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UNITED NATIONS

United Nations and Sound Chemicals Management

Coordinating delivery for Member States
and sustainable development

A Synthesis Report by the UN Environment Management Group

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Foreword

The sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential contributor to the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. Integrating sound management of chemicals into global sustainable development policy is therefore crucial in order for our societies to have access to clean air and water, sanitation, safe food and sustainable ecosystems and cities.

Chemicals are present in almost every industry and societal sector – from health and transportation to agriculture, construction, textiles and consumer products – and play an important role in economic development. Sound management of chemicals throughout the chemical life cycle is crucial, not only to avoid risks to human health and ecosystems, but also to maximize the benefits of their contribution to human well-being. As the world embarks on the implementation of the newly-adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an integral part of the journey must be to address both the legacy of the past and current challenges linked to the adverse impacts of chemicals.

Poor populations are the most vulnerable to exposure to hazardous substances because of where they live, the types of livelihoods in which they engage, low levels of education or awareness of risks from toxins, lack of or limited access to health care, and poor levels of nutrition. Governments, intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions need to do more to integrate sound management of chemicals into environmental, public health and economic development policy.

This report by the Environment Management Group showcases the many ways in which the United Nations system and related agencies can support Member States in addressing the issue of sound management of chemicals and chemical waste. I look forward to the implementation of the recommendations of this report as we strive together to mainstream sound management of chemicals in all sustainable development sectors and at all levels.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General



Preface

There are few products or processes that do not contain or use chemicals. Chemical production and use are closely related

to and consistent with the global economy, behaving as a rapidly evolving and fast changing sector. The international chemicals industry has grown dramatically since the 1970s, when global chemical output was valued at US\$171 billion. By 2010 it had grown to US\$4.12 trillion.

Millions of people throughout the world lead richer, more productive and more comfortable lives because of the thousands of chemicals on the market today and many chemicals are crucial to our well-being. Nevertheless, the list of threats posed by hazardous chemicals remains large. The sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle is essential in order to avoid significant risks to human health and ecosystems and substantial costs to national economies.

The *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management* (SAICM) provides a global policy framework to foster the sound management of chemicals. Furthermore, intergovernmental organizations are contributing to advancing sound chemicals management globally, including through the *Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals* (IOMC). In addition, a number of multilateral agreements have been developed to address specific concerns related to chemicals and wastes.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, the “2020 goal” of producing and using chemicals in ways that lead to the minimization of significant effects on human health and the environment, was established in the Plan of Implementation of the Johannesburg Summit. Countries renewed their commitment to this target and agreed to address chemicals issues as a key priority area in the Rio+20 outcome document “The future we want”.

The present report reflects the collective efforts of members of the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) who have been working together since January 2014 to raise the priority given to chemicals management in the UN system, promote integration of chemicals management issues in the broader context of economic and social development planning, and ensure additional synergies between the UN organizations in supporting countries in activities to achieve the 2020 goal.

The report brings together the results of a system-wide survey mapping contributions by the UN and related agencies to the sound management of chemicals and wastes, as well as information already generated by the IOMC or in the context of the SAICM process, and from reports and websites of the many agencies involved in chemicals and waste management. It aims to signal the importance of this topic to the broader sustainable development agenda, showcasing what has already been accomplished, and indicate how the UN system can further assist member states in achieving sound chemicals management. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets and indicators will require the demonstration of an integrated and holistic approach to development and the sound management of chemicals and waste can support the implementation of many of these goals - including those on poverty eradication, health, agriculture, water, sustainable industrialization, and employment.

The report provides conclusions regarding the state of system-wide efforts to achieve the 2020 goal on sound chemicals management and makes some practical recommendations for possible ways and means to achieve additional synergies between the different agencies, funds, and programmes of the UN system in order to enhance the existing efforts towards that goal. Furthermore, it is hoped that the findings of the following pages will help to reinforce the central importance of this topic to sustainable development and that the conclusions and recommendations generate additional unique ideas and innovative approaches for how UN and related agencies can further realise synergies towards the 2020 goal and beyond.

Achim Steiner
Chairman, Environment Management Group

Statement by the Members of the Environment Management Group¹

Chemicals are an integral part of our daily life. They can contribute positively to human well-being, if managed well, while the unsound management of chemicals and waste has serious negative impacts on sustainable development.²

We therefore underscore that the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle, and the appropriate and safe disposal of waste, particularly hazardous waste, is essential in order to avoid significant risks to human health and ecosystems.

Sound chemicals management is a broad, diverse and cross-cutting issue that requires a multi-sectoral, multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach, central to achieving the objectives of the broader development agenda. Many stakeholders, including Member States through global and regional multilateral agreements and processes such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and many of the agencies of the UN system, are active in the field of chemicals management.

This highlights the importance of continuing to enhance cooperation and coordination among international bodies. This importance has been recognized for example, in the Joint Statement on “Participation in the Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management” made in February 2006 by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC),² which, together with other UN entities, contribute significantly to international efforts towards sound chemicals management.

To step up our joint and coordinated efforts to promote the sound management of chemicals as a critical component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we, the Executive Heads of Members of the Environment Management Group, hereby, as appropriate, commit to:

1. continuing to promote and raise the profile of sound chemicals management within the UN system;
2. promoting the integration of chemicals management issues across sectors and in the broader context of economic and social development planning;
3. ensuring additional synergies, between our respective UN organizations and with related organizations, in supporting countries in activities to achieve sound chemicals management by 2020 (the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2020 goal).

We make this commitment with a view to continuing our cooperation and demonstrating what a strengthened multi-sectoral approach can bring to the development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and what enhanced system-wide cooperation can bring to other key international processes, agreements, and initiatives that directly or indirectly address chemicals and waste management.

¹ This Statement is made on behalf of all 48 EMG members, along with the OECD.

² FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, World Bank, WHO and OECD participate in IOMC.

Executive Summary

This report, *United Nations and Sound Chemicals Management: Coordinating delivery for Member States and sustainable development*, signals the importance of sound chemicals management to the broader sustainable development agenda, showcases what has already been accomplished, and indicates how the UN system can further assist Member States in achieving sound chemicals management in the context of sustainable development. It is one of the outputs of the Issue Management Group (IMG) on the Sound Management of Chemicals, established by the UN Environment Management Group (EMG)³ in response to the Rio+20 outcome.

Building upon and complementing the on-going work of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the knowledge and experiences of the EMG members to position sound management of chemicals as a vital element underpinning sustainable development and a green economy, the objectives of the IMG are to:

- raise the priority given to chemicals management in the broader UN system;
- promote integration of chemicals management issues in the context of economic and social development planning; and
- ensure additional synergies between UN organizations in supporting countries in activities to achieve the 2020 goal.

The IMG also contributes to enhancing the profile of chemicals and wastes in the discussions on the SDGs and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The IMG met six times during 2014 and 2015 to review progress and comment on drafts of the report. This synthesis report brings together the results of a survey, which yielded responses from 25 agencies, as well as information already generated by the IOMC or in the context of the SAICM process, and from reports and websites of the many agencies involved in chemicals management.

Updates on the progress of the work of the IMG were provided to the 2nd meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in December 2014, the May 2015 Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, and the 4th Session of the ICCM in September-October 2015.

The report:

- presents how sound chemicals management is a key topic for the development agenda, its close links to health and other important issues, and its links to the SDGs;
- outlines 30 international processes, agreements, and initiatives for chemicals management;
- reviews the activities of more than 30 UN and related agencies involved;

³ The EMG is an interagency cooperation body on environment in the UN system that includes members from the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the UN, the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreement, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization. The group is chaired by the Executive Director of UNEP and UNEP provides the secretariat to the group (see also www.unemg.org). For more details on the establishment of the IMG, please see its Terms of Reference (Annex 2).



- presents the results of the survey of agencies undertaken in September-October 2014 by the IMG regarding a range of key issues, including activities and partnerships, visibility and engagement, and synergies and collaboration; and
- provides conclusions as well as recommendations (see below) on how to increase the visibility of the topic and further enhance synergies between different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system in order to achieve the 2020 goal.

While there is a wide variety of agencies involved in different aspects of sound chemicals management, the report finds a relatively low visibility of the topic in the system overall. This more broadly suggests that there is a diversity of expertise in the UN system that is at the disposal of Member States and a need to examine how that capacity can be more effectively deployed, particularly at the national level and in transboundary cooperation.

The report presents opportunities for increasing the visibility and awareness of the importance of sound chemicals management within the larger development dialogues and possibilities for further enhancing synergies. These can further lead to increased cooperation within the UN system that translates into strengthened support to countries to achieve sound chemicals management and the 2020 goal.

Overall, the potential effect of chemicals found in products, air, soil and water requires an integrated and holistic approach. The report finds that the necessity for sound chemicals management impacts our daily lives in a wide variety of areas, from health and agriculture, to biodiversity and the needs of women, children and vulnerable populations, as well as helping to address the need to transition to a greener economy. Not surprisingly then, sound chemicals management is deeply linked to achieving the objectives of the broader development agenda and the SDGs.

Conclusions

Based on the information compiled in this report, seven key conclusions and common themes emerged regarding the importance of sound chemicals management within the broader sustainable development agenda, seen in the context of what has already been accomplished, and what remains to be done.



Conclusion	
1	Chemicals management is a cross-cutting topic. Its efficiency and success requires multi-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder participation.
2	Existing mechanisms of and approaches to inter-agency collaboration and partnerships can provide models for further enhancing system-wide synergies and building new partnerships.
3	While being multi-sectoral, sound chemicals management is also “multi-level”, with activities taking place not only at the international level, but at the regional, national, and sub-national levels as well.
4	As a framework for working towards the 2020 goal, SAICM is a major focus of many organizations; nevertheless, there are many other initiatives contributing to sound chemicals management.
5	While SAICM provides a relatively known framework for the activities of many organizations, participation in its key events such as the ICCMs — especially from non-environmental and health sectors — remains low.
6	While the priority of sound chemicals management as a topic appears relatively high on the agenda of many organizations, visibility of and commitment to it in the UN system is low to moderate.
7	Issues related to sound chemicals management are often over-shadowed by topics such as climate change. Sound chemicals management and the co-benefits it can bring is, however, central to achieving the objectives of the broader development agenda.



Recommendations

In order to better inform stakeholders, raise awareness on the topic, and promote broad and concrete multi-sector buy-in, the profile of sound chemicals and waste management must be clearly communicated as a key element of the broader development agenda. The following recommendations for the UN and related agencies can facilitate achieving these ambitions and help to make better use of synergies

between existing international processes, agreements, and initiatives for sound chemicals management.

The report closes by highlighting a number of elements from key decisions taken in recent months that already provide some indication of possible ways forward to continue efforts to further strengthen UN-system wide engagement on sound chemicals management and working towards the 2020 goal.

Recommendation	
1	Those organizations that have not already done so could issue a declaration or joint statement signalling commitment to promote the importance of sound chemicals management both within and outside of their organizations.
2	Identify and promote the multiple benefits of greater cross-sectoral coordination (e.g. how each sector involved in sound chemicals management can benefit from greater engagement with the other sectors) and engage as standard practice to invite other sectors/organizations to relevant meetings (WHO, as an example, invites SAICM focal points and other sectors to health sector meetings on chemicals).
3	Increase and broaden efforts to organize joint capacity-building workshops (regional or national) for key sectors with involvement of relevant UN and other agencies, and include chemicals modules in relevant training and capacity building workshops for "non-chemicals" topics and Conventions (biodiversity, climate change, marine protection, etc.).
4	Build on the work of the IOMC and prepare a detailed assessment of other UN organisations' contributions to SAICM and the 2020 goal by reviewing the full SAICM Global Plan of Action (GPA) – this would provide an opportunity to examine areas of where potential duplication could be avoided, common objectives examined, and partnerships and synergies further realised. Again, building on the work of the IOMC, other UN Organizations could also consider analysing the final SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG) with a view to identifying the contributions they can make towards its implementation.
5	Examine and develop linkages with initiatives linked to the green economy and cleaner production, green jobs, greening the health sector, and other similar programmes.
6	Capitalize on existing opportunities to promote the importance of sound chemicals management issues at key meetings, such as the 2016 review at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) where there is a possibility that chemicals and waste may be reviewed in the holistic and cross-sectoral framework of sustainable development. Participate at or convene high-level events during major international meetings to highlight the UN system contribution to sound chemicals management and its co-benefits for sustainable development (which could include presentation of elements of this report), at, for example, ICCM-4, the HLPF, meetings related to financing for development, and Convention COPs.
7	Continue to coordinate, promote synergies, and work with authorities at the national level (the IOMC, for example, has developed a matrix of activities in countries to provide an overview of where individual IOMC organizations are working on chemicals issues in countries) and encourage countries to integrate sound chemicals management issues in national development plans.

1. Introduction and Background

Chemicals are an integral part of daily life in today's world. There is hardly any industry where chemicals are not used and there is no single economic sector where chemicals do not play an important role. Millions of people throughout the world lead richer, more productive and more comfortable lives because of the thousands of chemicals on the market today. These chemicals are used in a wide variety of products and processes, and while they are major contributors to national and world economies, their sound management throughout their lifecycle is essential in order to avoid significant and increasingly complex risks to human health and ecosystems and substantial costs to national economies.

Industries which produce and use chemicals have a significant impact on employment, trade and economic growth worldwide, but chemicals can have adverse effects on human health and the environment. A variety of global economic and regulatory forces influences changes in chemical production, transport, import and export, use and disposal over time. In response to the growing demand for chemical-based products and processes, the international chemical industry has grown dramatically since the 1970s. Global chemical output (produced and shipped) was valued at US\$171 billion in 1970. By 2010, it had grown to \$4.12 trillion (figures not adjusted for inflation or price changes). The OECD's *Environmental Outlook to 2050* notes that while annual global chemical sales doubled over the period 2000 to 2009, OECD's share decreased from 77% to 63% and the share of the BRIICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, Indonesia, China, and South Africa) increased from 13% to 28%.⁴

A diverse and cross-cutting topic

Chemicals management is a broad, diverse, and cross-cutting topic.⁵ The scope of the 2006 *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management* (SAICM, see below), for example, includes:

- a. Environmental, economic, social, health and labour aspects of chemical safety
- b. Agricultural and industrial chemicals, with a view to promoting sustainable development and covering chemicals at all stages of their life-cycle, including in products

Moreover, to effectively and efficiently deal with such a cross-cutting topic, SAICM recognizes the importance of a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach:

The involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders, including at the local, national, regional and global levels, is seen as key to achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach, as is a transparent and open implementation process and public participation in decision-making, featuring in particular a strengthened role for women. The main stakeholders in the Strategic Approach are understood to be Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals involved in the management of chemicals throughout their life-cycles from all relevant sectors, including, but not limited to, agriculture, environment, health, industry, relevant economic activity, development cooperation, labour and science. Individual stakeholders include consumers, disposers, employers, farmers, producers, regulators, researchers, suppliers, transporters and workers. (SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy, para. 2)

⁴ The preceding paragraphs are taken from the UNEP Global Chemicals Outlook 2012, available at <http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/UNEPsWork/Mainstreaming/GlobalChemicalsOutlook/tabid/56356/Default.aspx>.

⁵ This report refers mainly to "chemicals" management, which includes hazardous chemical wastes as part of the life-cycle approach to chemicals management; however, waste issues such as landfills, solid waste, and non-chemical wastes are not included in the scope of the report. Reference to "waste", however, is made when appropriate in the context of a given section or sentence.

Similarly, at the national level chemicals management is a cross-sectoral issue and, in most countries, responsibility is divided among different authorities. Effective implementation of the chemicals-related multilateral agreements (see below) requires strong institutional mechanisms to facilitate collaboration with other sectors. Finding ways to engage the collective capacity of the UN and related organisations in enhancing coherent management responses to sound chemicals management is therefore of crucial importance.

Initial international steps

Chemicals and waste management has been on the international political agenda since 1972 at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) when pollution from toxic and dangerous substances was a central issue. It was specifically addressed in 1992 by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) with the adoption of Chapters 19 and 20 of Agenda 21.⁶

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, the “2020 goal” - of producing and using chemicals in ways that lead to the minimization of significant effects on human health and the environment - was established in the Plan of Implementation of the Johannesburg Summit (see Box 1).⁷

A number of multilateral agreements have been developed during the last 30 years to address specific chemicals and waste management concerns, including the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal*, the *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade*, the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* (POPs), and the more recent *Minamata Convention on Mercury*. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was adopted in 2006 with the overarching goal to achieve the 2020 goal through a cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder initiative to protect human health and the environment. Section 2 of this report provides more details on existing agreements and initiatives on chemicals and wastes.

Box 1:

Excerpt of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals and hazardous wastes

23. Renew the commitment, as advanced in Agenda 21, to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment, inter alia, aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance.

⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>

⁷ The full text of the WSSD goal can be found in Annex 5.

In response to the international political attention to sound chemicals management, the *Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)* was established in 1995.⁸ The purpose of the Programme is to promote coordination of the policies and activities pursued by its Participating Organizations (POs), jointly and separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment. The IOMC now has nine POs (FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank, and OECD) that collaborate to coordinate in the capacity building, technical assistance and institutional strengthening programmes they provide to support country efforts to implement national frameworks for the sound management of chemicals (see also Box 6).

About this document

This report is one of the outputs of the Issue Management Group (IMG) on the Sound Management of Chemicals, established by the UN Environment Management Group (EMG).⁹ In response to the Rio+20 outcome and decisions of various intergovernmental processes such as the chemicals-related agreements that have called for a more systematic approach for cooperation and coordination in the implementation of chemicals-related agreements and instruments, the UN EMG set up an *ad-hoc* Issue Management Group composed of 16 UN and related agencies in January 2014 to provide a coherent system-wide support to the work towards achieving the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the 2020 goal.¹⁰

⁸ www.iomc.info

⁹ The EMG is an interagency cooperation body on environment in the UN system that includes members from the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the UN, the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreement, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization. The group is chaired by the Executive Director of UNEP and UNEP provides the secretariat to the group (see also www.unemg.org).

¹⁰ <http://www.unemg.org/issue-management-groups/sound-management-of-chemicals-and-waste>. For a list of member agencies of the IMG, see Annex 1.

The IMG on the sound management of chemicals was established with a time-bound mandate¹¹, building upon and complementing the on-going work of IOMC and the knowledge and experiences of the EMG members to position sound management of chemicals as a vital element underpinning sustainable development and a green economy. The objectives of the IMG were to:

- raise the priority given to chemicals management in the broader UN system
- promote integration of chemicals management issues in the context of economic and social development planning, and
- ensure additional synergies between UN organizations in supporting countries in activities to achieve the 2020 goal. The IMG also contributes to enhancing the profile of chemicals and wastes in the discussions on the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.

As a contribution to realising these objectives, the IMG undertook a mapping of activities and initiatives in the UN system that contribute to the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals and waste management either directly or indirectly, including conducting a survey and collecting information on UN system and other relevant agencies contributions and perspectives on the sound management of chemicals. An important component of this work was to canvass the views of a wide-range of agencies on chemicals and waste-related issues and make use of information already generated by the IOMC or in the context of the SAICM process. The survey yielded responses from 25 agencies, including all 9 IOMC organizations and 16 non-IOMC members.¹²

The IMG met six times during 2014 and 2015 to review progress and consider drafts of the report. Updates on the progress of the work of the IMG were

¹¹ Once its mandate has been completed, the IMG will cease to exist. See Terms of Reference of the IMG in Annex 2.

¹² The questionnaire used in the survey can be found in Annex 3 and the list of respondents in Annex 4.

provided to the 2nd meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the ICCM in December 2014, the May 2015 Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, and the 4th Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-4) in September/October 2015.

This synthesis report brings together the results of the survey, as well as information already generated by the IOMC or in the context of the SAICM process, and from reports and websites of the many agencies involved in chemicals management. It aims to signal the importance of this topic to the broader sustainable development agenda, showcase what has already been accomplished, and indicate how the UN system can further assist member states in achieving sound chemicals management in the context of sustainable development.

