020 a thought started to the Convention on Biological Diversity on “Strengthening the links between the biodiversity post-2020 framework with chemicals & waste”. More information available at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cbdocumentspublic-imagebucket-15w2zyxk3prl8/a426992b24d9968973e92a2878b5ad5f>.

³⁶ CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, 15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

³⁷ See decisions 15/5, 15/6, 15/7, 15/8, 15/9, and 15/13 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in its fifteenth meeting.

³⁸ CBD/COP/DEC/15/13, 15/13. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.

³⁹ CBD/COP/DEC/15/13, 15/13. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.

⁴⁰ CBD/COP/DEC/15/13, 15/13. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.

⁴¹ CBD/COP/DEC/15/13, 15/13. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.

⁴² CBD/COP/DEC/14/30, Decision 14/30.

⁴³ For the Bern I workshop report, see CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/6/2.

⁴⁴ For the Bern II workshop report, see

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/35906/Bern2rep21.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>.

in implementation.⁴⁵ The latter is relevant beyond the biodiversity cluster and include the following:

- a. There is a need for clarity on how each MEA supports the implementation of the framework and on what sort of joint programming and coordination mechanisms might be valuable at the international level.
- b. There is also a need for close interaction amongst various focal points at the national level and for ensuring that national biodiversity strategies and action plans address all MEAs concerning biodiversity-relevant actions.
- c. Cooperation and collaboration are critical to the cost-effective implementation of MEAs, including taking steps to avoid duplication of reporting on actions taken to implement the framework.

15. During the last quarter of 2022, UNEP submitted information on the outcomes of the Bern II workshop to the CMS Standing Committee, the ITPGRFA Governing Body, and the COPs to the Ramsar Convention and CITES.⁴⁶ The Bern II workshop report also informed discussion at CBD COP 14, having been made available earlier in the year to the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation.⁴⁷ Through these submissions, UNEP reiterated its commitment, based on its mandate, to continue its support across MEAs to facilitate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Bern II workshop report was reflected in the decisions of a number of governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions that met during the last quarter of 2022, which specifically acknowledged UNEP's role in strengthening cooperation and collaboration between MEAs and called for the continuation of the "Bern Process."⁴⁸

16. It is relevant to underscore that UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 outlines several actions to enhance programmatic cooperation with the secretariats and governing bodies of the fifteen MEAs that it administers.⁴⁹ These include developing practical tools and working methods to support coherent and effective implementation within and across their thematic clusters at the international and national levels. Under this mandate, UNEP has not only been providing substantive input to the development of the CBD and SAICM post-2020 frameworks but is also convening meetings for sharing experiences and information, such as the "Capacity building workshop for national focal points of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and the Montevideo Programme V to facilitate implementation of biodiversity and chemicals and waste MEAs," which took place between 29-31 August 2023 in Rwanda. UNEP will continue to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the new "beyond 2020" chemicals and waste global policy framework instrument through whole-of-government and whole-of society-approaches.

17. Study report on enhancing cooperation between clusters (cross-cutting): In 2022, The Nordic Council of Ministers issued a report on strengthening collaboration and coordination between biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters, including a range of "options for action."⁵⁰ The report was compiled by UNEP-WCMC, and the options for action were validated through a technical expert workshop organized by UNEP. A number of these options of action are directly relevant to collaboration and coordination in supporting the delivery of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the following:

- a. Ensure that national focal points and competent authorities of different MEAs collaborate at the national level and, as appropriate, work together to align national implementation plans for different MEAs,

⁴⁵ For the Bern II workshop report, see

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/35906/Bern2rep21.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

⁴⁶ For example, see IT/GB-9/22/16.3/Inf.1, UNEP/CMS/StC53/Inf.1/Rev.1, [Ramsar COP14 Inf.1](#), [CITES CoP19 Inf. 11](#),

⁴⁷ CBD/SBI/3/INF/29.

⁴⁸ For example, see CITES decision 17.56 (Rev. CoP19), ITPGRFA resolution 13/2022, and Ramsar COP resolution XIV.6,

⁴⁹ See UNEP, *For people and planet: The United Nations Environment Programme Strategy for tackling climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste from 2022-2025* (Nairobi, 2023).

⁵⁰ Nordic Council of Ministers, *Strengthening collaboration and coordination between biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters* (Copenhagen, 2022).