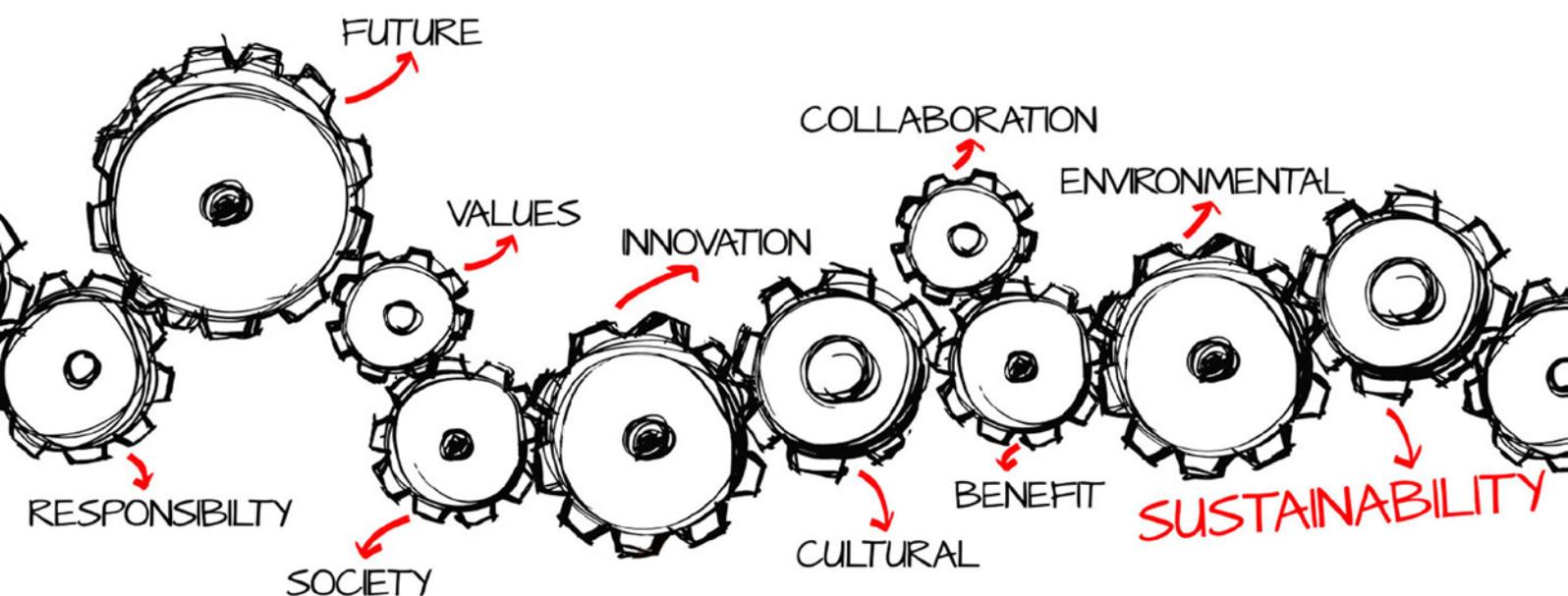
The report is structured as follows, following this introductory section:

- section 2 presents how sound chemicals management is a key topic for the development

agenda, its close links to health and other important issues, and links to the SDGs;

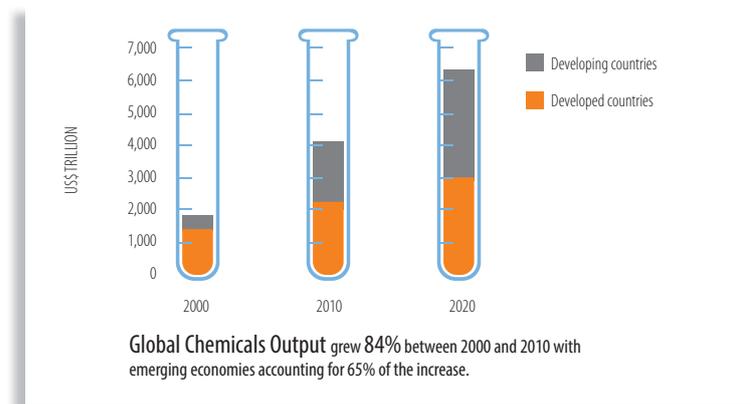
- section 3 outlines the key international processes, agreements, and initiatives for chemicals management;
- section 4 reviews the UN and related agencies involved and presents the results of the survey of agencies undertaken in September–October 2014 by the IMG regarding a range of key issues, including activities and partnerships, visibility and engagement, and synergies and collaboration; and
- section 5 provides a number of conclusions and practical recommendations on how to increase the visibility of this important topic and further enhance synergies between different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system in order to enhance the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals.

Additional information is provided in a number of annexes to the report.



2. Sound Chemicals Management: a key topic of the development agenda

As noted in the introduction, global chemical output is valued at over \$4 trillion per year and there are virtually no sectors that do not have some – often significant – use for them. This section explores the close connections between chemicals use and some of the sectors that impact our daily lives, examines how sound chemicals management is increasingly seen as a core element of the development agenda, and reviews the issue in the context of the SDGs.



Source: UNDP, *Chemicals and Waste Management for Sustainable Development*, April 2015 (http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals_management/chemicals-and-waste-management-for-sustainable-development/)

2.1 Chemicals in our daily lives

Chemicals are a major part of our daily lives, are used in a wide variety of products, and play an important role in the world economy. They are constituents of materials, are used in preparations and products and are embedded in complex

physical systems. Some examples of chemicals in products of common use are presented in Table 1. It is important to use education systems and the media to teach and raise awareness of the importance of chemical safety.



Marc St. Gill

Table 1: Examples of Toxic Substances in Articles¹³

Article	Chemicals & health effects	Pathways of Exposure
Automobiles		
Automotive switches	Mercury. Effects include neurotoxicity, including developmental neurotoxicity (methyl mercury) as well as organ damage.	Mercury can be released when automobiles with mercury-containing switches are crushed or shredded. Elemental mercury can be transformed into methylmercury, which is bioaccumulative. Humans can be exposed through consumption of contaminated fish and other routes.
Tires	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); 1,3 butadiene. Effects include the following: some PAHs are carcinogenic, and 1,3 butadiene is a known human carcinogen.	Highly aromatic oils containing PAHs are used to make the rubber polymer easier to work and to make the tire tread soft. Rubber particles containing PAHs can wear off tires over time, dispersing PAHs into the environment.
Wheel weights	Lead. Effects include neurotoxicity, including developmental neurotoxicity; high blood pressure; organ damage.	Lead wheel balancing weights fall off car wheels, then are run over by other cars and dispersed into the environment.
Electronic Products		
Electronic products	Lead, mercury, cadmium, brominated flame retardants. Effects of cadmium include carcinogenicity; possible damage to fertility; after possible fetal damage; organ damage. Effects of brominated flame retardants include neurotoxicity; thyroid disorders. Effects of lead and mercury are listed above.	Heavy metals and brominated flame retardants are released during disposal or recycling of electronic wastes. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition bear a particularly large burden from unsafe disposal and recycling of these articles.
Batteries	Lead. Effects of lead are listed above.	The major use for lead globally is in lead-acid batteries. In many countries, recycling of batteries/car batteries is a common source of human and environmental exposure to lead.
Children's products		
Toys	Lead, cadmium, phthalates. Effects of some phthalates include endocrine disruption, effects on fertility, and possible effects on sexual development. Some phthalates are possible carcinogens. Effects of lead and cadmium are listed above.	Toys and children's jewelry can contain lead in the form of lead paint and metal clasps, chains or charms. Lead is also used as a stabilizer in some toys and other children's items made from PVC plastics. Lead can leach out of these products during use. Phthalates are used as plasticizers (i.e. chemical agents that make plastics soft and flexible) in toys made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastics. These substances leach out of toys during use.

Adapted from: Massey, R., Becker, M., Hutchins, J. (2008). *Toxic Substances in Articles: The Need for Information*. Swedish Chemicals Agency.

¹³ Source: UNEP, Global Chemicals Outlook 2012, p. 16.

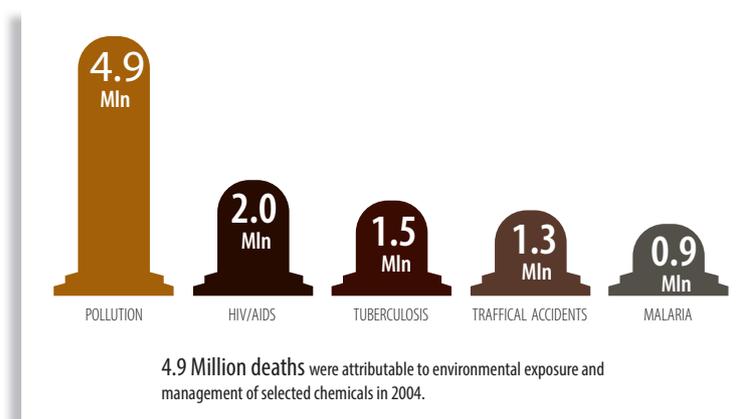
However, just as sound chemicals management can yield significant benefits in terms of economic development, poverty reduction, human health and environmental quality, the absence of sound chemicals management can impose large economic costs. Preventive approaches to chemical risk management can also create additional benefits beyond 'avoided costs' in the form of improved production and resource efficiencies, trade and investment, innovation and employment impacts. As Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, has put it: "We cannot afford to miss out on the links of chemicals and wastes to human health, biodiversity, climate change, gender and development".¹⁴

Health

Exposure to toxic chemicals can cause or contribute to a broad range of health outcomes, as well as mortality. Some chemicals can irritate the eyes, skin or respiratory tract, causing either reversible or permanent damage. Chemicals can also cause injury to one or more organs of the body, such as the lungs, liver or kidneys. Others may adversely affect the functioning of various systems of the body, including the immune system, respiratory system, cardiovascular system, nervous system, reproductive system and endocrine system. Lastly, chemicals can cause specific chronic diseases, such as cancer, asthma, diabetes, or birth defects. As a result, chemical exposures can contribute to rates of disease and disability, as well as causing deaths.¹⁵

A WHO report in 2011 on the burden of disease found that 2.0% of global deaths (1.7% of Disability-Adjusted Life Years, DALYs) were attributable to a very small number of selected industrial and agricultural chemicals, and accidental poisonings (excluding air pollution), for which data are available. The results in fact underestimate the total burden from chemicals, as the burden from most chemicals has not yet been assessed. Chemicals with known health effects, such

as dioxins, cadmium, mercury or chronic exposure to pesticides were not included in the study due to incomplete data and information.¹⁶ Nearly a million people die each year as a result of suicide, and chemicals account for a significant number of these deaths. For example, it is estimated that deliberate ingestion of pesticides causes 370,000 deaths each year.¹⁷



Source: UNDP, *Chemicals and Waste Management for Sustainable Development*, April 2015 (<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals-management/chemicals-and-waste-management-for-sustainable-development/>)

A 2012 UNEP report on the "Costs of Inaction" gathered and examined available primary data containing relevant monetized or quantified external cost information related to chemical mismanagement. The vast majority of human health costs linked to chemical production, consumption and disposal are not borne by chemical producers, or shared down the value-chain. Uncompensated harm to human health and the environment are market failures that need correction. The study indicates that these 'spillover' costs of inaction on chemicals policies are large.¹⁸

¹⁴ <http://www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=4332&blogId=4830>

¹⁵ UNEP, *Global Chemicals Outlook 2012*, p. 50.

¹⁶ Prüss-Ustün et al., "Knowns and unknowns on burden of disease due to chemicals: a systematic review", *Environmental Health*, 2011, 10:9 (<http://www.ehjournal.net/content/10/1/9>).

¹⁷ <http://www.who.int/ipcs/poisons/en/>

¹⁸ The Costs of Inaction Report (2012) is available at: <http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/UNEPsWork/Mainstreaming/CostsofInactionInitiative/tabid/56397/Default.aspx>

Box 2: Health sector engagement with sound chemicals management

Many sectors are key to effective and efficient sound chemicals management, and the health sector is one that has been particularly active. The WHO, for example, works to establish the scientific basis for the sound management of chemicals, and to strengthen national capabilities and capacities for chemical safety. Additionally, WHO provides the Secretariat to the IOMC and played an important role in the establishment of SAICM, coordinating the inputs of health ministries and identifying the health sector priorities that were subsequently adopted in the Global Plan of Action of SAICM. Through a senior staff post in the SAICM Secretariat provided by WHO for a number of years, WHO prepared the “Strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management”. WHO now focuses on implementation of the strategy. WHO continues to work to further strengthen the engagement of the health sector in implementation of SAICM in accordance with health sector priorities.

For more information: <http://www.who.int/ipcs/saicm/saicm/en/>

Report by the WHO on the engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach 2012–2014, document SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/17 at: http://www.saicm.org/images/saicm_documents/OEWG2/Meetingdocs/FINAL/INFDOCS/K1403259-EOWG2-%20INF17.pdf

Agriculture

In many developing countries, agriculture is the largest economic sector, and accounts for the most significant releases of chemicals in the economy. Agricultural chemicals, including fertilizers and pesticides, are among some of the largest volume uses of chemicals worldwide. World consumption of fertilizers is estimated to grow 2.6% per year in the period 2010 to 2014. While over 500 different chemicals are used in electronics manufacture, electronic production has grown globally and is expected to continue to grow with an increasing percentage in developing countries and those with economies in transition. China is the largest consumer of textile chemicals with 42% of global consumption, and its consumption of textile chemicals - along with other Asian countries (excluding Japan) - is expected to increase 5% per year over the period 2010 to 2015. Global consumption of cement is anticipated to increase 4% per year to 3.5 billion metric tons in 2013. Sixty-nine percent of world cement consumption in 2013 is predicted to be in China and India. Africa and the Middle East are predicted to be the next largest consumers, accounting for 12% of global demand in 2013.¹⁹



The costs of injury to pesticide users on small holdings in 37 sub-Saharan African countries was USD 4.4 billion in 2005.

Source: UNDP, *Chemicals and Waste Management for Sustainable Development*, April 2015 (http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals_management/chemicals-and-waste-management-for-sustainable-development/)

¹⁹ UNEP, *Global Chemicals Outlook 2012: Synthesis Report*, p. 17.



Biodiversity

The Convention on Biodiversity's Strategic Plan for 2011–2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, adopted at the Convention's tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties indirectly addresses chemicals and waste management through two of its 20 targets. The sound management of chemicals and waste will contribute to achieving Target 7: "By 2020, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity". A reduction in chemicals and waste emissions and exposure can also help to address Target 8: "By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity".

Linkages between actions for the sound management of chemicals and waste and actions for the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources are also often included in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Much is already being done to try to reduce adverse impacts of agriculture on biodiversity and promote practices that benefit biodiversity and ecosystem services. Farmers are increasingly adopting techniques such as

integrated pest management and using methods to prevent or reduce soil erosion and contamination of aquatic systems from chemical and livestock wastes.

Reducing pesticide, fuel, and other forms of chemical runoff will reduce the pollution of rivers, streams, ponds and lakes, which adversely impact aquatic species. The World Bank Group, for example, is helping to reduce marine pollution through a focus on addressing critical pollution sources of the main sources of nutrient, petroleum, and solid waste pollution, such as land-based discharges, atmospheric inputs, marine transportation, dumping, and oil spills (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/5).²⁰

²⁰ The UN EMG has also contributed to enhancing cooperation on biodiversity through contributing to the preparation of the Strategic Plan by providing UN system perspectives on the post 2010 biodiversity challenges and their relevance to human well-being and social and economic development goals, including poverty reduction in the Report "Advancing the biodiversity agenda: A UN system-wide contribution", and through the work of the EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity in identifying areas of cooperation, sharing of tasks in implementation of the targets, and planning future activities in support of the targets. <http://www.unemg.org/resources/archives/13-imgs/biodiversity>

Gender, children and vulnerable populations

In many countries, women have a major role in economic and social activities that can involve high levels of exposure to chemicals, and possible un-safe uses of those chemicals. Applying pesticides on crops, working while pregnant or breastfeeding when even smaller amounts of chemicals can pose possible serious risks to the mother and unborn child, and concerns regarding endocrine disrupting chemicals (that are suspected to be associated with altered reproductive function in males and females; increased incidence of breast cancer, abnormal growth patterns and neurodevelopmental delays in children, as well as changes in immune function) are all issues that highlight how sound chemicals management is a central concern for women and children.²¹

Individuals living in poverty, the elderly, workers, as well as infants and children (including those in utero) are among those most vulnerable and susceptible to the toxic effects of chemicals. Those living in poverty are more likely to be exposed to higher levels of chemical pollutants as they are more likely to dwell on marginal land (near landfills and polluted sites); to live in substandard housing with aging and deteriorating lead-based paint; to live near chemical intensive industries; to live near sites where waste is burned and near heavy traffic; and to work in high hazard informal sector jobs. Those who are more poorly nourished and who have concurrent disease are also more susceptible to toxic chemicals than those more adequately nourished.²²



232 toxic chemicals were found in umbilical cord blood from U.S. newborns.



54% percent of the global burden of disease due to the chemicals is borne by children under the age of 15.



A mother can pass as much as **33%** of her chemical body burden to her child.

²¹ For further information: http://www.who.int/ipcs/highlights/children_chemicals/en/; UNEP, Women, chemicals, UNEA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsAXWGO30ns>.

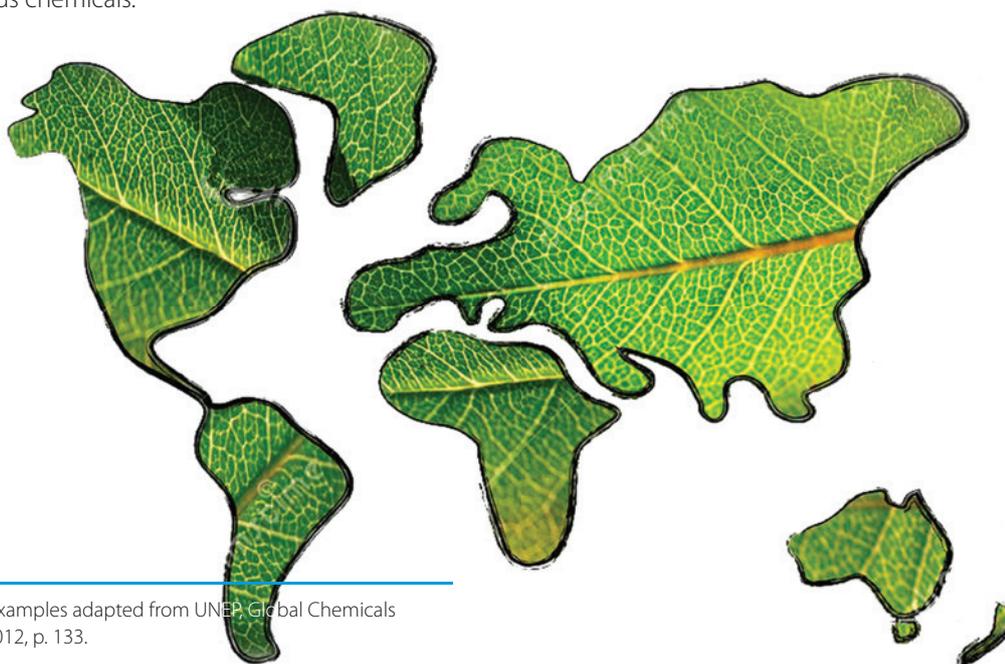
²² UNEP, Global Chemicals Outlook 2012, p. 49.

Source: UNDP, *Chemicals and Waste Management for Sustainable Development*, April 2015 (http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals_management/chemicals-and-waste-management-for-sustainable-development/)

Developing a greener economy

As already noted, the chemicals sector contributes significantly to economic development through the value of chemicals products and products containing chemicals (technological contribution) and direct employment. In addition, sound chemicals management principles and action helps to maximize this contribution, paving the way for a green economy to emerge in various sectors, for example²³:

- *Agriculture*: with increasing global demand for food, a new approach to food security must include green technologies that reduce hazardous chemical inputs including pesticides and fertilizers.
- *Water*: water scarcity is determined by many factors, including the polluting of water supplies by toxic chemicals. Nearly 1 billion people do not have access to clean water. In a green economy, water will need to be used more efficiently, available to all at a reasonable cost and free from chemical pollutants.
- *Manufacturing*: in a green economy, eco-design of products and closed loop manufacturing will become the norm rather than the exception. This involves investing in cleaner technologies, greening of supply chains, and reducing the use of hazardous chemicals.
- *Waste management*: in situations where waste cannot be avoided, materials and energy in a green economy will be recovered for recycling and remanufacturing. Sound chemical management is critical to the safe recycling of waste products as the chemical hazards in these products must be reduced or carefully controlled through the redesign of products and packaging.
- *Building*: the development of green buildings including improvements in energy and water efficiency and reductions in toxic chemical use is an essential component of a green economy. These design parameters have proven to result in improvements in health and safety and increased worker productivity.
- *Transportation*: in a green economy, vehicles and transportation systems will be designed to be more efficient and use cleaner fuels such that carbon emissions will be greatly reduced as will air emissions of hazardous chemicals that threaten public health.
- *Tourism*: in a green economy, green-oriented tourism will flourish, including improved systems for energy and water efficiency and responsible chemicals and waste management in this industry.



²³ Text and examples adapted from UNEP Global Chemicals Outlook 2012, p. 133.

2.2 Recognizing Sound Chemicals Management as a development issue

While chemicals are a major contributor to national economies, sound management throughout their lifecycle is essential not only to avoid significant risks to human health and ecosystems along with their associated economic costs, but also to maximize the full benefits of their contribution to human well-being and achieve sustainable development objectives. A number of key processes have recognised the important link between sound chemicals management and achieving the overall goal of sustainable development. As stated by the 2006 *Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management* agreed at the first International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-1):

The sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development.

Countries renewed their commitment to address chemicals (and waste) issues as a key priority area in the outcome document “The future we want” of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. The Rio+20 outcome document requires a renewed institutional commitment by intergovernmental agencies and international organizations to the goals of sustainable development, in particular:

We recognize that sound management of chemicals is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. We further recognize that growing global production and use of chemicals and prevalence in the environment calls for increased international cooperation. We reaffirm our aim to achieve by 2020 sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We

also reaffirm our commitment to an approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels that responds in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and challenges, and encourage further progress across countries and regions in order to fill the gaps in implementation of commitments.²⁴

The importance of sound management of chemicals and wastes as a key component to sustainable development was reinforced by the “Geneva Statement on the sound management of chemicals and waste”²⁵, adopted by Ministers and heads of delegation at the 2013 *Ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions* – see Box 3 on next page.