- b. Promote cooperation in key areas of mutual interest, including communications, identifying risks, and contingency planning, as well as promote and support research in key common priority areas,
- c. Design and initiate cross-cluster collaborative projects and encourage financial instruments to support integrated approaches,
- d. Consider the benefits of coordinating key common needs, such as monitoring and reporting, capacity-building, and technical and scientific cooperation.

III. Using the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its implementation to identify key entry points for collaboration and cooperation between the biodiversity, chemicals, and waste conventions

18. As outlined above, a number of relevant steps were taken in the international *fora* towards building collaboration and cooperation between the chemicals and waste and the biodiversity clusters for a *beyond 2020 agenda*. Based on these developments, at least two areas can be identified as key in strengthening cooperation between both clusters.

19. The first key area is the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, whose purpose is "*to catalyze, enable and galvanize urgent and transformative action ... to halt and reverse biodiversity loss*".⁵¹ The wording of the framework makes clear that implementation will require a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, and that enhanced collaboration, cooperation, and synergies with other MEAs at all levels will contribute to and promote implementation in a more effective and efficient manner.

20. It is relevant to note that decision 15/4 adopting framework is part of a package of closely related decisions adopted together. The other decisions in this package include the associated monitoring framework (decision 15/5), an enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting, and review (decision 15/6), a more robust approach to resource mobilization, including benefit sharing (decision 15/7), improvements in capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation (decision 15/8), clarification and guidance on digital sequence information on genetic resources (decision 15/9), and further guidance on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations (decision 15/13).⁵²

21. Taking into account both the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the package of decisions relating to its implementation, several entry points for further collaboration and cooperation with the chemicals and waste cluster can be identified:

- a. *Fostering coherent and synergistic implementation of the twenty-three global targets until 2030*: Section H of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework sets out 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030.⁵³ The coherent implementation of these global targets, including through their consideration in the design and implementation of frameworks for the sound management of chemicals and waste, will ensure that action is underway to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet. Most global targets and related headline indicators are indirectly or directly relevant to the chemicals and waste cluster. For instance, target 10 on ensuring areas under agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry are managed sustainably in a manner sensitive to the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, target 11 on restoring, maintaining, and enhancing nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem and functions and services, target 14 on integrating biodiversity into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, within and across all levels of government and all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, target 15 on taking measures to encourage and enable business to progressively reduce negative impacts on -

⁵¹ CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, 15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

⁵² See decisions 15/5, 15/6, 15/7, 15/8, 15/9, and 15/13 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in its fifteenth meeting.

⁵³ CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, 15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

biodiversity, increase positive impacts, and reduce biodiversity-related risks to their operations, and target 22 on ensuring full participation, access to justice, and access to information by local communities and Indigenous Peoples, among others.

- b. *Using target 7 as an entry point for fostering synergies at the international and national levels, including through the implementation of whole-of-government approaches:* Target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework focuses on pollution reduction (see Figure I below) and is a key entry point for exchange, collaboration, and further joint action between conventions and initiatives from the biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters. At the global level, examples of possible contributions from the BRS conventions, Minamata Convention, and the new framework instrument (SAICM) may include support in clarifying the definitions of "risk" and "highly hazardous chemicals," as well as joint programming in support of target 7. Additionally, SAICM stakeholders may wish to consider including a number of common indicators with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the measurability structure of the new framework instrument, especially in relation to reducing pollution risks.⁵⁴ The latter could be helpful in monitoring shared concerns.⁵⁵ At the national level, synergies between the biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters can be explored during the process of reviewing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Implementation and Action Plans for the chemicals and waste conventions, which provide opportunities to explore collaboration and cooperation for the implementation and monitoring of target 7.

TARGET 7: Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

Headline indicators: Index of coastal eutrophication potential; and pesticide environment concentration.

Component indicators: Fertilizer use; proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flow safely treated; floating plastic debris density (by micro and macro plastics); and Red List Index (impact of pollution).

Figure I: Target 7 and related headline and component indicators, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- c. *Identifying opportunities for integrating of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's overarching considerations into activities, programmes, and plans from the chemicals and waste cluster:* Section C of the Framework sets out a range of overarching "considerations" for its implementation, indicating that the entire framework is to be "*understood, acted upon, implemented, reported and evaluated*" consistent with these. They include, for instance, acknowledging the contribution and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities; recognizing national circumstances, priorities, and capabilities; following a human rights-based approach; consistency with international agreements or instruments; alignment with the principles of the

⁵⁴ IOMC has worked on a compilation of existing indicators for chemicals and waste, which was presented to the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4): https://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP4_3/SAICM_IP.4_INF_39_Rev.1.pdf.

⁵⁵ For more information, see UNEP, *A thought starter: Strengthening the links between the biodiversity post-2020 framework with chemicals & waste* (Montreal, 2020).

Rio Declaration; enhanced cooperation and synergies; *inter alia*.⁵⁶ Most of these considerations are equally relevant to the mandates, objectives, and activities associated with other MEAs and initiatives from the chemicals and waste cluster.

- d. *Exploring synergies between clusters in monitoring, reporting and review*: The monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD COP decision 15/5) includes a minimum set of high-level indicators to be used for planning and tracking processes (the "headline indicators") and a list of optional component and complementary indicators that provide further information on progress in achieving the targets.⁵⁷ Furthermore, CBD COP decision 15/6 on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review sets out a multidimensional approach that aims to enhance the implementation of the framework over time.⁵⁸ Entry points for collaboration and cooperation may include the mutual need for improved monitoring and data sharing, as well as the engagement of national focal points of the chemicals and waste MEAs in the development and implementation of relevant parts of NBSAPs, as well as their potential involvement in reviewing progress in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Further entry points may include the engagement of national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions in the development and implementation of any relevant national plans, regional plans, and implementation programmes under the new framework instrument for chemicals and waste; National Action Plans (NAPs) for artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM) under the Minamata Convention; and national action plans, implementation plans and strategies under the BRS Conventions.
- e. *Strengthening capacity-building and development to achieve common goals*: CBD COP decision 15/8 on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation includes a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development, as well as proposals for establishing a mechanism to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation and promote technology transfer.⁵⁹ Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer are areas where there may be opportunities for increased cooperation and collaboration to address topics of mutual interest, as appropriate. This includes, for instance, exploring synergies between the CBD's long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development, the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022-25, the capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer activities of the Minamata Convention, and the arrangements for capacity-building under the new framework instrument. Of note is that the SAICM secretariat has submitted to the Conference in its fifth session two information documents on capacity-building, namely "Draft elements for a capacity-building strategy for the Beyond 2020 Framework Instrument" (SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/5) and "Capacity-building and the sound management of chemicals and waste: Key messages and recommendations for a capacity-building strategy for the new framework instrument" (SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/3).
- f. *Working together to mobilize resources to achieve common goals*: CBD COP decisions 15/7 and 15/9 on, respectively, resource mobilization and digital sequence information on genetic resources, are both primarily focused on increasing the resources available to support the implementation of the framework and, in particular, to substantially increase the resources available for developing countries.⁶⁰ In addition, the decision on resource mobilization

⁵⁶ CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, 15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

⁵⁷ CBD/COP/DEC/15/5, 15/5. Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

⁵⁸ CBD/COP/DEC/15/6, 15/6. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.

⁵⁹ CBD/COP/DEC/15/8, 15/8. Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation.

⁶⁰ CBD/COP/DEC/15/7; CBD/COP/DEC/15/9.

addresses the issue of incentives harmful to biodiversity. Implementation of activities to tackle the biodiversity and pollution crises requires financing from all sources. Therefore, there may be opportunities to explore cooperation and collaboration in addressing this financing gap and supporting integrated approaches.

- g. *Enhancing and promoting cooperation with other conventions and international organizations:* As discussed in section III, the CBD COP took a decision on cooperation,⁶¹ as did the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions meeting in 2022.⁶² This shows that parties to the CBD and other biodiversity-related MEAs are clearly calling for more cooperation and collaboration in implementation at all appropriate levels to increase efficiency and effectiveness, including through the Bern Process and improved sharing of information.
- h. *Coordinating joint action to address the triple planetary crisis:* Lastly, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework includes a target relating to minimising the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and increasing resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.⁶³ This reflects references to the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems in decisions taken at the 27th meeting of the COP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).⁶⁴ Given the recognized interlinkages between climate change and chemicals and waste, there may be a benefit in considering extending cooperation to cover all three sectors where this is appropriate.