2.3 Sound Chemicals Management and the SDGs

During 2015, work was completed to develop the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the form of the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In September 2015, the General Assembly adopted 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets, including several targets directly related to chemicals and wastes (there are also other targets, not listed here, that are arguably indirectly related to chemicals, e.g. those relating to marine pollution), including:

3.9: by 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination

6.3: by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release

²⁴ The full text of the Rio+20 text can be found in Annex 6.

²⁵ <http://synergies.pops.int/Decisionmaking/2013COPsExCOPs/Overview/tabid/2914/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/9163/EventID/297/xmid/9411/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Box 3:
The 2013 Geneva Statement on the sound management of chemicals and waste (excerpt)

1. We, the ministers and other heads of delegation of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, have met in Geneva, Switzerland, on 9 and 10 May 2013, on the occasion of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.
2. We welcome the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The future we want", in particular the paragraphs specifically dealing with chemicals and waste issues. We recall the Rio principles, as reaffirmed at Rio+20. We reconfirm our commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by 2020. We look forward to participating in the Rio+20 follow-up processes to ensure that chemicals and waste aspects of sustainable development are appropriately considered and reflected in the outcomes of those processes.
3. We promote the full and effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as a contribution to sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment. We underline that all countries significantly benefit from the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and the sound management of hazardous waste. We welcome the opportunity provided by the 2013 ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to provide an overarching overview of the progress of the three conventions and the process of enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster.
4. We recall that the objective of enhanced cooperation and coordination among the three conventions is to contribute to the achievement of the overarching goal of the three conventions to protect human health and the environment. In that regard, we welcome the work undertaken to enhance cooperation and coordination among the three conventions.

of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

12.4: 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 to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.²⁶

The SDGs will be further elaborated through indicators focused on measurable outcomes. The goals constitute an indivisible set of global priorities and integrate economic, social and environmental aspects recognizing their interlinkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions.²⁷ An explanation of how sound chemicals and waste management links to many of the SDGs can be found in Table 2.

²⁶ See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics>.

²⁷ See also, 'Sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of the sustainable development goals', SAICM/OEWG.2/9, 2 October 2014.

Table 2:
Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes and the SDGs²⁸

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Chemicals play a part in almost all human activities (medicines, water purifiers, agricultural chemicals) and the chemicals industry makes major contributions to national economies in terms of GDP and job creation. However, when chemicals are mismanaged, poorest communities face the highest risk due to their occupations, living conditions and limited access to uncontaminated food and water. SMCW (sound management of chemicals and wastes) can protect them from environmental and occupational exposure.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The sound use and application of fertilizers and pesticides can boost the productivity of agricultural lands on which poor communities depend. However, when poorly managed, agricultural chemicals can pose significant risks to human health, cause pollution and land degradation, impacting livelihoods in sectors such as agriculture and fisheries. SMCW can maintain a healthy agricultural base while maximizing the benefits of agricultural chemicals.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Chemical products such as medicines, insecticides, repellants and larvicides help prevent millions of deaths each year. At the same time, 4.9 million deaths (8.3% of the global total) and 86 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years (5.7% of the global total) are attributable to pollution (WHO, 2004). We need to ensure that chemicals use and wastes do not cause environmental pollution, do not contaminate water, soil and air, protect human health and prevent death and illnesses.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

When hazardous chemicals are applied in products and in productive sectors, their use as

well as the dumping of products that contain them, can result in the release of hazardous chemicals, cause pollution that severely impacts water quality. SMCW can help prevent pollution of water sources, improve treatment of wastewater and drinking supplies and thus increase the availability of clean water.

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

When hazardous chemicals are applied in products and in productive sectors, their use as well as the dumping of products that contain them, can result in the release of hazardous chemicals, cause pollution that severely impacts water quality. SMCW can help prevent pollution of water sources, improve treatment of wastewater and drinking supplies and thus increase the availability of clean water.

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Cities occupy only 3% of the earth's land surface, yet house half the human population and use 75% of earth's resources. Cities are the largest consumers of natural resources and the biggest sources of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. SMCW is key to helping cities become more sustainable, through the use of less harmful products and construction materials, improved waste management practices and services, and greening industry to reduce emissions that impact air and water quality.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Services and products required to meet basic human needs and improve the quality of life consume natural resources and often contain toxic materials. At several points during their life-cycle they generate waste and release pollutants. SMCW plays a key role in enabling countries to decouple growth from resource use and pollution, by redesigning products

and production processes, phasing out toxic materials, minimizing waste generation and optimizing resource use through recycling and reuse.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

SMCW is key to combatting climate change. The phaseout to date of most ozone depleting substances (ODS) has not only led to regeneration of the ozone layer but also significant reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as most ODS are also powerful GHGs. SMCW presents several opportunities for GHG emission reductions, through resource recovery and recycling, waste to energy processes, optimizing waste transportation, use of newer, more-efficient transformers and condensers to replace those containing PCBs, and composting, among many others.

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Run-off and releases from sectors such as mining, agriculture and industry can cause nutrient pollution and contamination of the oceans' food chain. Improving the management and disposal of wastes and reducing the release of harmful chemicals is an important intervention in protecting the world's oceans, seas and marine resources.

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Production, use and handling of chemicals and waste, if not properly managed, can cause severe environmental degradation, contamination of water, soil, air, flora and fauna and disrupt ecosystems. SMCW, by preventing or minimizing releases of harmful chemicals and waste into the environment, protects habitats and ecosystems and reduces the need for difficult and costly remediation.

²⁸ Source: UNDP, *Chemicals and Waste Management for Sustainable Development*, April 2015 (http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals_management/chemicals-and-waste-management-for-sustainable-development/)



3. Key International Processes, Agreements, and Initiatives for Chemicals and Waste Management

This section outlines the main elements of some key international processes, agreements, and initiatives that directly or indirectly address chemicals and waste management.²⁹ For more information, please visit the website indicated for each entry.

Adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM, see Box 4) in February 2006, the **Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)** is a non-binding policy framework with an overall objective to achieve the WSSD “2020 goal” for sound chemicals management. SAICM comprises the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, expressing high-level political commitment to SAICM, and an Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS), which sets out its scope, needs, objectives, financial considerations, underlying principles and approaches, and implementation and review arrangements. These are accompanied by a Global Plan of Action (GPA) that serves as a working tool and guidance document

²⁹ This section limits itself to current or major initiatives; for a broader and more historical review that includes the predecessors of some the initiatives and instruments listed here, please consult: Philip Wexler, Jan van der Kolk, Asish Mohapatra, Ravi Agarwal, *Chemicals, Environment, Health: A Global Management Perspective* (CRC Press, 2011), and John Buccini, *The Global Pursuit of the Sound Management Of Chemicals* (World Bank, 2004).

The **Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade**, which entered into force in 2004 and currently has 154 Parties, is an important instrument for formally obtaining and disseminating the decisions of importing countries as to whether they wish to receive future shipments of certain hazardous chemicals (including pesticides) and severely hazardous pesticide formulations, and for ensuring compliance to these decisions by exporting countries. It also aims to contribute to the environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemicals, by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export, and by disseminating these decisions to Parties. <http://www.pic.int>

The **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**, which entered into force in 2004 and now has 179 Parties, 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 have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. The Convention, which initially targeted 12 POPs and now covers 23, requires its Parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. The Stockholm Convention has established a network of 16 regional and subregional centres (SCRCs) to provide technical assistance and to promote the transfer of technology to developing country parties and parties with economies in transition relating to the implementation of their obligations under the Convention. <http://chm.pops.int>

The **Minamata Convention on Mercury**, agreed in January 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland, and adopted at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Kumamoto, Japan, in October 2013, is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. Major highlights include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing

ones, control measures on air emissions, and the international regulation of the informal sector for artisanal and small-scale gold mining. The Convention draws attention to a global and ubiquitous metal that, while naturally occurring, has broad uses in everyday objects and is released to the atmosphere, soil, and water from a variety of sources. Controlling the anthropogenic releases of mercury throughout its lifecycle has been a key factor in shaping the obligations under the Convention, which currently has nineteen Parties and 128 signatories. <http://www.mercuryconvention.org>

The **Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)** is a non-binding internationally agreed system that defines and classifies the hazards of chemical products, and communicates health and safety information on labels and safety data sheets (SDS). The GHS also provides a basis for harmonization of rules and regulations on chemicals at the national, regional and global level, an important factor also for trade facilitation. The first official version of the GHS was adopted in 2002 by the UN ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the (UN-SCEGHS) and published in 2003. Since then, the GHS has been updated, revised, and improved every two years as needs arise and experience is gained in its implementation. Other initiatives, including the WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, have recently been aligned with the GHS. http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html

The **International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005)**, which entered into force in 2007, are an international legal instrument that is binding on 196 countries, including all the Member States of WHO. Their aim is to help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks – including chemical events – that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide. Building on the unique experience of WHO in global disease surveillance, alert and response, the IHR define the rights and obligations of countries to report certain disease outbreak and public health events,

and establish a number of procedures that WHO must follow in its work to uphold global public health security. http://www.who.int/topics/international_health_regulations

The **ILO Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170)**, which entered into force in 1993 and currently has 18 Parties, specifically addresses the protection of workers from harmful effects of chemicals at the workplace. Because of the tri-partite composition of the ILO under whose jurisdiction the Convention was negotiated, it includes obligations for governments, suppliers, employers and workers regarding the safe management and handling of chemicals. This ranges from developing coherent policies to the establishment of information exchange mechanisms. <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convde.pl?C170>

The purpose of the **ILO Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174)** is the prevention of major accidents involving hazardous substances and the limitation of the consequences of such accidents. The Convention, which entered into force in 1997 and currently has 18 Parties, requires, in consultation with representatives

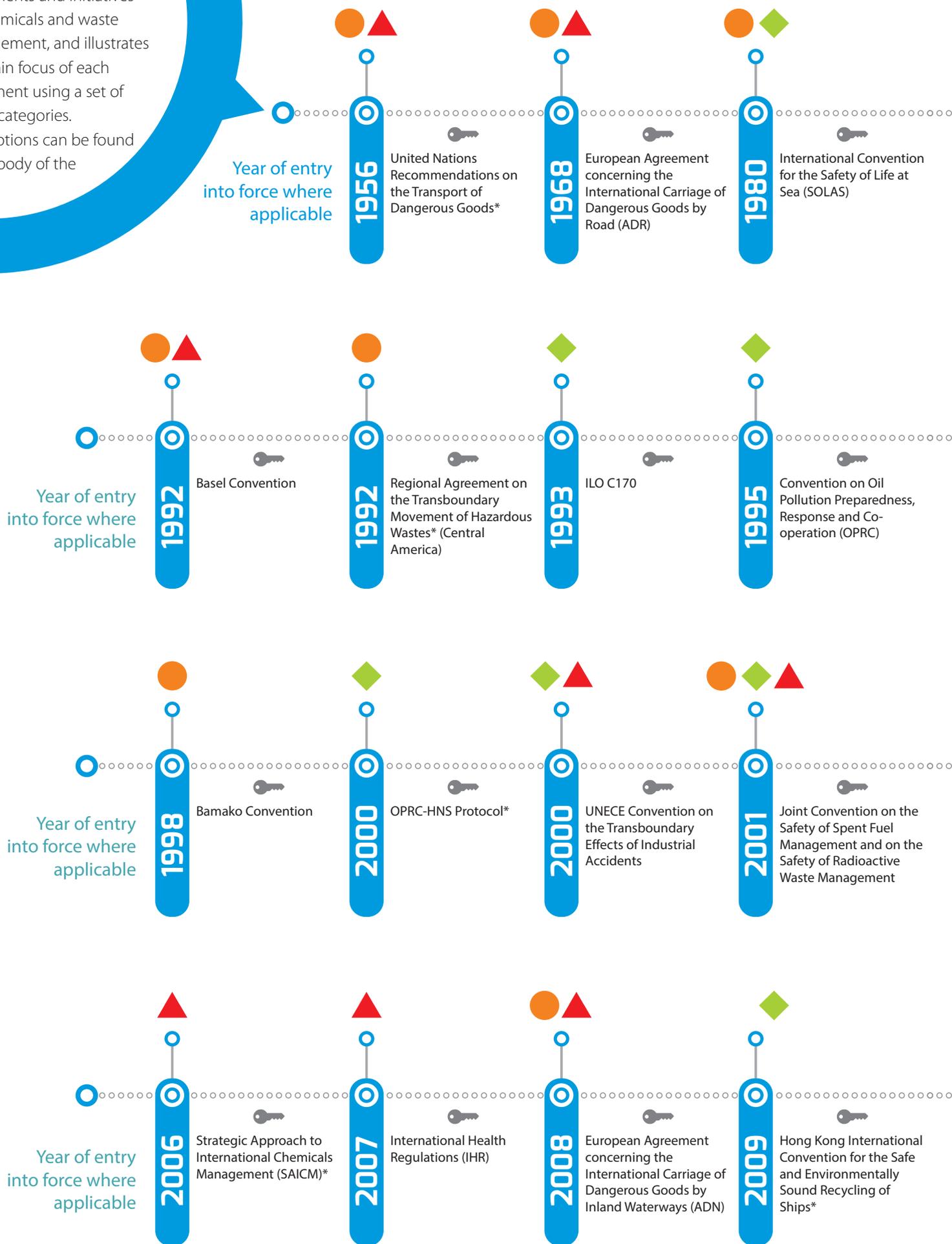
of employers, workers and other interested parties, the formulation, implementation, and periodic review of a coherent national policy concerning the protection of employees, the community and the environment, against risk from major hazards. <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convde.pl?C174>

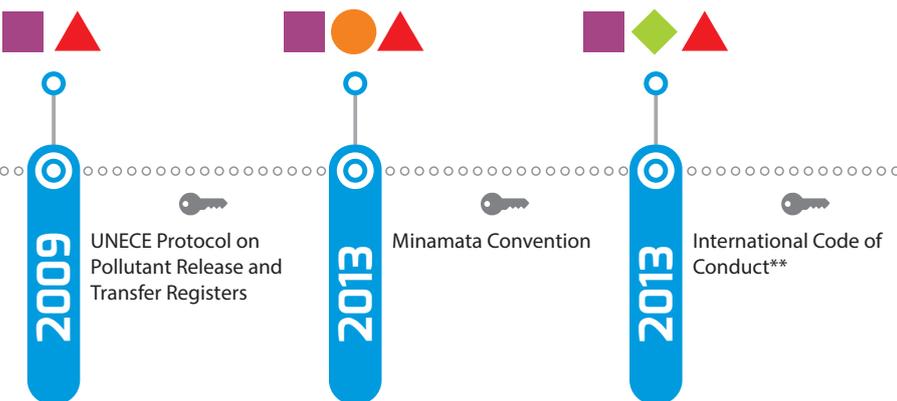
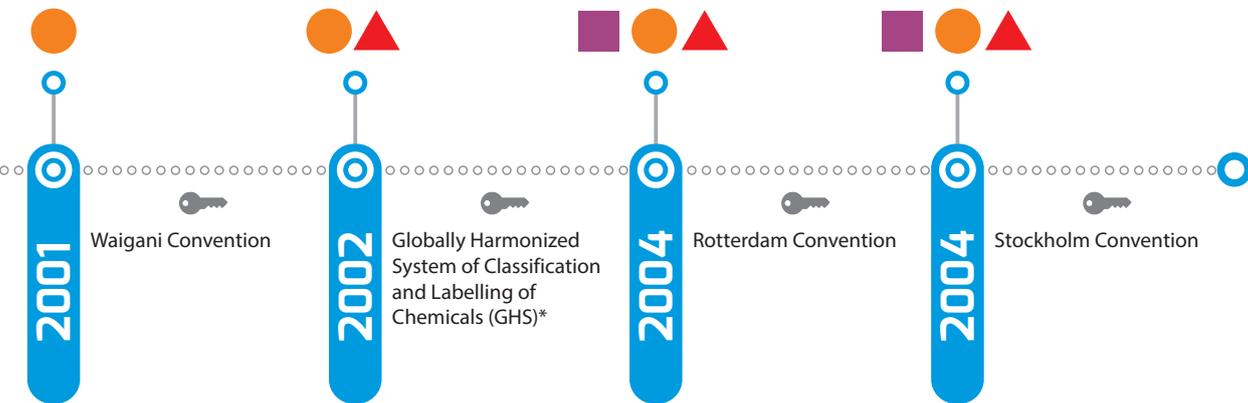
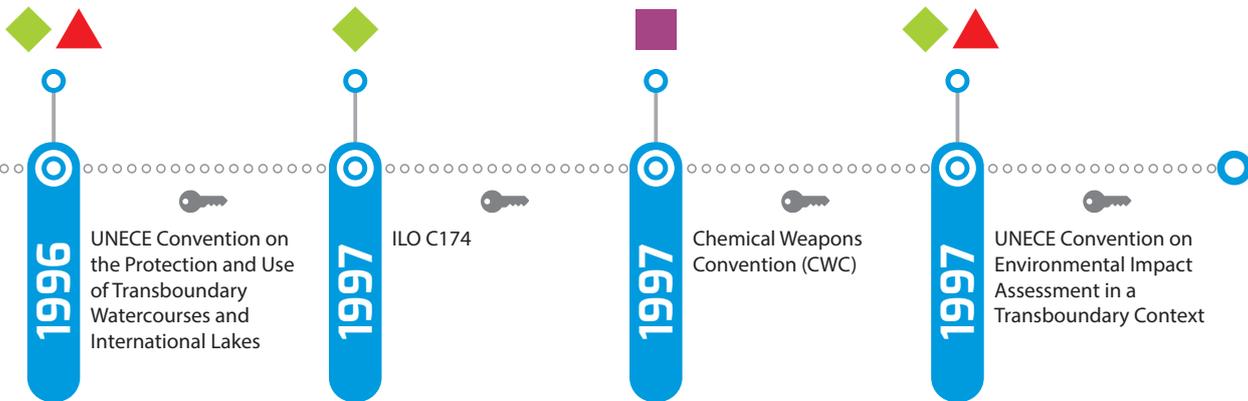
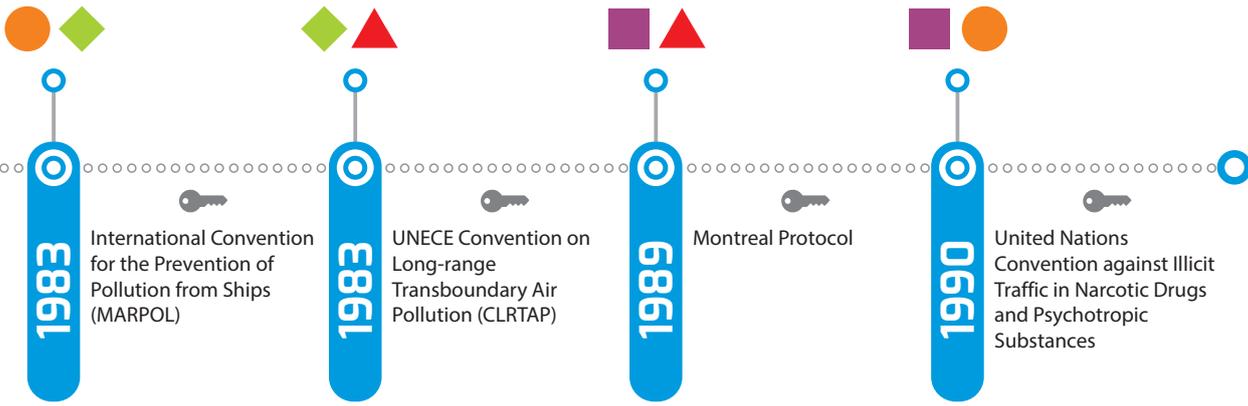
The **International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management** is the framework on pesticide management for all public and private entities engaged in, or associated with, production, regulation and management of pesticides. The new Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, which was approved by the FAO Conference in 2013 and recognized by the WHO Executive Board in January 2014, provides standards of conduct that serve as a point of reference in relation to sound pesticide life cycle management practices, in particular for government authorities and the pesticide industry. The Code of Conduct is supported by technical guidelines that are developed by the Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management. <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/code/en/>



This timeline shows the development of key international process, agreements and initiatives for chemicals and waste management, and illustrates the main focus of each agreement using a set of broad categories. Descriptions can be found in the body of the report.