22. There is increased acceptance and recognition of the potential mutual benefits and opportunities to be gained through cooperation and collaboration in activities that would support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The BRS and Minamata conventions are already exploring these opportunities.⁶⁵ **The Conference may wish to consider requesting the SAICM Secretariat to prepare a report on interlinkages amongst the new framework instrument and the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity framework for its consideration at its sixth session with a view of enhancing cooperation and collaboration in implementation of the two frameworks, taking also into consideration the various examples of possible entry points outlined above and similar ongoing processes under relevant MEAs, including the Basel Rotterdam, Scotkholm, and Minamata conventions.**

IV. The new framework instrument for the sound management of chemicals and waste and entry points for collaboration and cooperation with the biodiversity-related conventions

23. Adoption and subsequent implementation of the new framework instrument will also provide an opportunity for strengthening collaboration and cooperation between the chemicals and waste and biodiversity clusters. As indicated in section III above, the Intersessional Process has made some effort to explore potential collaboration with the biodiversity cluster, especially regarding issues such as indicators, reporting, and capacity-building. As of August 2023, the text of the draft Intersessional Process co-chairs single consolidated document⁶⁶ incorporates a number of references to multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral collaboration and involvement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and multistakeholder engagement. However, there are several places in the text where it could be useful to further strengthen the language of the instrument on collaboration and cooperation and pave the way for the effective implementation of the new framework instrument and biodiversity-related conventions. The most significant are the following:

⁶¹ CBD/COP/DEC/15/13, 15/13. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations.

⁶² For example, see CITES decision 17.56 (Rev. CoP19), ITPGRFA resolution 13/2022, and Ramsar COP resolution XIV.6.

⁶³ Target 8, CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, 15/4. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

⁶⁴ See for example the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan <https://unfccc.int/cop27/auv>.

⁶⁵ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/44, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/29, UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/48 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/13.

⁶⁶ SAICM/IP.4/11, Annex: Intersessional Process Single Consolidated Document; SAICM/IP.4/12.

a. *Clearly referencing coherence and synergies with other instruments:* As discussed in this paper, several governing and subsidiary bodies from MEAs from the biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters have encouraged, through the appropriate instruments, the strengthening of cooperation and collaboration among relevant conventions and multilateral agreements from both clusters. **The Conference may wish to consider including in the introductory section of the new framework instrument a clearer reference to seeking complementarity and coherence with the mandates of related multilateral environmental agreements and other instruments, especially from the biodiversity cluster, and refer to relevant decisions from other fora, as appropriate.**

b. *Embracing the principle of collaboration and cooperation:* Following the example of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, **the Conference may wish to consider including "collaboration and cooperation" as a guiding principle or approach in an appropriate section in the new framework instrument.** This principle could be worded following the example of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework,⁶⁷ as follows: "Enhanced collaboration, cooperation, and synergies between the [Strategic Approach], the chemicals and waste-related conventions, other relevant multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes, in line with their respective mandates, including at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, would contribute to and promote the implementation of the [new framework instrument] in a more efficient and effective manner."

c. *Further considering cross-sectoral collaboration and cooperation tools in relation to the mechanisms to support implementation of the new framework instrument:* Section VI of the single consolidated document outlines several mechanisms to support implementation, namely, (a) implementation programmes, (b) national implementation arrangements, (c) regional cooperation and coordination arrangements, and (d) enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement. The proposed national-level mechanisms include the development of national plans and/or programmes of action, the designation of national focal points, and engagement of relevant stakeholders. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, as well as increased collaboration and cooperation between national-level policy, legal, and institutional frameworks for chemicals, waste, and biodiversity, are fundamental for the synergistic implementation of the new framework instrument and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Therefore, **the Conference may wish to consider including a clear reference to a whole-of-government approach and further detailing possible mechanisms for cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in the new framework instrument. These may consist of specific roles for SAICM national focal points aimed at improving liaison with focal points from other fora and national inter-institutional and multistakeholder platforms for information-sharing, including on relevant targets and indicators.**

d. Lastly, **the Conference may wish to explore further entry points for collaboration and cooperation in the draft targets and possible new targets of the new framework instrument.** This may include, for instance: (i) Target [A1] on the adoption, implementation, and enforcement of legal frameworks and institutional capacities to prevent and minimize adverse effects from chemicals and waste, which could include a reference to other sectors; (ii) Target [B1] on the availability of data and information on the properties of chemicals throughout their lifecycle, which could include a reference to

⁶⁷ CBD/COP/DEC/15/4.

increasing cooperation in sharing environment-related data; (iii) Target [D5] on the implementation of policies and programmes by governments to increase support for alternative approaches to hazardous chemicals, which could include a reference to other sectors; (iv) Possible additional target seeking complementarities with target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on reducing pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, and human health; and (v) Possible additional target seeking complementarities with target 15 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework focused on taking measures to encourage and enable businesses to progressively reduce the impact of chemicals and their related waste on biodiversity, climate, and other environmental sectors.⁶⁸

⁶⁸ Target 15: Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions: (a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios; (b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns; (c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable; in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.