Table 3: A Timeline of Key International Processes, Agreements, and Initiatives for Chemicals and Waste Management





Codes

-  Specific groups of chemical substances
-  Transport/transfer and disposal of chemical substances
-  Sectoral policies
-  Global harmonization and international chemicals management

* Adopted

** Approved by the FAO Conference in 2013 and recognized by the WHO Executive Board in 2014

The **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**, which entered into force in 1997 and currently has 190 Parties, is aimed at eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, however, it also covers “dual-purpose chemicals” and their “precursors” that may be used for industrial, agricultural, and other peaceful purposes. The exchange of scientific and technical information, and the production, processing, and use of such chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, are permitted. <http://www.opcw.org/chemical-weapons-convention>

The **Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer** – a protocol to the **Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer** – entered into force in 1989 with an aim to protect the ozone layer by reducing and eliminating global anthropogenic emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS). The Protocol, which has 197 Parties, includes a unique adjustment provision that enables the Parties to respond quickly to new scientific information and agree to accelerate the reductions required on chemicals already covered by the Protocol. For chemicals identified in the protocol, Parties must control their annual rates of consumption and production in comparison with established national baseline amounts, with the objective of reducing and eventually eliminating production and consumption by specified dates (which are specific for each chemical and different for developing and developed country Parties). A Multilateral Fund was created to provide developing country Parties with financial and technical assistance to meet the incremental costs of implementing the protocol controls. http://ozone.unep.org/new_site/en/montreal_protocol.php

The **International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)** was adopted in 1973, and modified by a Protocol that was adopted in 1978; the two agreements are regarded as one legal instrument that entered into force in 1983 (with currently 152 Parties). Its objective is to prevent and control marine pollution from oil, noxious liquid substances, sewage and garbage by eliminating discharges from all types of ships in the course of operations and by minimizing accidental

releases from the collision or stranding of ships, floating platforms or fixed platforms. This includes pollution prevention from chemicals shipped in bulk or packaged form, and the discharge of chemical residues from shipping. The disposal of waste into the sea by dumping is exempted. [http://www.imo.org/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-\(MARPOL\).aspx](http://www.imo.org/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-(MARPOL).aspx)

The **International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)**, which entered into force in 1980, has as its main objective to specify minimum standards for the construction, equipment, and operation of ships, compatible with their safety. The Convention’s Chapter VII - Carriage of dangerous goods covers construction and equipment of ships carrying dangerous liquid chemicals in bulk and requires chemical tankers to comply with the International Bulk Chemical Code (IBC Code). <http://www.imo.org/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Safety-of-Life-at-Sea-%28SOLAS%29,-1974.aspx>

The **Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC)** aims to facilitate international cooperation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to major oil pollution incidents that threaten the marine environment and coastlines, and to encourage countries to develop and maintain the capability to respond to major oil pollution emergencies involving ships, offshore units, sea ports, and oil handling facilities. The Convention, which entered into 1995, currently has 108 Parties. In 2000, the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (OPRC-HNS Protocol) was adopted, extending the scope of the Convention to hazardous and noxious substances. <http://www.imo.org/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-on-Oil-Pollution-Preparedness,-Response-and-Co-operation-%28OPRC%29.aspx>; <http://www.imo.org/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/Protocol-on-Preparedness,-Response-and-Co-operation-to->

[pollution-Incidents-by-Hazardous-and-Noxious-Substances-%28OPRC-HNS-Pr.aspx](http://www.imo.org/about/conventions/listofconventions/pages/the-hong-kong-international-convention-for-the-safe-and-environmentally-sound-recycling-of-ships.aspx)

The **Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships** was adopted in 2009 and has not yet entered into force. The Convention, which was developed in cooperation with the ILO and Parties to the Basel Convention, covers the design, construction, operation, and preparation of ships so as to facilitate safe and environmentally sound recycling, without compromising the safety and operational efficiency of ships; the operation of ship recycling facilities in a safe and environmentally sound manner; and the establishment of an appropriate enforcement mechanism for ship recycling, incorporating certification and reporting requirements. <http://www.imo.org/about/conventions/listofconventions/pages/the-hong-kong-international-convention-for-the-safe-and-environmentally-sound-recycling-of-ships.aspx>

The **UNECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)** – the Protocol to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (*Aarhus Convention*) – is the first legally binding international instrument on PRTRs. Its objective is to enhance public access to information through the establishment of coherent, nationwide PRTRs (inventories of pollution from industrial sites and other sources). The Protocol, which entered into force in 2009 and has 33 Parties to date, has established a new benchmark in promoting transparency and accountability in the sphere of the environment. <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.html>

The **UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP)**, which entered into force in 1983, was the first international legal instrument to address air pollution. Parties, of which there are currently 51, develop policies and strategies to combat the discharge of air pollutants through information exchange, consultation, research, and monitoring. The Convention has been extended by eight protocols that identify specific measures

to be taken by Parties to cut their emissions of air pollutants. http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/lrtap_h1.html

The **UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention)**, which entered into force in 2000, aims to prevent accidents that can have transboundary effects from occurring, or to reduce their frequency and severity and to mitigate their effects if required. The Convention also encourages its Parties (currently 41) to help each other in the event of such an accident, to cooperate on research and development, and to share information and technology. <http://www.unece.org/env/teia.html>

The **UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)**, which entered into force in 1997, sets out the obligations of its Parties (currently 45) to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of States to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries. <http://www.unece.org/env/eia/eia.html>

The **UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)**, which entered into force in 1996, aims to ensure the quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources. Parties (currently 40) have the obligation to implement measures to prevent, control and reduce the emissions of pollutants at source through, inter alia, the prior licensing of waste-water discharges and the reduction of nutrient and hazardous substances inputs from industrial, municipal and agricultural sources. Its **UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health** aims to protect human health and well-being by better water management and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related diseases, for example by supplying drinking water free from any substances which constitute a potential danger to human health. <http://www.unece.org/env/water.html>

Some regional and subregional agreements have also been developed to complement the Basel Convention, addressing the movement and management of hazardous wastes, including chemical wastes. These include the **Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes** (entered into force in 1998, with currently 25 Parties); the **Regional Agreement on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes** (adopted by the Central American countries in 1992, but not yet in force); and the **Waigani Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within the South Pacific Region** (entered into force in 2001, with currently 13 Parties). <http://www.au.int/en/content/bamako-convention-ban-import-africa-and-control-transboundary-movement-and-management-hazard>; <http://www.forumsec.org/fj/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/Waigani%20Convention%20Text1.pdf>

The **Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management**, which entered into force in 2001 and currently has 69 Parties, applies to spent fuel and radioactive waste resulting from civilian nuclear reactors and applications and from military or defence programmes if and when such materials are transferred permanently to and managed within exclusively civilian programmes, or when declared as spent fuel or radioactive waste for the purpose of the Convention by the Contracting Party. The Convention also applies to planned and controlled releases into the environment of liquid or gaseous radioactive materials from regulated nuclear facilities. <http://www.iaea.org/publications/documents/conventions/joint-convention-safety-spent-fuel-management-and-safety-radioactive-waste>

The **United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods** address principles for all aspects of classification, packaging, testing,

and labelling. The recommendations are presented in the form of “Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods” that present a basic scheme of provisions that allow uniform development of national and international regulations governing the various modes of transport; yet they remain flexible enough to accommodate any special requirements that might have to be met. The recommendations have been used for determining classes of wastes under the Basel Convention and in developing the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/unrec/rev13/13nature_e.html

The **European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)** states that apart from some excessively dangerous goods, other dangerous goods may be carried internationally (in Europe) in road vehicles subject to compliance with the conditions outlined in the agreement regarding their packaging and labelling, and the construction, equipment, and operation of the vehicle carrying the goods. The agreement, which entered into force in 1968 and was amended in 1985, currently has 48 Parties. The structure of its Annexes, which outline provisions concerning dangerous articles and substances and transport equipment and operations, is consistent with the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr_e.html

The **European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)**, which entered into force in 2008 and currently has 18 Parties, aims at ensuring a high level of safety of international transport (within Europe) of dangerous goods by inland waterways; protecting the environment from pollution during such transport; and facilitating transport operations and promoting international trade. Regulations annexed to the agreement contain provisions regarding classification, packaging, labelling, and testing of dangerous goods and wastes, and the construction, equipping and operation of relevant vessels. http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adn/adn_e.html

The **United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances**, which entered into force in 1990 and currently has 189 Parties, provides comprehensive measures against drug trafficking, including provisions against money laundering and the diversion of precursors chemicals. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/illicit-traffic.html>

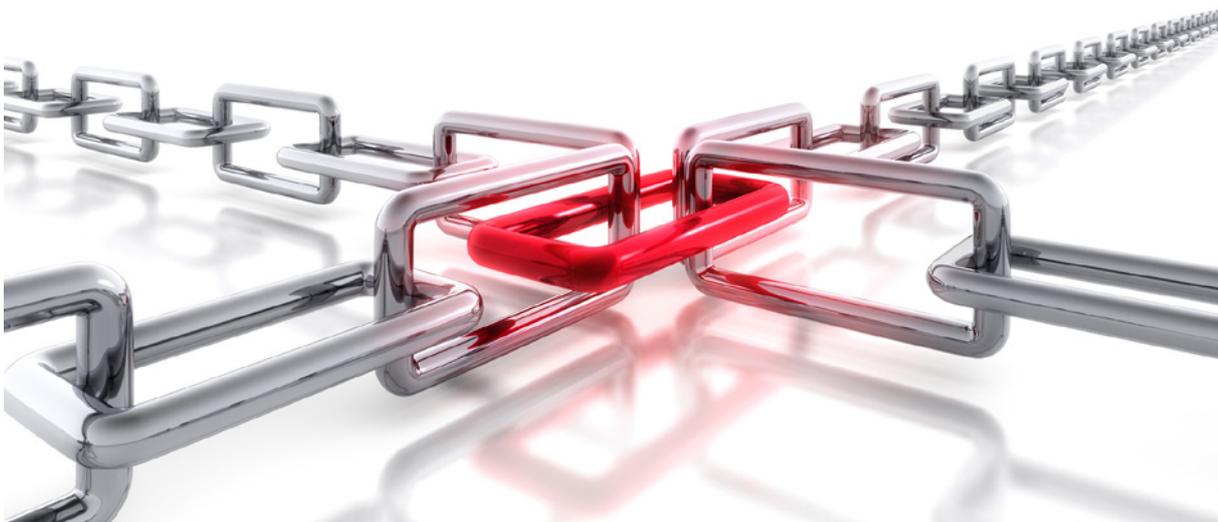
The legal instruments of **the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development**

(OECD) developed over the last 40 years on the sound management of chemicals that the 34 OECD member countries comply with. These legal instruments cover topics such as Mutual Acceptance of Data, general principles of chemicals management, confidentiality and proprietary rights, the systematic investigation of new and existing industrial chemicals, manufactured nanomaterials, and chemical accidents. <http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/oecdouncilactsrelatedtochemicals.htm>

Box 5: Supporting synergies and cooperation in MEAs: the case of UNECE

As the provider of the secretariat to a number of legal and other instruments relevant to the sound management of chemicals (see paragraphs 40, 51-55, 58-60), UNECE works to ensure synergies and cooperation in the substantive work between the UNECE MEAs. Some MEAs cooperate with the secretariat of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the GHS. For example, capacity building on the amended Annex I to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, aligned with the GHS, is conducted in close cooperation with the GHS Sub-committee. UNECE also cooperates with other organizations under the UN umbrella in fostering and advancing the sound management of chemicals: the Protocol on Water and Health is serviced jointly with WHO; cooperation with OPCW has been initiated to advocate the sound management of chemicals for industrial accident prevention; and UNECE MEAs cooperate with UNEP and other organizations, including in the framework of the Environment and Security Initiative, the International Coordinating Group on PRTRs, and beyond.

For more information: <http://www.unece.org/env/treaties/welcome.html>



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4. Sound Management of Chemicals in the UN System

As noted in the Introduction to this report, the issue of sound management of chemicals and wastes came to prominence in the UN system at UNCED in 1992, with the adoption of Agenda 21 (chapters 19 and 20) and the Rio Declaration. While some specific agreements (e.g. the Basel Convention, the Montreal Protocol, and work on non-binding initiatives such as the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade – the predecessor of the Rotterdam Convention) pre-date this time (the 1972 Conference on the Human Environment also started to give some international attention to the issue), arguably it was not until the UNCED that global, system-wide attention was given to this topic. As presented in section 2, there is now a wide and diverse range of international and regional processes, agreements, and initiatives for chemicals

management, many of which are found or housed within the UN system.

As this section will illustrate, there is also a wide range of UN and related organizations dealing with the chemicals management issues, both directly and in-directly. Many of them act as hosts for or contribute to assist implementation of the agreements and initiatives listed in section 2, and many of them also are active working at the country level to support governments and relevant stakeholders to implement those international commitments and national priorities. This section will review the UN and related agencies involved in sound chemicals management and present the results of a survey of agencies undertaken in September-October 2014 by the IMG regarding a range of key issues, including activities and partnerships, visibility and engagement, and opportunities for synergies and collaboration (for more information on the survey, please refer to paragraph 99). The list of organizations below may not be exhaustive in its scope, but it does include key non-UN organizations that are also active on



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the subject (e.g. OECD) or that provide financing (e.g. GEF). The existing *Inter-Organization Programme for Sound Management of Chemicals* (IOMC) is also highlighted (see Box 6).

focus is the chemicals-related activities); to keep this focus, organizations are only listed once.

4.1 UN and related agencies active in Sound Chemicals and Waste Management

A broad range of UN and related agencies are active in the efforts to strengthen sound chemicals management across a diverse range of sectors, both directly and indirectly. This section presents brief summaries of the main organizations and their links to chemicals and waste management issues. Based on their activities' focus in the field of chemicals and waste and replies to the survey, organizations are grouped within broad thematic sectors as summarised in Table 4. It should also be noted, however, that some organizations have non-chemicals activities in the other thematic sectors (but are not indicated here since the

Environment, Energy, and Transport

The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, established in 1972, assesses global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends; develops international and national environmental instruments; and strengthens institutions for the wise management of the environment. UNEP promotes chemical safety and assists countries and regions in managing, within a life-cycle approach, chemical substances and waste that have potential to cause adverse impact on environment and human health. This is done through policy advice, technical guidance, and capacity building. The Chemicals and Waste sub-programme is one of eight other thematic areas under UNEP's mandate. UNEP serves as the secretariat for the Basel, Rotterdam (jointly with FAO), and Stockholm Conventions, SAICM, and as the interim secretariat for the Minamata Convention. UNEP is a Participating Organization of the IOMC.

**Table 4:
UN and related organizations active in chemicals management,
by sector**

Environment, Energy, and Transport	Health and Sanitation	Agriculture and Labour	Development and Trade	Training and Research	Convention Secretariats and UN Coordination/ Operations	Funding Mechanisms
UNEP UNECE UNESCAP UNECLAC UNECA UNESCWA IMO IAEA UNODC OCHA UPU	WHO UNICEF UNRWA ICRC	FAO ILO	UNIDO UNDP UNCTAD WTO World Bank OECD APEC	UNITAR UNICRI UNU	BRS Secretariat DSD DPKO/DFS UNOPS CBD Secretariat OPCW	GEF

The **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** was set up in 1947 by ECOSOC to promote pan-European economic integration, however, all interested UN member States may participate in the work of UNECE. It is one of five regional commissions of the UN. UNECE serves as the secretariat to the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the GHS and its two subcommittees (TDG Subcommittee and GHS Subcommittee) and UNECE Inland Transport Committee's Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. It provides administration of two United Nations treaties governing the international carriage of dangerous goods (ADR for carriage by road; ADN for carriage by inland waterway), as well as the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, and Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and Protocol on Water and Health (the latter serviced jointly with WHO/Europe).

UN Regional Commissions are also stationed in the other four regions of the world: **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**, **Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC)**, **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**, and **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**. The Commissions share key objectives aiming to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to support regional sustainable development by contributing to bridging economic, social and environmental gaps among their member countries and subregions. This work includes a number of regional or subregional studies that address chemicals and waste management including a review of chemicals management in African countries and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** is the UN specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships. IMO's activities, as the secretariat of the following international agreements, concerns a number of chemicals and waste management issues: pollution prevention from chemicals shipped in bulk, or in packaged form, the discharge of chemical residues, garbage and sewage from shipping (as covered by MARPOL and SOLAS); preparedness and response to maritime incidents involving oil and chemicals (under OPRC and OPRC-HNS Protocol); and ship recycling including the design, construction, operation, and preparation of ships so as to facilitate safe and environmentally sound recycling at the end of its service life (through the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships).

The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**, set up in 1957 as the world's centre for cooperation in the nuclear field, works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technologies. IAEA's Waste technology Section has a direct mandate and activities related to nuclear waste through fostering technology transfer, promoting information exchange and cooperative research, as well as building capacity in Member States. IAEA also builds capacity in Member States' laboratories on the analysis of radionuclides, toxic trace elements and persistent organic pollutants in environmental samples, and promotes the use of radiation technologies for environmental remediation, specifically for removal of NOX and SO2 from flue gases, treatment of organic pollutants present in waste water and microbial inactivation of bio-solids. IAEA has many activities in cooperation with international organisations including UNEP, UNIDO, IOC-UNESCO, OECD/NEA and the European Commission.

The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime, and terrorism. UNODC operates in all regions of the world

through an extensive network of field offices. The safe handling, storage and disposal of seized chemicals, and waste encountered at clandestine drug laboratory sites present unique problems to law enforcement and regulatory authorities. The UNODC “Guidelines for the Safe Disposal of Chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of Drugs” address practical methods for the safe handling and disposal of large quantities of seized chemicals, usually under field conditions, and in situations where a waste management infrastructure may not be available. They also provide guidance for the identification of potential in-country resources as part of a broader national waste management strategy, outline the role of the chemical disposal specialist and suggests content of a training course to assist in introducing the appropriate expertise in the environmentally-responsible management of seized chemicals and other materials related to illicit drug laboratories.

The **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**, an independent, quasi-judicial expert body, has a mandate that relates to currently 23 drug precursor chemicals, listed in two Tables of the 1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. INCB monitors governments’ control over chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and assists them in preventing the diversion of those chemicals into the illicit traffic. INCB is also responsible for assessing chemicals used

in illicit drug manufacture, in order to determine whether they should be placed under international control.

The **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** is the part of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. OCHA works with its partners to develop international policy and effective tools and guidelines, all of which are critical to prevent, prepare for, and respond to, environmental incidents resulting from natural disasters and other emergencies. OCHA has prepared “Guidelines for Environmental Assessment Following Chemical Emergencies” and “Disaster Waste Management Guidelines”.

The **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**, which was established in 1874, is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players. It fulfils an advisory, mediating and liaison role, and provides technical assistance where needed. As part of the “dangerous goods” procedures and rules, it cooperates with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on the transport by post of equipment containing lithium batteries (ECLB) and, in cooperation with ICAO, IATA, and CAAs, has developed training on “transportation of dangerous goods” for posts.



UN photo

Box 6: The IOMC

The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established in 1995 and serves as the pre-eminent mechanism for initiating, facilitating and coordinating international action to achieve the WSSD 2020 goal for sound management of chemicals. It brings together nine intergovernmental organizations actively involved in chemical safety: FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank, and OECD.

The objective of the IOMC is to strengthen international cooperation in the field of chemicals and to increase the effectiveness of the organisations' international chemicals programmes. It promotes coordination of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

The IOMC actively contributed to the development of SAICM and was a co-convenor of the first ICCM. IOMC also plays a key role in the implementation of government-mandated priorities agreed for SAICM and also supports the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions.

The individual IOMC organizations have all endorsed or formally acknowledged support for SAICM, and their activities support the SAICM objectives as well as implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which identifies IOMC organizations as actors for eighty percent of its activities. These activities are formally coordinated by the IOMC, including through its bi-annual meetings. During these meetings, IOMC regularly holds discussions with the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, the interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and with the SAICM Secretariat.

The IOMC has produced a number of products including:

- a recently updated matrix of IOMC activities in countries, available on the IOMC web site, provides a country-by-country overview of IOMC organizations' activities (www.who.int/iomc/en/)
- the IOMC's second analysis of the SAICM Global Plan of Action (updated in June 2014) is also available on the IOMC web site, showing the contribution of IOMC organizations as actors and a high-level indication of progress
- the IOMC ToolBox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management – an internet-based ToolBox that enables countries to identify the most relevant and efficient tools (e.g. guidelines, protocols, data sheets) to address specific national problems in chemicals management (<http://iomctoolbox.oecd.org/>)

Health and Sanitation

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the UN system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends. Through the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), WHO works to

establish the scientific basis for the sound management of chemicals, and to strengthen national capabilities and capacities for chemical safety. Current areas of activity include: evaluation of risks to human health of specific chemicals; development and harmonization of risk assessment methodologies; evaluation of the safety of food additives and contaminants, as well as residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs; poisons information, prevention and management; capacity building; and implementation of health in international instruments on chemicals. In headquarters, Regional

Offices and country offices, activities are coordinated with other WHO programmes having chemical safety components, e.g. the International Agency for Research on Cancer, food safety, occupational health and control of tropical diseases. WHO is a Participating Organization of the IOMC.

The **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** has the fundamental mission to promote the rights of every child, everywhere, in everything the organization does – in programmes, in advocacy, and in operations. UNICEF was created to work with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child’s path. UNICEF’s engagement in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), focuses on improved and equitable use of safe drinking water, sanitation and healthy environments, and improved hygiene practices.

The **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)** was established in 1949 to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees. Its services encompass

education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict. UNRWA does not have an explicit mandate regarding chemicals and waste management, but is involved in waste management related to maintenance of its 1,500 vehicle fleet, limited medical waste through its primary health care, and waste collection and disposal in a number of camps, in accordance with the local laws in the areas that it operates in.

The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** is an independent and neutral organization that was established in 1863 and operates worldwide, helping people affected by conflict and armed violence and promoting the laws that protect victims of war. ICRC addresses a number of chemicals and waste management issues including chemical and biological weapons; response to technological disasters, notably chemical and nuclear disasters; supplying chemicals to ensure safe drinking water provision; and managing medical waste.

Box 7: Inter-agency coordination group on industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Industrial Accidents was established in 2013 in order to bring together organizations and institutions involved in the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to industrial/chemical accidents. To date, the following intergovernmental organizations and institutions have participated: UNECE, UNEP, Joint Environment Unit UNEP/OCHA, WHO, OECD, OPCW, European Commission and its Joint Research Centre, and the European Process Safety Centre. Meetings are held on an annual basis, hosted and chaired by the participating organizations in a rotating manner.

The inter-agency coordination group aims to create an international platform allowing for the exchange of information on each organizations’ work programmes and activities, in order to identify cooperation opportunities. Inter-agency coordination is thereby also be a means to avoid potential duplication of work, increase resource efficiency, and strengthen international cooperation through a synergetic approach. Additionally, the inter-agency coordination group provides a means to discuss developments and challenges and to draw up common positions on matters related to industrial accidents’ prevention, preparedness, and response.

Participating organizations agree to promote and raise awareness of each other’s products, including guidance materials and tools, in order to increase the visibility of their work in the field of industrial accident prevention, preparedness, and response and thus to help countries improve their efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to industrial accidents. As such, the participating organizations are in the process of preparing a joint brochure for ICCM-4 (28 September–2 October 2015). A joint side event by the participating organizations was organized in the framework of the SAICM open-ended Working Group meeting in December 2014.

Agriculture and Labour

The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** has a central goal of achieving food security for all – to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. FAO assists member countries in improving the sound management of chemicals through: promoting the provisions of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and providing technical assistance to implement rational plant protection programmes and preventing and disposing obsolete and unwanted pesticides; jointly with IAEA, improving the agrochemical usage in food and agriculture; jointly with the UNEP, implementing the Prior Informed Consent procedure; jointly with WHO, making recommendations for Acceptable Daily Intakes of food additives, pesticide and veterinary drug residues, and for Maximum Residue Limits in food for pesticides and veterinary drugs, as well as for tolerable intakes of other food contaminants; and providing the Secretariat for the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, the executive organ of the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. FAO is a Participating Organization of the IOMC.

The **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, established in 1919, is a UN Specialized Agency with a tripartite constituency: governments, employers and workers. Chemical safety is part of ILO's mandate concerning worker protection. ILO standards, particularly the Chemicals (No. 170, 1990) and Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, (No. 174, 1993) Conventions, are the basis for ILO policy. Action tools include: Conventions and Recommendations; technical standards; the global programme on occupational safety, health and environment; advisory services and training; harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals; the IPCS International Chemical Safety Cards Project; and the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS). ILO is a Participating Organization of the IOMC.

Development and Trade

The **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** is the specialized agency of the UN that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. Its Multilateral Environmental Agreements Branch is involved in: cleaner production and clean technology, BAT and BEP, technical skills and knowledge, and capacity building to introduce or enhance the sound management of chemicals; promoting safety, health and environmental protection through risk reduction studies and dissemination of information; and supporting regional efforts to research harmful chemicals preparations, evaluate and introduce environmentally sound chemicals and alternative formulations. UNIDO is a Participating Organization of the IOMC.

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to the knowledge, experience and resources needed to help people build a better life. UNDP is active in 170 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. UNDP supports sound chemical management programmes in five principal areas: support the mainstreaming of Sound Management of Chemicals into MDG-based national development planning processes and frameworks; phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in support of the objectives of the Montreal Protocol; reducing and eliminating releases of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in support of the objectives of the Stockholm Convention; reducing releases of mercury into the environment and minimizing human exposure in support of the objectives of the Minamata Convention; and reducing and preventing chemical pollution of lakes, rivers, groundwater, coasts and oceans. UNDP is a Participating Organization of the IOMC.

The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** is the UN body responsible for dealing with development issues, particularly international trade – the main driver of development. It provides a number of services to economic policymakers with the aim to help them take informed decisions and promote the macroeconomic policies best suited to ending global economic inequalities and to generating people-centered sustainable development. UNCTAD does not have a direct mandate related to chemicals and waste management, but addresses related issues some of its activities, for example, through research and dialogue on the review of marine transport and industrial policy.

The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** is the only global international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) has items in its work programme that are related and relevant to chemicals and waste management, specifically: Item 1: the relationship between WTO rules (multilateral trading system) and trade measures taken pursuant to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs); Item 5: the relationship between dispute settlement mechanisms in the multilateral trading system and in the MEAs; and Item 7: Export of domestically prohibited goods (DPG), such as hazardous waste. Ongoing collaboration takes place with MEAs that have trade provisions including participation in meetings of the CTE and meetings of the MEAs, information exchange, and delivery of technical assistance activities in the area of trade and the environment with input from MEAs.

The **World Bank**, established in 1944, is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world, supporting a wide array of investments in such areas as education, health, public administration, infrastructure, financial and private sector development, agriculture, and environmental and natural resource management. Regarding chemicals and waste management,

the World Bank Group has been active in public and private sector pollution management for several decades, including projects on improving the management of solid and hazardous waste and wastewater, and controlling pollution related to transport, industry, energy, mining, and other sectors across many countries. Projects, for example, are tackling pollution from an aluminium smelter, minimizing the exposure of humans and livestock to radionuclides associated with abandoned uranium mine tailings, cleaning up mercury pollution, and remediating ground water pollution from historical industrial hazardous wastes. The World Bank is a Participating Organization of the IOMC.

The mission of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. OECD's Chemicals Programme was established in 1978. Its objectives are to assist Member countries in: promoting sound management of chemicals world-wide; identifying, preventing and reducing risks of chemicals; preventing unnecessary barriers to trade; optimising the use of national resources for chemicals management; and integrating economic and chemical safety policies. Major products of the Programme are: Test Guidelines, Good Laboratory Practice, the system of Mutual Acceptance of Data, hazard/risk assessment methods, harmonized classification endpoints, efficiencies in new chemicals notifications, initial assessment reports on High Production Volume chemicals, and information exchange networks on risk reduction. The Chemicals Programme is part of OECD's Environmental Health and Safety Programme which also includes work on pesticides, chemical accidents, harmonization of regulatory oversight in biotechnology, PRTRs, and food safety. OECD is a Participating Organization of the IOMC.

The **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** is the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. It is an intergovernmental grouping, with 21 members which account for approximately 40 percent of the world's population, approximately 55 percent

of world GDP, and about 44 percent of world trade. APEC's Chemical Dialogue (CD) serves as a forum for regulatory officials and industry representatives to find solutions to challenges facing the chemical industry and users of chemicals in the Asia-Pacific region. Issues addressed include chemical sector liberalisation, chemical trade facilitation, and capacity building. Key activities include GHS implementation, Virtual Working Group on Regulatory Convergence and Cooperation, Chemical Dialogue Regulator's Forum Meeting, and Website for Emergency First Responders.

Training and Research

The **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)** is a principal training arm of the United Nations that develops capacities of individuals, organizations, and institutions to enhance global decision-making and to support country-level action for shaping a better future. UNITAR's chemicals and waste management activities include: (i) infrastructure and capacity assessments (e.g. National Profiles, Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) situation analyses); (ii) integrated national programmes for chemicals and waste management; and (iii) specialised training and capacity building addressing, for example, the GHS, pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTR), mercury inventory development and risk management decision-making, nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, and chemicals and waste related agreement implementation. UNITAR is a Participating Organization of the IOMC.

The **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)** was established in 1967 to support countries worldwide in preventing crime and facilitating criminal justice. UNICRI carries out research, capacity building, and technical assistance on trafficking in waste (particularly hazardous and e-waste) and chemical, nuclear, radiological materials. Within the framework of the implementation of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative, UNICRI's CBRN Programme focuses on the mitigation of risks associated with Chemical,

Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) materials, in chemical risks at the level of prevention, detection, preparedness and response and governance. UNICRI's programme on CBRN risk mitigation works closely with the UNSC 1540 Committee and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The **United Nations University (UNU)** is a global think tank and postgraduate teaching organization headquartered in Japan. Its mission is to contribute, through collaborative research and education, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the UN, its Peoples and Member States. UNU-FLORES advances a nexus approach to the sustainable management of water, soil, and waste with a focus on how waste and wastewater management can be interlinked with the management of water and soil for the better management of environmental resources. UNU-IAS is conducting a number of projects on electronic waste ("e-waste").

Convention Secretariats and UN Coordination/Operations

The principal functions of the **Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions** 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 vision of the Secretariat is to be recognized by the Parties as efficient, effective, innovative and responsive in carrying out the functions entrusted to it by the respective conventions and their Conferences of the Parties, and in assisting parties in their efforts to implement their obligations to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. The Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions are administered by the UNEP and are located in Geneva, Switzerland. The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention is jointly served by UNEP and FAO.

The **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force in 1997. As of today OPCW has 190 Member States, who are working together to achieve a world free of chemical weapons. OPCW provides training and events in three main areas: assistance and protection against chemical weapons; international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry; and national implementation of the CWC.

The **Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity** was established to support the goals of the Convention and is institutionally linked to UNEP. Its principal functions are to prepare for, and service, meetings of the Conferences of the Parties (COP) and other subsidiary bodies of the Convention, and to coordinate with other relevant international bodies. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, adopted at COP10 of the Convention, indirectly addresses chemicals and waste management through targets 8 (reducing pollution) and 7 (sustainable agriculture). References to chemicals and wastes are also often included in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

The **Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)** provides leadership in promoting and coordinating implementation of the sustainable development agenda of the UN. This includes Agenda 21, where chemicals and waste management are directly addressed in Chapters 19 and 20, and in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, where Member States renewed the commitment to sound chemicals management through the WSSD “2020 goal”. Four sessions (held in 1994, 1997, 2010, and 2011) of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) also had substantive discussions on sound chemicals and waste management. DSD was involved in various follow-up initiatives, including Rio+20 and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, supporting the inclusion of chemicals and waste management issues.

Under the United Nations Peacekeeping Group, the **Department of Peacekeeping Operations**

(**DPKO**) provides political and executive direction to UN Peacekeeping operations around the world and maintains contact with the Security Council, troop and financial contributors, and parties to the conflict in the implementation of Security Council mandates and the **Department of Field Support (DFS)** provides dedicated support to peacekeeping field missions and political field missions. DPKO/DFS does not have a direct mandate concerning chemicals and waste management but do have related activities through field missions (e.g. pest control, ozone-depleting substances, used oils, radioactive waste, military ordinances, water purification chemicals, medical wastes) and work to reduce the use of harmful substances in its operations to reduce potential hazards on its personnel and surrounding communities. DPKO/DFS Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions sets out the minimum standards provided by MEAs for its own operations and a new DPKO/DFS waste management policy is about to be issued to strengthen such activities in the field.

The **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)** is an operational arm of the United Nations, supporting the successful implementation of its partners’ peacebuilding, humanitarian and development projects around the world. UNOPS provides project management, procurement and infrastructure services to governments, donors and UN organizations. This includes the delivery of infrastructure to support utilities services such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and concerns water sourcing, treatment, and distribution network, and wastewater. UNOPS also supports infrastructure delivery for waste management including waste disposal facilities, waste collection and separation systems, and waste processing facilities.

Funding Mechanisms

The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** is a partnership for international cooperation where 183 countries work together with international institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector to address global environmental issues. Since 1991, the GEF has provided 13.5 billion USD in grants

and leveraged 65 billion USD in co-financing for 3,900 projects in more than 165 developing countries. The GEF serves as financial mechanism for the following conventions: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); UN Convention to Combat

Desertification (UNCCD); and Minamata Convention on Mercury. The current replenishment period (GEF-6, which extends from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2018) includes 554 million USD pledged for the chemicals and waste focal area (375, 141, and 13 million USD allocated to Stockholm Convention, Minamata Convention, and SAICM respectively).

Box 8: An integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes

A consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes was launched by the UNEP Executive Director in recognition of the need for adequate resources in the field of chemicals and wastes management. The process was first announced at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants held in May 2009.

Following five meetings in a country-led consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes between 2009 and 2011, a non-negotiated outcome document of the process (UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/7) presented an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes through three complementary and mutually reinforcing tracks: (i) mainstreaming of the sound management of chemicals and wastes into development planning; (ii) industry involvement; and (iii) dedicated external financing.

In 2013, the UNEP Governing Council invited "Governments to consider establishing, through an existing institution, a special programme, funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the future Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management". The *Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM* was adopted at the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in June 2014 (Resolution UNEA 1/5 II, "Integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and waste"; <http://www.unep.org/unea/download.aspx?ID=5171>).

The Special Programme is an element of an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes in relation to dedicated external financing. Through the Special Programme, financial support can be provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance their sustainable institutional capacity to develop, adopt, monitor, and enforce policy, legislation, and regulation and to gain access to financial and other resources for effective frameworks for the implementation of the legally binding chemicals and waste conventions and SAICM. The Special Programme became operational in 2016. For more information: <http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/SpecialProgramme/tabid/1059798/Default.aspx>

In addition, as a contribution to operationalizing the integrated approach, the BRS Secretariat developed a "Checklist on the integrated approach to financing options for chemicals and wastes for use by Secretariat staff", which provides Secretariat staff with guidance on how conventions' activities may take as a reference the various aspects of the integrated approach. The checklist has been used for developing activities for the proposed programmes of work and budgets of the biennium 2016-2017 and when reporting on the implementation of activities for the biennium 2014-2015. The checklist could be adapted and used by other entities as a template for the implementation of the approach at the regional and national levels (see UNEP/CHW.12/INF/33, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/18, UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/34, <http://synergies.pops.int/2015COPs/MeetingDocuments.aspx>).

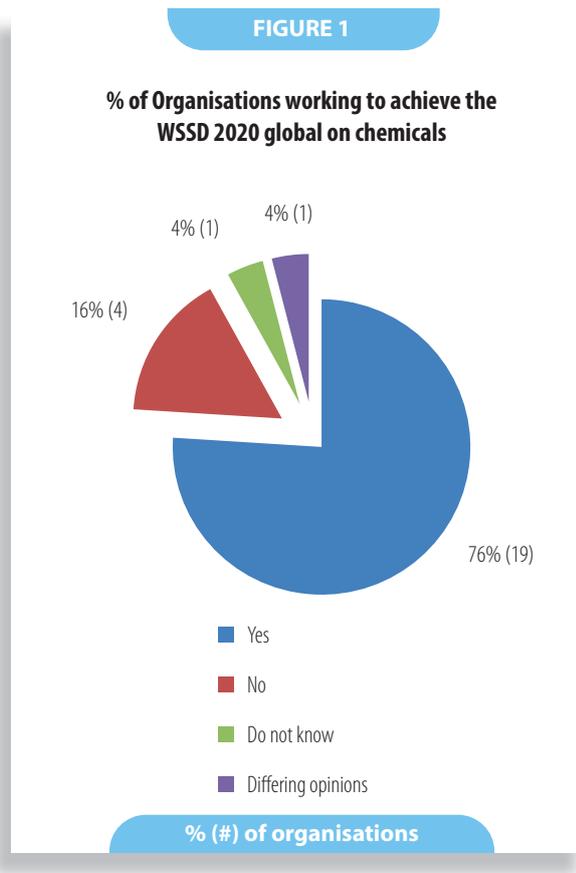
4.2 Activities and partnerships

The next 3 subsections of this report (4.2-4.4) provide an overview of the perspectives, contributions, and activities of organizations working on chemicals management grouped around 3 themes: activities and partnerships, visibility and engagement, and synergies and collaboration.

This information is based on the results of the IMG survey conducted in 2014 which was undertaken in order to canvass the views of a wide-range of agencies on chemicals and waste-related issues, as well as making use of information already generated by the IOMC or in the context of the SAICM process. The survey was undertaken by the IMG during September and October 2014 and yielded responses from 25 agencies, including all 9 IOMC organizations and 16 non-IOMC members. Questionnaires were sent out to EMG focal points (or IMG focal points, as applicable) or contacts in relevant organizations; 58 organizations were contacted, with 25 responding for a survey response rate of 43% (the graphs on the following pages reflect the views of the responding agencies). In the case of two organizations, responses were received from different (multiple) sub-units within those organizations – this means that for the answer to some questions the total number of respondents is greater than 25 (in others, the number is lower than 25 if an organization did not respond to a particular question); in cases where there were different replies to the same question, this is reflected in a “differing opinions” category in the graphs of this report. In other cases, the same organization may have selected more than one response (as required by the question) – this is reflected by using a “combined answers” category in the graphs. This approach was taken in order to reflect the diversity of perspectives within organizations, when applicable, and to include all responses received to allow for a more accurate description of the results. The questionnaire used in the survey can be found in Annex 3 and the list of respondents in Annex 4.

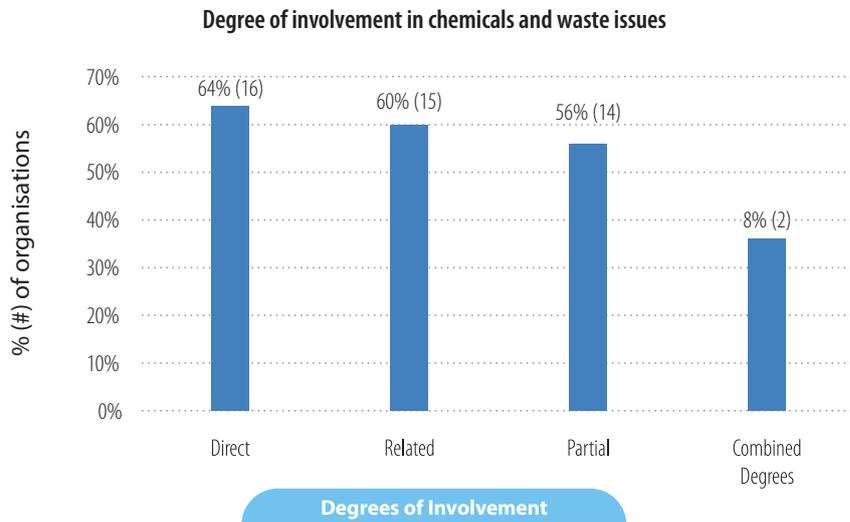
Working to achieve the 2020 goal on chemicals

When asked if their organization was working to achieve the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals³⁰, 76% of respondents answered yes, while only 16% said they were not, with 4% unsure or with differing opinions. See Figure 1.



³⁰ “Aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment”. The full text regarding chemicals from the WSSD can be found in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf

FIGURE 2



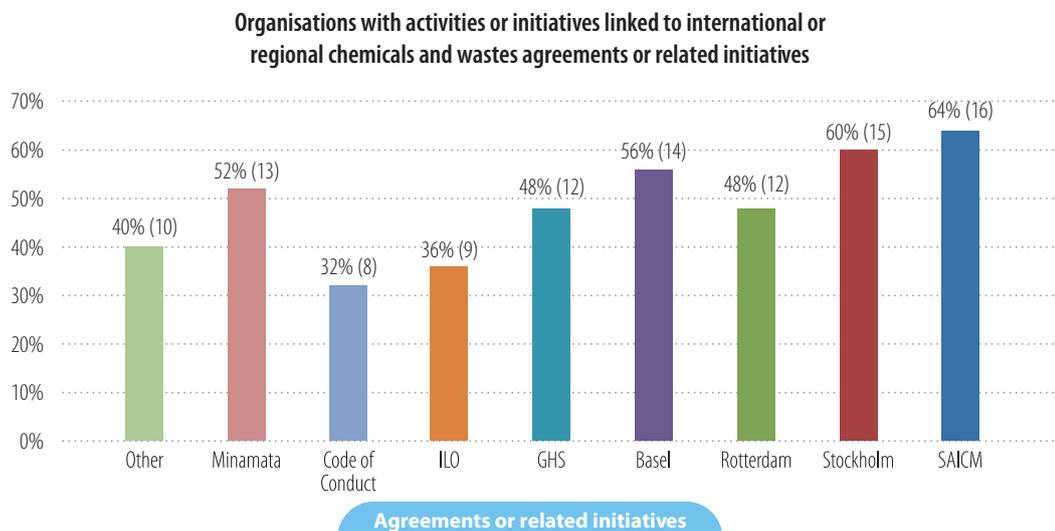
Degree of involvement in chemicals and wastes issues

When asked to categorise the degree of involvement of their organization in chemicals and wastes issues, 64% indicated a direct involvement, 60% related involvement, and 56% partial involvement. 8% indicated a combined degree of involvement within their organization (meaning that they have activities with direct involvement, related involvement or only partial involvement within the same organisation). See Figure 2.

Activities and initiatives linked to international or regional agreements

When asked about their activities or initiatives linked to international or regional chemicals and wastes agreements or related initiatives, all respondents had some activities related to the list as presented in Figure 3.

FIGURE 3

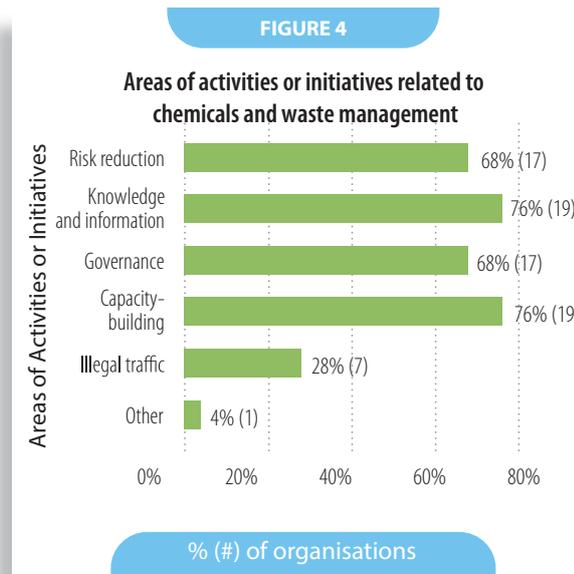


As regards activities linked to *other* international or regional chemicals and wastes agreements or related initiatives, respondent organizations listed the following (more detail on some of these may also be found in section 2):

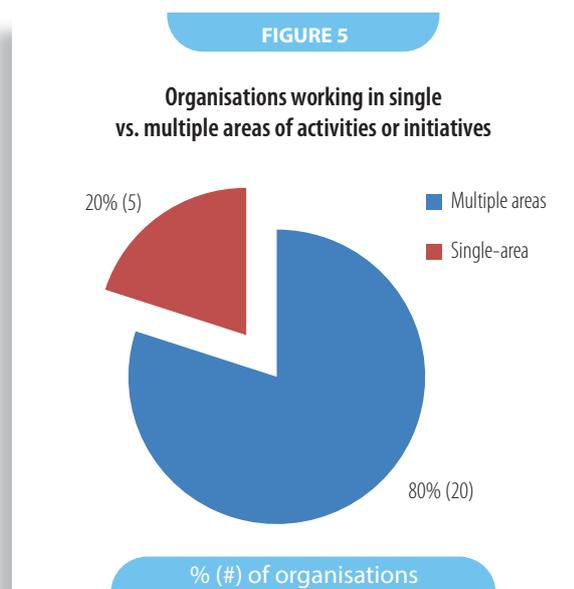
- International Health Regulations
- Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
- Guidance on Development of Legislation, Administrative Infrastructures and Recovery of Administrative Costs
- Cost of Inaction Initiative
- Global Chemicals Outlook
- APELL (Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level)
- Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa
- DPKO/DFS Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions
- Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
- United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
- European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)
- European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)
- Regional agreements on marine pollution
- Rio+20 follow-up and post-2015 development agenda process.

Areas of activities and initiatives

Respondent replied as shown in Figure 4 when asked to indicate the areas in which their organization had activities or initiatives related to chemicals management.³¹

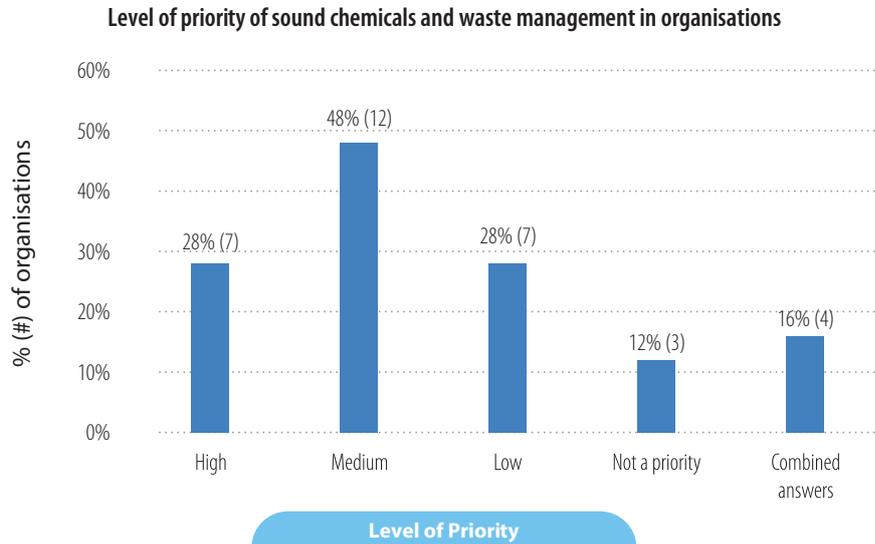


When aggregated, the results show that 80% of respondent organizations work in more than one area of chemicals management – see Figure 5.



³¹ The 5 areas are based on the thematic areas of the objectives of SAICM, for more information: http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=474.

FIGURE 6



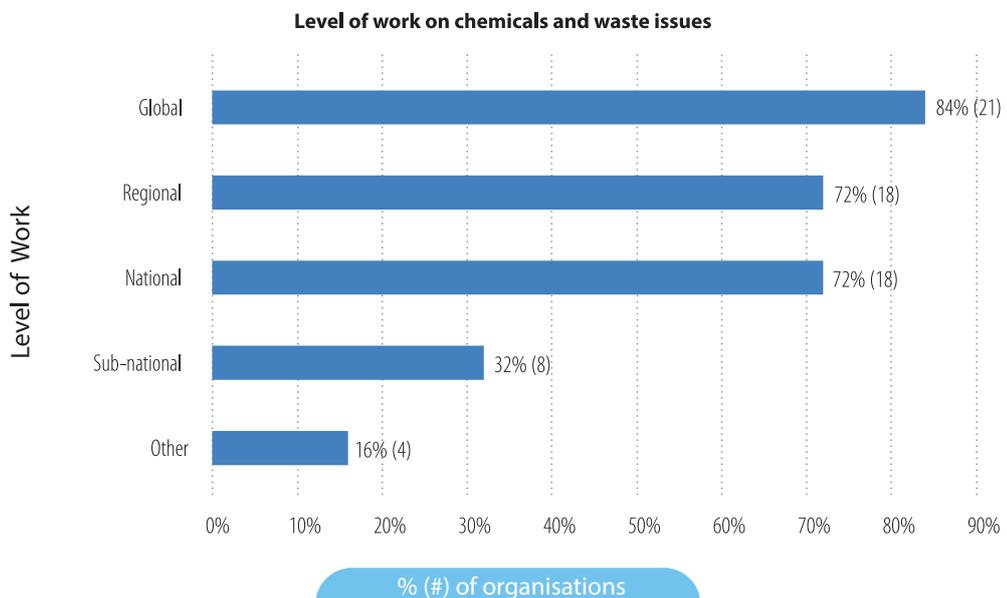
Level of priority of sound chemicals management within organizations

When asked about the level of priority of sound chemicals management issues in their organizations (e.g. compared to other thematic areas that it is engaged in), 75% indicated it was a high or medium priority. See Figure 6.

Level of work on chemicals and waste management

When asked if their organization worked on chemicals management at the global, regional, national, sub-national or other levels, a majority of all respondent organizations indicated that their activities take place at global, regional, and national levels - see Figure 7.

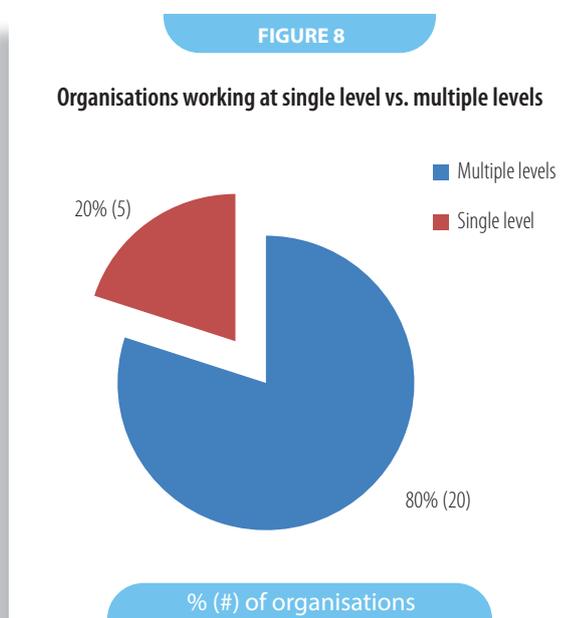
FIGURE 7



Other levels that respondent organizations work at for chemicals management include:

- communities and farmers
- local management of disposal and/or sale in accordance with local practice
- the private sector

When aggregated, the results show that 80% of respondent organizations work at multiple levels for chemicals management - see Figure 8.



Partners

When asked to specify UN and non-UN agencies with which each organization partners on activities related to chemicals and waste management, almost all respondents indicated partnerships with a broad range of organizations (in some cases, which can reach to the hundreds of partners). In many cases partners were those organizations listed above in section 4.1, but also many governments, donors, NGO and civil society groups, the private sector and industry associations, academia, and networks

of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder groups - all at the international, regional, and national (and in some cases, sub-national partners such as local authorities) levels. The purpose of the partnerships range from information exchange, to delivery of technical assistance for specific projects in countries, assistance with implementation of obligations under international conventions, financial support for activities, and coordination and policy fora.

Box 9: The Importance of Partnership for Sound Chemicals Management

While this report has largely confined itself to analysing UN system and related organizations, the full, effective, and transparent participation of civil society groups, the private sector, and other key stakeholders is of course also essential to advancing progress towards the 2020 goal. It is crucial for UN system and related organizations to share responsibility with other actors with key roles for achieving sound chemicals and waste management. The diversity of groups indicated in the response to the question on partnership suggests major efforts are underway to build partnerships outside of the UN system and that these efforts should continue and be strengthened.

4.3 Visibility and Engagement

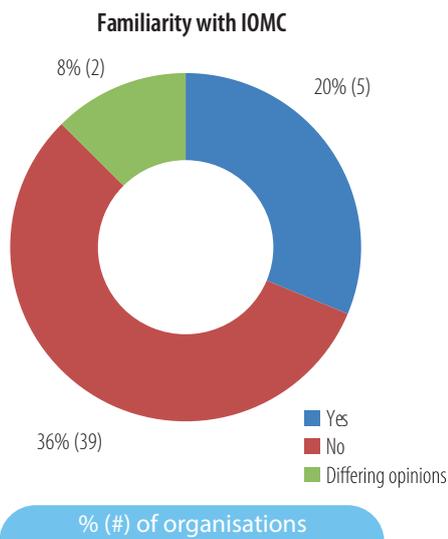
The organizations surveyed were also asked a number of questions in relation to the visibility of chemicals management, and some key existing structures and processes.

Familiarity with the IOMC

When asked if their organization was familiar with the IOMC, 36% of responding organizations said that they were not – see Figure 9.

n.b. IOMC members were removed from responses to this question. Additionally, in interpreting Figures 9 and 10, it should be borne in mind that some respondent organisations have also indicated they do not work towards the 2020 goal (e.g. see Figure 1) and/or do not have activities or initiatives related to chemicals; their answers as regards familiarity with IOMC and intention to participate in ICCM-4 should therefore be viewed in this context.

FIGURE 9

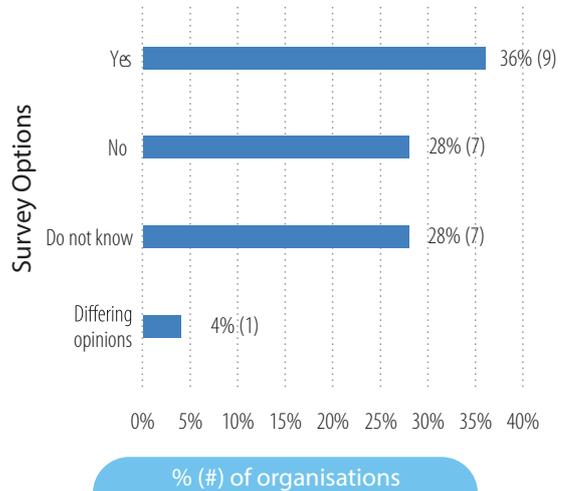


Planned participation at ICCM-4

When asked about their intent to participate at ICCM-4 in September 2015, 36% of respondents indicated that they planned to participate. See Figure 10.

FIGURE 10

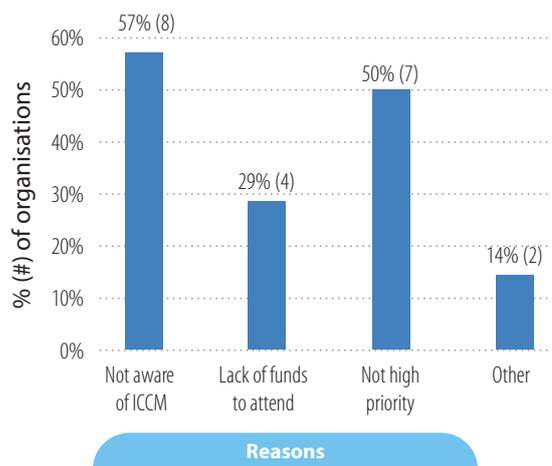
Figure 10: Plans to participate in ICCM-4



Those organizations that did not know or were not planning to participate provided a number of reasons for this, with lack of awareness and low priority being the most comment reasons – see Figure 11.

FIGURE 11

Reasons for not attending ICCM-4

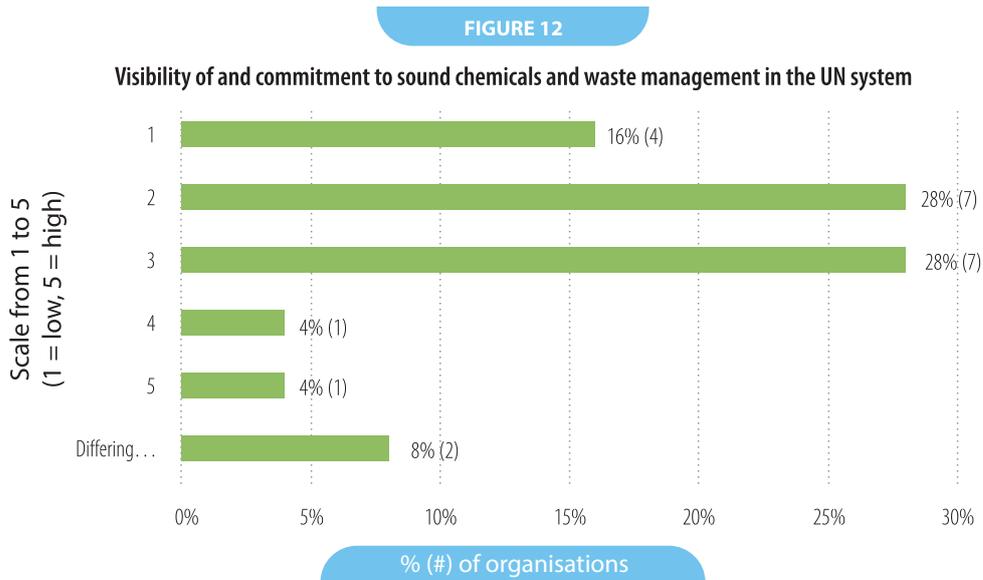


Other reasons provided for not attending ICCM-4 included:

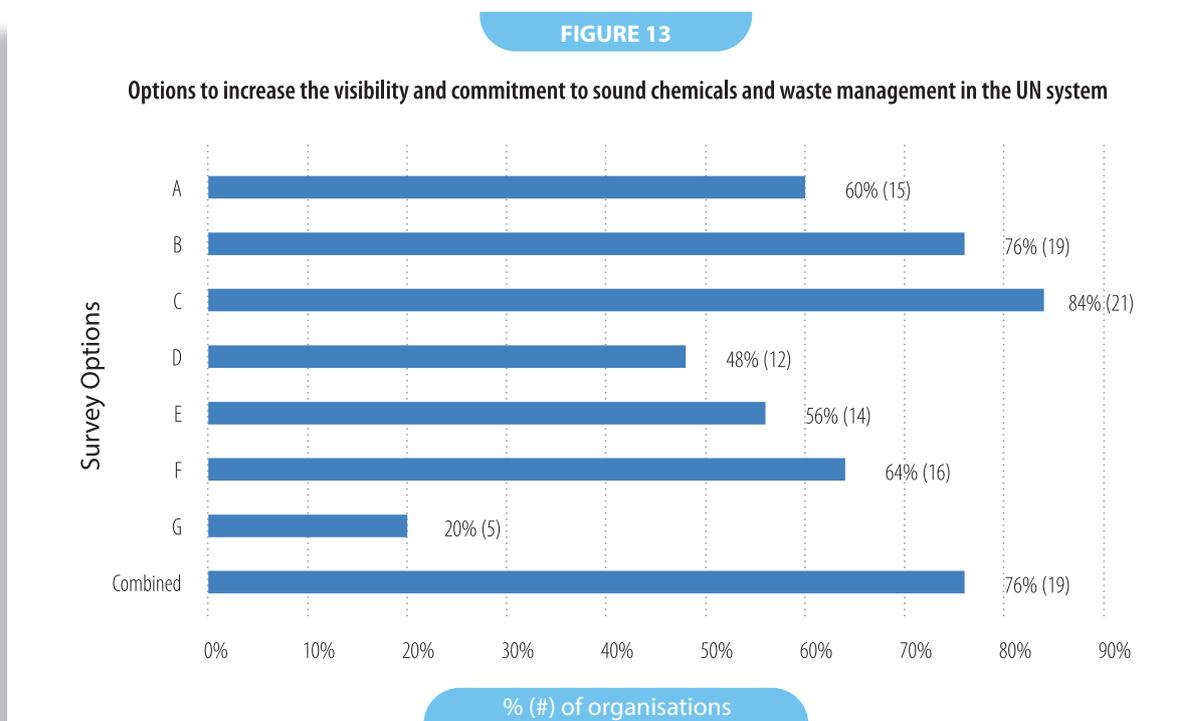
- not deemed relevant to operations
- not decided yet

Visibility and commitment in the UN system

When asked to provide their opinion regarding the visibility of and commitment to sound chemicals management in the UN system (on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 = low, 5 = high), most respondent organizations indicated a low to medium visibility and commitment to chemicals issues in the UN system. See Figure 12.



In reply to a question about what could be done to increase the visibility and commitment, responding organizations rated the suggested options as shown in Figure 13 (and corresponding legend).



Legend for Figure 13

- A** - Increase sharing of information and coordination among relevant agencies
- B** - Promote importance of chemicals and wastes issues in other fora (e.g. discussions of post-2015 agenda, in UN General Assembly, etc.)
- C** - Increase recognition of the linkages between sound chemicals and waste management and other thematic development areas (access to clean drinking water, improving human health, better and more stable food supplies, etc.)
- D** - Increase multi-sectoral support for SAICM
- E** - Promote the importance of working towards the WSSD 2020 goal
- F** - Develop high-level strategic approach/ response for heads of agencies to support sound management of chemicals and wastes and to increasing its visibility
- G** - Other

Regarding category G to provide other options, respondents made the following suggestions:

- develop practical tools for UN agencies, such as WFP or DPKO/DFS, when it relates to implementation by those agencies for their own operations
- outline means to implement MEAs when the host countries have no focal point nor infrastructure
- ensure sustainable financing for initiatives that support the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste (at the national, regional and global levels)
- showcase demand and commitment from governments including low, middle and high income countries
- capacity building activities should be implemented in collaboration with countries (more than only “promotion”)

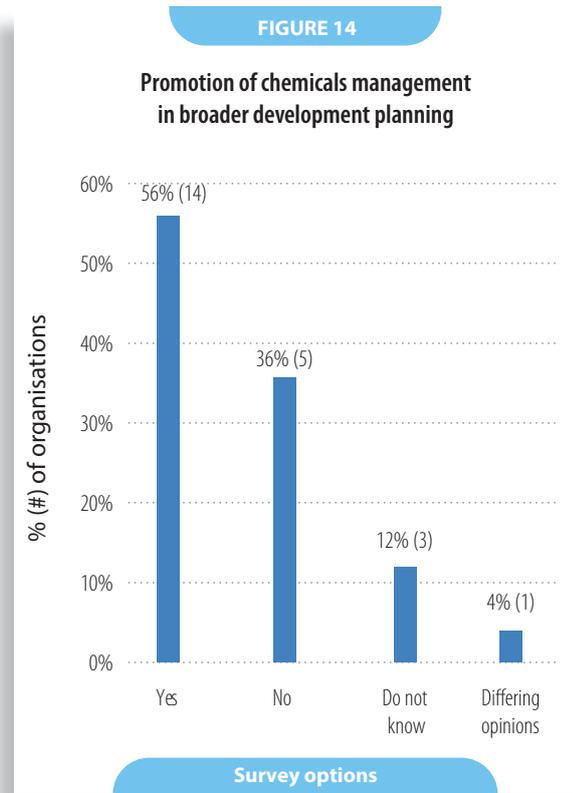
- increasing visibility and commitment to chemicals within the UN system also means increasing visibility and commitment in member states
- should the theme of the HLPF (High-level Political Forum on sustainable development) relate to sound management of chemicals and wastes, the relevant UN entities and Conventions might be invited to actively participate in the meeting, and strengthen coordination and synergies in promoting sound management of chemicals and waste in a holistic manner.

4.4 Synergies and collaboration

The survey also examined issues related to synergies and collaboration, more specifically about the promotion of chemicals management in development planning, where and how the expertise of different agencies can contribute to supporting countries in achieving the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals, and how to achieve additional synergies between different elements of the UN system and activities and initiatives that might assist achieving the 2020 goal.

Promoting the integration of chemicals management issues in the broader context of economic and social development planning

When asked if their organization promoted the integration of chemicals management issues in the broader context of economic and social development planning, 56% of respondents indicated that their organization did promote such integration. See Figure 14.



When asked how their organization promotes the integration of chemicals management issues in the broader context of economic and social development planning, a range of examples and approaches were provided, including:

- assisting countries to integrate sound chemicals management into national budgeting processes and development plans
- including horizontal activities within the organisation, e.g. on innovation, green growth, etc.
- trainings to promote greater awareness of industrial accidents and humanitarian work
- through sustainability in agricultural production, food safety standards for trade

- including reference to chemicals/wastes in action plans on relevant topics (such as those found in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans)
- engaging in broad consultations with government and the public for broader Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and promoting chemicals management in pilot projects
- provision of technical guidance and assistance in catalysing environmental finance
- promoting multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary coordination and collaboration
- promoting risk and impact assessment to inform environmental health decision-making
- coordinating work through the IOMC with development agencies such as UNDP and the World Bank
- seeking to include chemical safety projects in country cooperation plans alongside other health issues
- including issues of chemicals and waste in the context of sustainable development, and the balance of three pillars in organizations and processes mandated to address the range of sustainable development issues
- including chemicals management and broader relevant themes in partnership strategy documents that lay out the themes for engagement with specific countries

When asked what could be done by their organization to better support such integration, responding organisations provided a range of views, including:

- increase sharing of expertise and relevant publications between international organisations
- continue and expand the work on mainstreaming, starting with efforts to create political awareness and sensitivity to this issue and improving the existing tools to adapt them to an ever changing political and economic landscape
- develop practical tools for UN agencies when it relates to implementation by those agencies for their own operations
- strengthen capacity building focused on the monitoring of hazardous chemicals in the environment
- further promote strengthening the role of the health sector in chemical safety and further assist the health sector in acquiring the necessary technical capacities to fulfil this role
- give greater priority to chemicals at the country level so that it “bubbles up” in the dialogue between high-level country officials and the organization

One organization indicated that chemicals and wastes were already well integrated in the strategic framework of that organization, while a number of others noted that limited availability of funding could hamper their organizations’ ability to further promote the mainstreaming of sound chemicals management.

Supporting countries to achieve the 2020 goal: best practices

In order to suggest possible mechanisms and ways this expertise could be mobilised to support countries, several examples of best practices were given by responding organizations:

Partner with other agencies to increase impact and maximise comparative advantages (example: UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals into Development Planning Processes).³³

Develop tools to facilitate exchange of information (example: BRS Secretariat is developing a Clearing-House Mechanism to facilitate the exchange of information amongst Parties to the Conventions).³⁴

Include dedicated chemicals and waste sessions in trainings on other topics (example: UN OCHA trainings for humanitarian responders integrates a session on industrial accidents/environmental emergency in simulation exercises to raise awareness of humanitarian professionals on the hazards of industrial installations).

Support the establishment of services that are useful, multi-functional, and cost-effective (example: Poison Centers provide services to medical doctors and public on diagnosis and treatment; collect data on status and trend of poisoning to inform environmental health, consumer products and/or pharmaceutical decision-making; have expertise to contribute to impact and risk assessment during project planning; and support emergency response).³⁵

How can additional synergies between the different agencies, funds, and programmes of the UN system be realized that might assist in the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals

When asked how additional synergies between the different agencies could be realised that might assist in the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals, a range of suggestions were made by respondents, including:

- close sectoral collaboration and communication is key to addressing the issue of effectively enhancing synergies - close collaboration among UN agencies necessarily implies that each organization's main sectoral focus incorporates the chemicals management dimension to their work and that key contact points are equally shared among the other UN agencies
- hold side-events at major related UN meetings and conferences, such as the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), the first Environmental Emergencies Forum (EEF), etc.
- bring together the different expertise from the varying UN organisations via means such as "key UN forums" with different agencies (e.g. to phase out lead in paint by 2020 globally there are different activities to consider at governmental, industrial, and legal levels, as well as from strategic, tactical and operational perspectives)

³³ http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals_management/UNDP-UNEP_Partnership_for_Integration_of_SMC_into_Development/

³⁴ <http://synergies.pops.int/Implementation/KnowledgeManagementandOutreach/ClearingHouseMechanism/tabid/2623/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

³⁵ <http://www.who.int/ipcs/poisons/centre/en/>

- jointly prepare background notes to bodies such as the HLPF on progress of strengthening synergies in achieving the 2020 goal³⁶ and provide input to the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) on the topics related to chemicals and waste³⁷
- mobilize funding for chemical safety projects in developing countries addressing the full scope of SAICM (not only for existing Conventions and agreements)
- build upon existing mechanisms to maximize impact and effectively use existing resources, limit fragmentation of funding mechanisms and adequately support those that exist
- develop a web-based portal that could consolidate access to information on chemicals management issues and lead the reader to the correct location/agency/topic area of interest
- develop brochures, other types of media to raise and promote awareness
- develop a longer term strategy to provide a roadmap and ensure a coordinated collaborative approach for the medium to long-term

Creating additional synergies between agencies to achieve the 2020 goal: best practices

In order to suggest possible mechanisms and ways additional synergies could be created to achieve the 2020 goal, several examples of best practices were given by responding organizations:

Coordinate among agencies to ensure synergies regarding Convention implementation (examples: coordination among GEF and MLF implementing agencies, and the coordination among the IOMC organizations for SAICM policies and implementation; collaboration between UNECE serviced Conventions and other organizations).

Engage key sectors with concrete tools (example: under the SAICM Health Sector Strategy, the health sector has been more actively engaged in understanding sound management of chemicals from other perspectives and seeking solutions from their own perspective; it has also fostered the nomination of health focal points that coordinate SAICM implementation issues at the national level; and this has translated in to a more robust approach to ensuring countries adopt measures to improve chemical safety).

Collaborate and obtain high-level political support (example: the on-going collaboration between the environment and health sectors in Africa in the context of the *Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa*, which received high-level political support – the Country Task Teams established as a result of this process are often convened at the Ministerial or Prime Ministerial level).³⁸

³⁶ The next meeting of the HLPF will be 11-20 July 2016, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/>.

³⁷ The 2015 edition of the GSDR is currently under development and expected to be launched at the July 2015 HLPF; the current outline of the 2015 GSDR includes a chapter on “Economic growth, inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and sustainable consumption and production”, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport/2015>.

³⁸ <http://www.unep.org/roa/hesa/Events/2ndInterMinisterialConference/tabid/6011/Default.aspx>

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the preceding sections of the report and results of the survey, this final section provides some conclusions regarding the state of system-wide efforts to achieve the 2020 goal on sound chemicals management and makes some practical recommendations for possible ways and means to achieve additional synergies between the different agencies, funds, and programmes of the UN system in order to enhance the existing efforts towards that goal. Such actions can complement and contribute to the common agenda of achieving the sound management of chemicals in the many ways already outlined in this report.

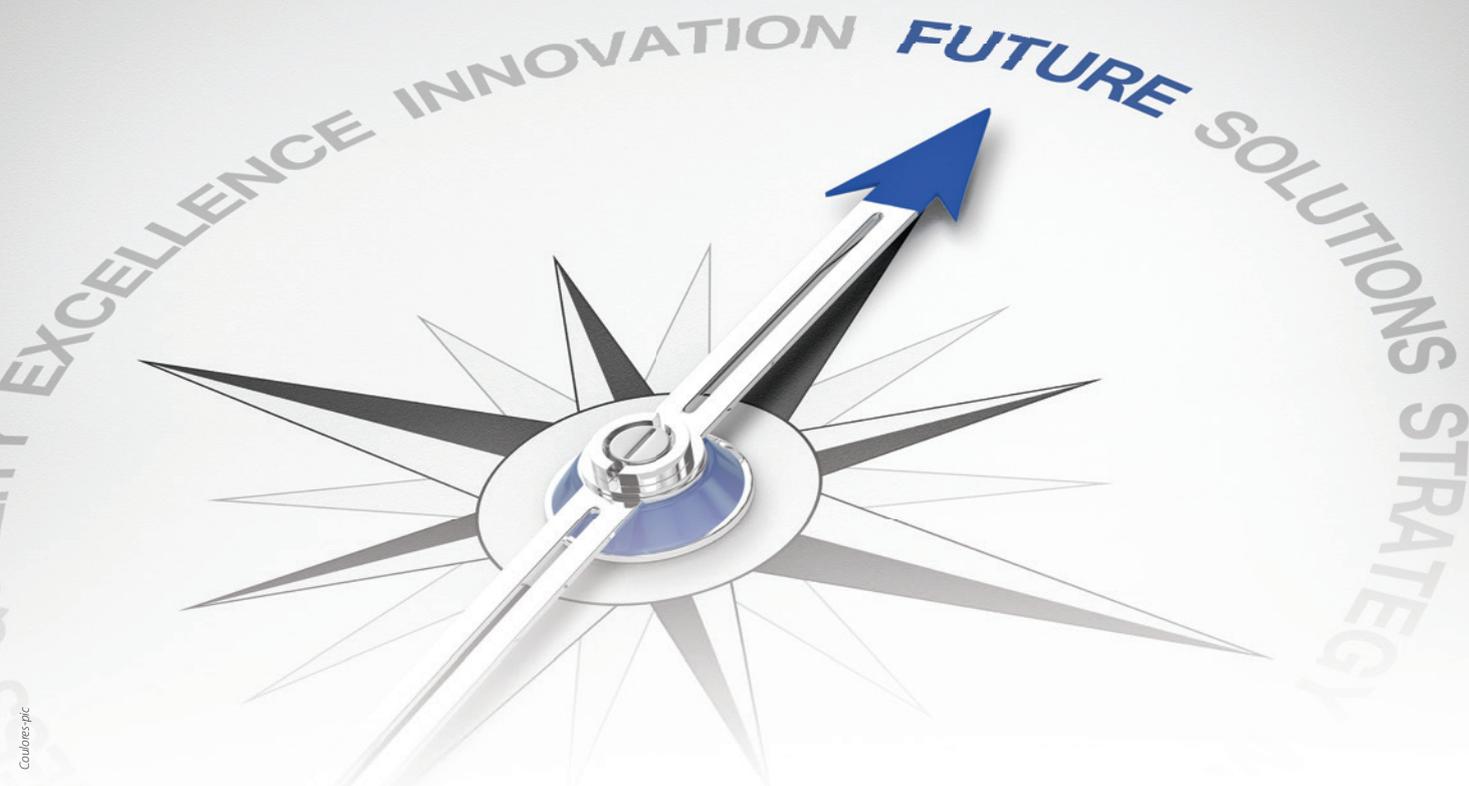
The conclusions and recommendations also aim to respond to the Rio+20 request to enhance coordination and cooperation for environmental agreements (see Box 10), build on work already being done to increase synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions (e.g. creation of the single Secretariat in 2012 and holding of joint Conferences of the Parties in 2013 and 2015), and contribute to the overall achievement of the 2020 goal, the objective of SAICM. It will further be important to support, monitor, and report on the eventual indicators for the SDGs related to sound chemicals management.³⁹

Box 10: Paragraph 89 of “The Future We Want”

We recognize the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements. We acknowledge the work already undertaken to enhance synergies among the three conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster (the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants). We encourage parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures, in these and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field.

Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

³⁹ These indicators are expected to be finalised by March 2016; for some initial suggestions as to what relevant indicators for chemicals could be, see, for example, UNEP, Sustainable Consumption and Production Indicators for the Future SDGs, Discussion Paper, March 2015 (especially pp. 29-31, 53-55): <http://www.scpclearinghouse.org/d/the-clearinghouse/94-scp-indicators-for-the-future-sdgs-discussion-paper.html>.



5.1 Conclusions

As evidenced by the information compiled in this report, the following seven key conclusions and common themes emerge regarding the importance of sound chemicals management within the broader sustainable development agenda, and in view of what has already been accomplished and what remains to be done.

C1: *Chemicals management is a cross-cutting topic. Its efficiency and success requires multi-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder participation.*

A central theme in the information provided by the organizations working on sound chemicals management is the need for sharing of information, coordination, and collaboration. Sound chemicals management and the 2020 goal can only be achieved with the effective participation of all relevant sectors, from environment and transport, health and sanitation, to trade, development, agriculture and labour, training and research, the various Convention Secretariats, UN coordination bodies and processes and funding mechanisms. The wide variety of UN and other agencies active on this topic further supports the need for sectoral engagement and coordination.

C2: *Existing mechanisms of and approaches to inter-agency collaboration and partnerships can provide models for further enhancing system-wide synergies and building new partnerships.*

This report highlights many existing cases of organizations seeking synergies and coordination in a variety of ways, such as the IOMC and various examples of inter-agency collaboration and partnerships (e.g. the UNDP-UNEP Partnership; the task force between the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the SAICM Secretariat and UNEP Chemicals; or the joint activities of WHO and UNEP). These may provide ideas or models for further enhancing system-wide synergies.

C3: *While being multi-sectoral, sound chemicals management is also “multi-level”, with activities taking place not only at the international level, but at the regional, national, and sub-national levels as well.*

This report has largely examined the situation at the international level, and the UN system more particularly. However, as shown by the results of the survey, over 70% of responding agencies also work

at the regional and national levels, and 32% at the sub-national level. Thus, fully 80% of responding organizations work at multiple levels and only 20% in only one level. This highlights the need for attention needing to be paid – and synergies exploited – at these other levels as well (see Figures 7 and 8). Regional actors, such as regional centres established under the Basel and Stockholm conventions, can play an important role in providing support to countries for the implementation of chemicals and wastes management agreements.

C4: *As a framework for working towards the 2020 goal, SAICM is a major focus of many organizations; nevertheless, there are many other initiatives contributing to sound chemicals management.*

As the UN's policy framework for sound chemicals management and the 2020 goal, SAICM is a focus of UN-system activity with 64% of responding organizations indicating activities related to it. Nevertheless, there is a broad range of initiatives that organizations are working with, such as Conventions, the IHR, and transport related agreements – among others – also receiving significant attention (see Figure 3).

C5: *While SAICM provides a relatively known framework for the activities of many organizations, participation in its key events such as the ICCMs – especially from non-environmental and health sectors – remains low.*

Over 55% of responding organizations said they were not attending (or did not know if they would attend) ICCM-4, scheduled for late September 2015; and of those, 57% said this was because they were not aware of the ICCM (see Figures 10 and 11). This suggests further work remains to be done to raise awareness about the importance of the ICCM in relation to the on-going work that is relevant to SAICM and the 2020 goal, in particular outside of the environment and, to some degree, health sectors.

C6: *While the priority of sound chemicals management as a topic appears relatively high on the agenda of many organizations, visibility of and commitment to it in the UN system is low to moderate.*

The results of the survey undertaken in preparation of this report show that while sound chemicals management was a high or medium-level priority in over half of the responding organizations (and many of them – 76% - are already working towards the 2020 goal), only 8% believed visibility and commitment to it to be high in the UN system overall (see Figures 6, 1, and 12).⁴⁰ Additionally, some organizations may not perceive their activities as related to sound chemicals management or the 2020 goal when in fact indirect links may exist (e.g. an organization or agency working for export promotion may not recognise the relevance of restrictions on imports of products made with or made using chemicals that might be prohibited in another country or region). And while it can be a challenge - in large organizations in particular – to keep chemicals management high on the agenda in view of competing interests and limited time and resources, this finding suggests there remains significant scope for increasing the awareness about the importance of sound chemicals management both within organizations and system-wide.

C7: *Issues related to sound chemicals management are often over-shadowed by topics such as climate change. Sound chemicals management and the co-benefits it can bring is, however, central to achieving the objectives of the broader development agenda.*

Chemicals management does not exist in isolation from other issues and has an impact on areas such as pollution and emissions control, clean drinking water, improving livelihoods and work conditions, economic efficiency, sustainable agriculture, protection of natural resources and species, to mention but a few.

⁴⁰ Some caution should be exercised in interpreting these figures, as a limitation of the survey methodology is that some responses may be somewhat subjective depending on the respondent.

This clearly indicates that the objectives of sustainable development - improving people's health, ending poverty, and protecting the planet - cannot be obtained without also achieving sound chemicals management. As highlighted by the results of the survey of UN and related organizations, 84% said that increased recognition of the linkages between chemicals management and other development topics was needed to increase the visibility of and commitment to sound chemicals management in the UN system (see Figure 13).

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the report and conclusions listed above, this section recommends some possible options for enhancing visibility and achieving additional synergies on chemicals and wastes in the UN system.

The options presented here seek to build on the work already undertaken, among others, by the IOMC, the synergies process of the chemicals and wastes conventions, and SAICM. It is therefore important to recognize the significant efforts that are already being undertaken and the need to avoid duplication. However, as this report also shows, although a broad range of agencies are involved in different aspects of sound chemicals management, there is a relatively low visibility of the topic in the system overall. This suggests the need to examine how the broad and diverse expertise and capacities of the UN system in the sound management of chemicals can be more effectively deployed to the benefit of Member States, particularly at the national level and for issues requiring transboundary cooperation.

This presents some opportunities for increasing the visibility and awareness of the importance of sound chemicals management within the larger development

dialogues and possibilities for further enhancing synergies. The finalization and implementation of the SDGs, targets and indicators will also require the demonstration of an integrated and holistic approach to development, which includes sound chemicals management. Ultimately, any and all of the actions that might be taken should lead to increased cooperation within UN system that translates to further support to countries to achieve sound chemicals management, the 2020 goal, and sustainable development.

In order to promote broad and concrete multi-sector buy-in to raise the profile of sound chemicals and wastes management as a key element of the broader development agenda and further enhance synergies, the following seven recommendations are suggested for the UN and related agencies:

- R1:** *Those organizations that have not already done so could issue a declaration or joint statement signalling commitment to promote the importance of sound chemicals management both within and outside of their organizations.⁴¹*
- R2:** *Identify and promote the multiple benefits of greater cross-sectoral coordination (e.g. how each sector involved in sound chemicals management can benefit from greater engagement with the other sectors) and engage as standard practice to invite other sectors/organizations to relevant meetings (WHO, as an example, invites SAICM focal points and other sectors to health sector meetings on chemicals).*
- R3:** *Increase and broaden efforts to organize joint capacity-building workshops (regional or national) for key sectors with involvement of relevant UN and other agencies, and include chemicals modules in relevant training and capacity building workshops for "non-chemicals" topics and Conventions (biodiversity, climate change, marine protection, etc.).*

⁴¹ This could be modelled, for example, on the IOMC Joint Statement made at ICCM-1 in 2006, see Annex 7.

R4: *Build on the work of the IOMC and prepare a detailed assessment of other UN organisations' contributions to SAICM and the 2020 goal by reviewing the full SAICM Global Plan of Action (GPA)⁴² – this would provide an opportunity to examine areas of where potential duplication could be avoided, common objectives examined, and partnerships and synergies further realised. Again, building on the work of the IOMC, other UN Organizations could also consider analysing the final SAICM Overall Orientation and Guidance (OOG) with a view to identifying the contributions they can make towards its implementation.*

R5: *Examine and develop linkages with initiatives linked to the green economy and cleaner production, green jobs, greening the health sector, and other similar programmes.*

R6: *Capitalize on existing opportunities to promote the importance of sound chemicals management issues at key meetings (such as the 2016 review at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) where there is a possibility that chemicals and waste may be reviewed in the holistic and cross-sectorial framework of sustainable development) and participate at or convene high-level events during major international meetings to highlight the UN system contribution to sound chemicals management and its co-benefits for sustainable development (which could include presentation of elements of this report), at, for example, ICCM-4, the HLPF, meetings related to financing for development, and Convention COPs.*

R7: *Continue to coordinate, promote synergies, and work with authorities at the national level (the IOMC, for example, has developed a matrix of activities in countries to provide an overview of where individual IOMC organizations are working on chemicals issues in countries⁴³) and encourage countries to integrate sound chemicals management issues in national development plans.*

The suggestions presented above are not exhaustive and may in fact generate further unique ideas and approaches for how sound chemicals management can be given greater visibility and how UN and related agencies can further realise synergies.

5.3 Next steps

A number of elements from key decisions taken in recent months already provide some indication of possible ways forward to continue efforts to further strengthen UN-system wide engagement on sound chemicals management and working towards the 2020 goal.

At the December 2014 2nd meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-2) of SAICM, contact groups of the OEWG made the following relevant observations and requests:

- *[The OEWG] highlights the contribution that the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management has made and continues to make to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including its contribution towards the implementation of the sustainable development agenda, and expresses its readiness and willingness to make available its multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform to that end as appropriate.*

⁴² The IOMC organisations undertook this activity in 2014: http://www.who.int/iomc/saicm/analysis_implementation_saicm.pdf

⁴³ <http://www.who.int/iomc/activity/poactivities/en/>

- *The need to strengthen inter-organization engagement was also noted. The Environment Management Group and the Issue Management Group be asked to look at how the United Nations system can deliver on the OOG [Overall Orientation and Guidance] up to 2020.⁴⁴*

At the 43rd meeting of the IOMC in April 2015, the IOMC took the following decision:

The IOMC routinely meets for discussions with the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, the interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the SAICM Secretariat and OPCW. The 43rd IOMC meeting, 15-16 April 2015, reviewed the recommendations of the draft IMG report (version 2 April), and decided to invite the UN bodies involved in the IMG exercise to a meeting in 2016 to gauge their interest in future engagement with IOMC on the sound management of chemicals.

Also at the 43rd meeting, the IOMC agreed to develop a statement on the SAICM OOG (Overall Orientation and Guidance) to be delivered at ICCM-4 and, subsequent to ICCM-4, to develop a detailed plan of work to implement the OOG.

At the May 2015 Conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, the Parties took a decision on “international cooperation and coordination” which included the following actions:

2. Joins with the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in emphasizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential and cross-cutting element of sustainable development and is of great relevance to the sustainable development agenda

5. Emphasizes the importance of enhancing cooperation and coordination with other international bodies to facilitate the fulfilment of the objectives of the conventions, in particular within the chemicals and wastes cluster

6. Invites the Environment Management Group to look at how the United Nations system can deliver in meeting the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and waste.⁴⁵

Finally, the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-4), held 28 September–2 October 2015, highlighted the need to continue to deepen and broaden United Nations system-wide engagement and recognized that sound chemicals and wastes management is one of the essential requirements for sustainable development and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents an opportunity to ensure increased political attention for chemicals and waste.⁴⁶

It is expected that these invitations, requests, and decisions can provide further impetus to the UN system to focus both on its contribution to the more immediate 2020 goal, but also look beyond that date in taking actions to continue to coordinate delivery of sound chemicals management for member states and sustainable development.

⁴⁴ UNEP, “Report of the work of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second meeting”, January 2015 (advance copy), p. 30-32.

⁴⁵ These and the other elements of this decision can be found in document UNEP/CHW.12/CRP.28.

⁴⁶ www.saicm.org

Annex 1:

List of members of the Issue Management Group (IMG) on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste

1. Department of Field Support (DFS)
2. Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
3. International Labour Organization (ILO)
4. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
5. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
6. Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)
7. The World Bank
8. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
9. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
10. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
11. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
12. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
13. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
14. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
15. United Nations University (UNU)
16. World Health Organization (WHO)

Annex 2: Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Issue Management Group (IMG) on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste

United Nations and Sound Management of Chemicals: *Coordinating delivery for member states*

A. Background

The 19th senior officials meeting of the Environment Management Group (EMG) held in New York on 19 September 2013 considered an issue paper on how the United Nations system could more coherently support countries in achieving sound management of chemicals. (See Box 1 for the decision of the meeting).

Box 1: Excerpt from the report of the 19th senior officials meeting on “addressing New issues”

The senior officials agree with the importance of raising the profile of sound chemicals management within all relevant organizations of the UN System. Given the IOMC is the established coordinating mechanism among the UN family and OECD, the senior officials agree to invite the IOMC at their forthcoming November meeting to examine the draft issues paper and elaborate the rationale and the draft terms of reference for a potential IMG in this area, bearing in mind any potential duplications with the existing mechanisms. On the basis of this, the EMG will make a decision on whether to establish the IMG.

Chemicals management has been high on the international political agenda since 1972 at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) when pollution from toxic and dangerous substances was a central issue. It was specifically addressed in 1992 by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development with the adoption of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and again at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 where the 2020 goal of producing and using chemicals in ways that lead to the minimization of significant effects on human health and the environment was established in the Plan of Implementation of the Johannesburg Summit.

In response to the political attention to sound chemicals management, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established in 1995. The purpose of the Programme is to promote coordination of the policies and activities pursued by the Participating Organizations, jointly and separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

The IOMC now has nine Participating Organizations that collaborate to coordinate in the capacity building, technical assistance and institutional strengthening programmes they provide to support country efforts to implement national frameworks for the sound management of chemicals. The Participating Organizations are: FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank and OECD. The Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons are regularly invited for discussions with IOMC during regular IOMC meetings held biannually.

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was adopted in 2006. The overarching goal for SAICM was to achieve the 2020 goal through a cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder initiative to protect human health and the environment, SAICM provides a unique policy framework to achieve the 2020 goal. Following the adoption of SAICM, each of the IOMC organizations endorsed or otherwise formally acknowledged support for SAICM.

Countries renewed their commitment to address chemical (and waste) issues as a key priority area in the outcome document “The future we want” of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. The Rio+20 outcome document requires a renewed institutional commitment by intergovernmental agencies and international organizations to the goals of sustainable development.

The third International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3) in 2012 requested the SAICM Secretariat in UNEP to develop overall orientation and guidance including some concrete elements, to facilitate achievement of the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals and provide further guidance towards approaching the goal. The overall orientation and guidance should be further discussed at regional meetings and the Open-ended Working Group and for possible consideration at the fourth session of the Conference.

B. Composition, function and responsibilities

The objective of the issue management group (IMG) is to raise the priority given to chemicals management in the UN system, promote integration of chemicals management issues in broader context of economic and social development planning and ensure additional synergies between the UN organizations in supporting countries in activities to achieve the 2020 goal.

The IMG for United Nations and Sound Management of Chemicals is composed of focal points nominated by EMG members and is open to observers from non UN entities whose knowledge, activities or expertise will be relevant to and useful for to the work of the IMG. The meetings of the IMG will be organised by the EMG Secretariat and for each meeting a chair or co- chairs will be selected among the IMG members. The IMG will meet mostly through electronic means including video-audio conference. A few physical/in person meetings of the IMG will be organized close to IOMC meetings to discuss or agree on strategic issues.

The IMG shall organize its work to undertake the following main functions and responsibilities, taking into account relevant interagency and intergovernmental processes:

- a. Map out different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system with activities and initiatives that might assist in the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals;
- b. Analyse where and how the expertise of different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system can contribute to supporting countries in achieving the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals;
- c. Provide recommendations on how to achieve additional synergies between different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system with activities and initiatives that might assist in the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals;
- d. Consider how the findings of IMG can contribute to the "Overall Orientation and Guidance towards the 2020 Goal" which is under development by the SAICM Secretariat;
- e. Develop and disseminate joint and consistent messaging on the measures needed to support the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals, for example through a progress report that can be provided to the SAICM Open Ended Working Group planned for December 2014, the 4th session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management tentatively scheduled for late 2015 and other relevant fora; and
- f. In close consultation with the IOMC, prepare a set of key composite targets and indicators in the area of sound chemicals and hazardous waste management which could serve as a joint input by the UN system to support the deliberation of the intergovernmental process on the negotiations of the post 2015 outcome document. This contribution should be prepared by September 2014 for consideration of the 20th EMG senior officials⁴⁷.
- g. Report to, and respond to the senior officials meeting of the EMG on the outcome of its work.

⁴⁷ Proposed by the Chair of the EMG for consideration of the EMG members

Annex 3: Questionnaire used in survey of UN and related agencies on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes

**Issue Management Group: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste
Survey of UN and related agencies: Questionnaire
September 2014
Response requested by: 30 September 2014**

Please note: This survey should take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. Additional information to support your answers is very welcome. Please include weblinks where further information exists, documents (e.g. annual report or other activity summary), or other information (you may send documents or attachments by email when you return the survey). You may also include additional details directly in answer to the questions.

A. Introductory Information

1. Name of Organization/sub-programme: [Click here to enter text.](#)
2. Please provide the chemicals and waste or chemicals and waste-related (e.g. access to clean drinking water) mandate of your institution (if applicable, please specify):

[Click here to enter text.](#)

B. Activities related to chemicals and waste

3. Does your organization work to achieve the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2020 goal on chemicals⁴⁸:

YES (*please specify*) NO DO NOT KNOW

[Click here to enter text.](#)

⁴⁸ "Aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment". The full text regarding chemicals from the WSSD can be found in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_Planimpl.pdf

4. How would you categorize your organisations' involvement in chemicals and waste issues (multiple answers possible):

- Direct (e.g. organisation has a direct mandate and has significant activities)
- Partial (e.g. organisation has some chemicals and wastes activities within a broader role)
- Related (e.g. organisation has activities in areas that may be linked to chemicals and wastes, e.g. access to clean water, pollution control, etc.)
- None

[Click here to enter text.](#)

5. Does your organization have activities or initiatives linked to international or regional chemicals and wastes agreements or related initiatives:

- SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management)
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)
- ILO Conventions (e.g. on Chemicals, No. 170, or Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, No. 174)
- International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management
- Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Other (*please specify*): [Click here to enter text.](#)

6. Please indicate in which areas⁴⁹ your organization has activities or initiatives related to chemicals and waste management:

- Risk reduction (e.g. scientific monitoring and assessment, elimination, trade control)
- Knowledge and information
- Governance (e.g. legal and institutional frameworks, compliance)
- Capacity-building and technical cooperation
- Illegal traffic and trade

Click here to enter text.

7. How high a priority is sound chemicals and waste management for your organization (e.g. compared to other thematic areas that you engage in):

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Not A Priority

Click here to enter text.

8. Does your organization work on chemicals and waste issues at the (multiple answers possible):

- Global level
- Regional level
- National level
- Sub-national level
- Other (*please specify*)

Click here to enter text.

⁴⁹ These 5 areas are based on the thematic areas of the objectives of SAICM, for more information: http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=474.

C. Relationship to existing mechanisms and processes

9. Specify UN and non-UN agencies with which you partner on activities related to chemicals and waste management:

(n.b. if your organization partners with many others, you may wish to only list those with whom you have ongoing and substantial partnerships and categorize by international, regional, national, sub-national or other)

Click here to enter text.

10. Are you familiar with the IOMC (Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals⁵⁰):

YES NO

Click here to enter text.

11. Will your organization participate in the 4th *International Conference on Chemicals Management* (ICCM-4, Sept. 2015):

YES NO DO NOT KNOW

Click here to enter text.

12. If you answered NO to question 11, please specify why not:

- Not aware of ICCM
- Lack of funds to attend
- Not high priority
- Other (please specify): Click here to enter text.

D. Views regarding the profile of chemicals and wastes in the UN system

13. In your opinion, please rate the visibility of sound chemicals and waste management issues in the UN system on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 = low, 5 = high):

1 2 3 4 5 do not know

⁵⁰ www.iomc.info

14. What can be done to increase the visibility and commitment to sound chemicals and waste management in the UN system?

- Increase sharing of information and coordination among relevant agencies
- Promote importance of chemicals and wastes issues in other fora (e.g. discussions of post-2015 agenda, in UN General Assembly, etc.)
- Increase recognition of the linkages between sound chemicals and waste management and other thematic development areas (access to clean drinking water, improving human health, better and more stable food supplies, etc.)
- Increase multi-sectoral support for SAICM
- Promote the importance of working towards the WSSD 2020 goal
- Develop high-level strategic approach/response for heads of agencies to support sound management of chemicals and wastes and to increase its visibility
- Other (*please specify*)

Click here to enter text.

15. Does your organization promote the integration of chemicals management issues in the broader context of economic and social development planning?

- YES NO DO NOT KNOW

If so, how?: (e.g. by promoting inclusion of chemicals and wastes issues in national development planning documents and engaging national ministries of finance and planning to secure a portion of national funds for chemicals and wastes activities)

Click here to enter text.

What could be done by your organization to better support such integration?

Click here to enter text.

16. Please provide any other information or views regarding where and how the expertise of different agencies, funds, and programmes of the UN system can contribute to supporting countries in achieving the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals:

(e.g. consider establishment of single UN website on chemicals and wastes including information on the role of all relevant agencies, contact information, indication of expertise on various topics, support available to countries, etc.)

Click here to enter text.

If possible, please also provide examples, including good practices:

Click here to enter text.

17. Please provide any other information or views regarding how to achieve additional synergies between different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system with activities and initiatives that might assist in the achievement of the WSSD 2020 goal on chemicals:

(e.g. work to ensure inclusion of information sharing from all active agencies on chemicals and wastes at key UN forums, such as General Assembly, High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, governing bodies of agencies, post-2015 process, etc.)

Click here to enter text.

If possible, please also provide examples, including good practices:

Click here to enter text.

This is the end of the survey, thank you for your cooperation!

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact
jonathan.krueger@unep.org

For more information about the EMG and the IMG on the Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes, please visit:

<http://www.unemg.org/index.php/issue-management-groups/sound-management-of-chemicals-and-waste>

Annex 4: List of respondents to the survey

1	UNODC	15	IMO
2	ILO*	16	UNICEF, WASH
3	OECD*	17	UNECE: CLRTAP, ESPOO, ISU (Industrial Accidents), Transport, Protocol on PRTRs
4	UPU		
5	UNEP*		
6	OCHA		
7	UNIDO*		
8	FAO*	18	UNOPS
9	DFS/DPKO	19	UNITAR*
10	UNRWA	20	UNDP*
11	CBD Secretariat	21	WHO*
12	BRS Secretariat	22	DSD
13	UNU: IAS, FLORES	23	UNICRI
		24	WTO
14	IAEA	25	World Bank*

* IOMC Participating Organization

Annex 5: Paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation⁵¹

Renew the commitment, as advanced in Agenda 21, to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment, inter alia, aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance. This would include actions at all levels to:

- (a) Promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste, including the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade so that it can enter into force by 2003 and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants so that it can enter into force by 2004, and encourage and improve coordination as well as supporting developing countries in their implementation;
- (b) Further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management based on the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action beyond 2000 of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety by 2005, and urge that the United Nations Environment Programme, the Intergovernmental Forum, other international organizations dealing with chemical management and other relevant international organizations and actors closely cooperate in this regard, as appropriate;
- (c) Encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008;

⁵¹ Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03. II. A. 1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

- (d) Encourage partnerships to promote activities aimed at enhancing environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, implementing multilateral environmental agreements, raising awareness of issues relating to chemicals and hazardous waste and encouraging the collection and use of additional scientific data;
- (e) Promote efforts to prevent international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes and to prevent damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes in a manner consistent with obligations under relevant international instruments, such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;
- (f) Encourage development of coherent and integrated information on chemicals, such as through national pollutant release and transfer registers;
- (g) Promote reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals that are harmful to human health and the environment, including through a review of relevant studies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme global assessment of mercury and its compounds.

Annex 6: Text on Chemicals and Wastes from Rio+20 Outcome Document, “The Future We Want”

Chemicals and waste⁵²

We recognize that sound management of chemicals is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. We further recognize that growing global production and use of chemicals and prevalence in the environment calls for increased international cooperation. We reaffirm our aim to achieve by 2020 sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We also reaffirm our commitment to an approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels that responds in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and challenges, and encourage further progress across countries and regions in order to fill the gaps in implementation of commitments.

We call for the effective implementation and strengthening of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) as part of a robust, coherent, effective and efficient system for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle including to respond to emerging challenges.

We are deeply concerned that many countries, in particular least developed countries, lack the capacity for sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life-cycle. Additional efforts are needed to enhance work towards strengthening capacities, including through partnerships, technical assistance and improved governance structures. We encourage countries and organizations which have made progress toward achieving the goal of sound management of chemicals by 2020 to assist other countries by sharing knowledge, experience and best practices.

We commend the increased coordination and cooperation among chemicals and waste conventions, namely the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, and encourage continued enhanced coordination and cooperation among them and with SAICM. We take note of the important role of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centers and the Stockholm Convention regional and sub-regional centers.

We commend existing and call for continued, new and innovative public-private partnerships among industry, governments, academia and other non-governmental

⁵² <http://www.unccd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf>

stakeholders aiming to enhance capacity and technology for environmentally sound chemicals and waste management, including for waste prevention.

We recognize the importance of adopting a life-cycle approach and of further development and implementation of policies for resource efficiency and environmentally sound waste management. We therefore commit to further reduce, reuse and recycle waste (3Rs) as well as to increase energy recovery from waste with a view to managing the majority of global waste in an environmentally sound manner and where possible as a resource. Solid wastes, such as electronic waste and plastics, pose particular challenges which should be addressed. We call for the development and enforcement of comprehensive national and local waste management policies, strategies, laws and regulations.

We urge countries and other stakeholders to take all possible measures to prevent the unsound management of hazardous wastes and their illegal dumping, particularly in countries where the capacity to deal with these wastes is limited, in a manner consistent with countries' obligations under relevant international instruments. In this context, we welcome the relevant decisions taken at the 10th COP of the Basel Convention.

We recognize the importance of science-based assessment of the risks posed by chemicals to human beings and the environment, and of reducing human and environmental exposure to hazardous chemicals. We encourage the development of environmentally sound and safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals in products and processes. To this end, we encourage, *inter alia*, life-cycle assessment, public information, extended producer responsibility, research and development, sustainable design and knowledge sharing, as appropriate.

We welcome the ongoing negotiating process on a global legally binding instrument on mercury to address the risks to human health and the environment and call for a successful outcome of the negotiations.

We recognize that the phase-out of ozone depleting substances (ODS) is resulting in a rapid increase in the use and release of high global warming potential hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) to the environment. We support a gradual phase-down in the consumption and production of HFCs.

We acknowledge that sustainable and adequate long-term funding is a key element for the sound management of chemicals and waste, in particular in developing countries. In this regard, we welcome the Consultative Process on Financing Options for Chemicals and Waste, initiated to consider the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority accorded to sound management of chemicals and waste and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and waste agenda. We look forward to the forthcoming proposals by the Executive Director of UNEP, which will be considered by the International Conference on Chemicals Management and 27th session of the UNEP Governing Council.

Annex 7: IOMC Joint Statement on SAICM, February 2006

ICCM Conference Room Paper Dubai, February 2006

PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

- Joint statement by the Executive Heads of agencies cooperating in the Inter-Organization
- Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, i.e.:
- the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
- the International Labour Organization,
- the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,
- the World Health Organization,
- the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,
- the United Nations Environment Programme,
- the United Nations Development Programme,
- the World Bank, and
the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development,

The sound management of chemicals is essential for the protection of human health and the environment and sustainable development. It is consequently important for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation goal that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) provides a focus for multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder efforts and therefore requires the participation of government, the private sector, organised labour and civil society, and the inclusion of a range of sectors concerned with chemicals management such as agriculture, environment, health, industry and labour.

The SAICM Global Programme of Action includes numerous areas of activity in which our organizations have long-standing track records of work. We, the organizations

cooperating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), affirm our commitment to work together to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and to contribute to the achievement of SAICM within our mandates and in accordance with decisions of our governing bodies. Together, we renew our commitment to promote coordination of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately, in order to achieve the sound management of chemicals. We will cooperate to ensure the most effective use of our human, technical and financial resources and will further exploit the synergies between our organizations and other organizations.

We are committed to strengthening the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to participate fully in SAICM. To this end we, together with other multilateral, regional and bilateral agencies, and within the resources at our disposal, will undertake and support technical assistance and investment activities to assist countries in the establishment and implementation of appropriate programmes for the sound management of chemicals. We will support country efforts at national, regional and international levels as appropriate.

This statement is submitted to inform the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai of our commitment to enhance countries' capacity to participate effectively across sectors in the SAICM, and engage all relevant stakeholders, in order to reach the SAICM and WSSD goals for the sound management of chemicals. With the support and guidance of Member States, the work programmes of our agencies can be informed by, and aligned with, the goals of the Strategic Approach.

Annex 8: Further reading and relevant reports

IOMC, *Analysis of Work Done to Implement the SAICM Global Plan of Action*, 2014
http://www.who.int/iomc/saicm/analysis_implement_saicm.pdf

IOMC, *Review of IOMC Organizations' Implementation of the SAICM Global Plan of Action*, 2014
http://www.who.int/iomc/saicm/global_plan_action.pdf

UNEP, *Global Chemicals Outlook*, 2012
<http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/UNEPsWork/Mainstreaming/GlobalChemicalsOutlook/tabid/56356/Default.aspx>

UNDESA, UNEP, FAO, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, *Synergies Success Stories: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions*, 2011
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=40&menu=850>

UNDESA, Stockholm Convention, UNEP, *Practices in the Sound Management of Chemicals*, 2010
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=41&menu=850>

Annex 9: Abbreviations and Acronyms

Aarhus Convention	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
ADN	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways
ADR	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APPELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level
BAT	Best Available Technique
BCRCs	Regional and Coordinating Centres for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer
BEP	Best Environmental Practices
BRIICS	Brazil, Russia, India, Indonesia, China, and South Africa
BRS	Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
CAAs	Civil Aviation Authorities
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CIS	International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre
CLRTAP	UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
COP	Conference of Parties
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CTE	WTO Committee on Trade and Environment
CWC	Chemical Weapons Convention
DFS	Department of Field Support
DPG	Domestically prohibited goods
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DSD	Division for Sustainable Development
ECLB	Equipment containing lithium batteries

EEF	Environmental Emergencies Forum
EMG	Environment Management Group
Espoo Convention	UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
e-waste	Electronic waste
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCSS	Special Session of the Governing Council of UNEP
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GPA	Global Plan of Action
GSDR	Global Sustainable Development Report
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on sustainable development
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IATA	International Air Transport Association
IBC Code	International Bulk Chemical Code
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICCM	International Conference on Chemicals Management
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IHR	International Health Regulations
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMG	Issue Management Group
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
IOC-UNESCO	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
MARPOL	Regional agreements on marine pollution
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEAs	Multilateral environmental agreements
MLF	Multilateral Fund

NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODS	Ozone depleting substances
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OEWG	Open-ended Working Group
OOG	Overall Orientation and Guidance (SAICM)
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OPRC	Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation
OPRC-HNS Protocol	Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances
OWG	Open Working Group
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
POs	Participating organizations
PRTRs	UNECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDS	Safety data sheets
SEAs	Strategic Environmental Assessments
SMCW	Sound management of chemicals and wastes
SOLAS	International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea
TDG	Transport of Dangerous Goods
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCHE	United Nations Conference on the Human Environment
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America
UNECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council

UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UN-Oceans	United Nations Oceans
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UN-SCEGHS	United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
UNU	United Nations University
UNU-FLORES	United Nations University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources
UNU-IAS	United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability
UN-Water	United Nations Water
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
Water Convention	UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
WCDRR	World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
World Bank	World Bank Group
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organisation



UNITED NATIONS

The Environment Management Management Group (EMG) is a United Nations System-wide coordination body. It furthers inter-agency cooperation in support of the implementation of the international environmental and human settlement agenda. Its membership consists of specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the United Nations, including the Secretariat of the Multilateral Environment Agreements.

EMG is chaired by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and supported by a secretariat provided by UNEP.

For more information on the EMG, please visit www.unemg.org

